

60 MPs put behind the bars

# NLD President, Secy get more harsh jail terms

BANGKOK, June 1: Burma's military rulers have increased the sentences of two opposition members jailed after they led their party to victory in an election last year, a Rangoon resident said yesterday, reports Reuters.

Kyi Maung, 72 who was the acting leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD), and its Acting Secretary Chit Khaing were sentenced to 10 and seven years jail respectively last November.

A military tribunal this month increased both sentences by 10 years, said the Rangoon resident, a reliable political observer, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Kyi Maung and Chit Khaing were first sentenced on charges of violating Burma's official Secrets Act. The offence normally carries a maximum 14-year term.

It appeared the authorities had increased their sentences after accusing the two of involvement in attempts to set up a parallel government, the source said.

In late April or early May, 35 members of the NLD were given jail terms of between 10 and 25 years on similar charges, diplomats said. All 35 had won parliamentary seats in the May 1990 general election.

The military government has not announced any of the sentences.

The NLD won the election by a landslide but the government has refused to hand over power and has arrested most of the party's leaders.

Diplomats say the government has jailed or forced at least 60 of the 392 NLD members who won seats in the election to flee.

In December, some of those who fled did declare a parallel government at the headquarters of the Karen, an ethnic rebel group which fights from the Thai frontier. However, no government has recognised the rival administration.

Human rights groups, including London-based Amnesty International, say the military has jailed hundreds, perhaps thousands of dissidents since it took power in 1988 by brutally crushing a nationwide uprising for democracy.

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## Gunmen kill 6 at a wedding party in Karachi

KARACHI, June 1: Gunmen killed six people at a wedding party in Karachi on Friday night in what a political group called an attempt to destabilise the government of Pakistan's southern Sindh Province, reports Reuters.

Police said four masked gunmen on motorcycles fired at the party killing four people instantly and wounding a dozen. Two of the injured died later in hospital.

"The massacre is aimed at destabilising the Sindh Provincial government," Mohajir National Movement (MQM) leader Altaf Hussain said.

Police had no immediate information about the gunmen's identity.

But Hussain, whose party is in a coalition ruling the province, blamed unspecified "terrorists" he said were supported by an opposition party.

The charge appeared directed at opposition leaders Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), which makes similar charges against the MQM. The MQM represents Muslims immigrants from India.

Ethnic and political violence in Sindh has taken 1,500 lives since 1986.

## Decision falls far short of our demand : Kuwait

# Iraq must pay 30 pc oil revenues to compensate war victims : Perez

UNITED NATIONS, June 1: Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced Friday that Iraq must pay no more than 30 per cent of its future oil revenues into a fund to compensate victims of its invasion of Kuwait, reports AP.

The precise percentage will be set later by the UN Compensation Commission but is likely to be close to the ceiling.

Perez de Cuellar said Iraqi oil exports were expected to reach about 21 billion dollars annually by 1993.

Kuwait, which had sought a ceiling of 50 per cent or more, expressed disappointment.

"We respect the decision of the secretary-general, but this falls far short of our demand", said Mohamad Saad, counselor at the Kuwaiti mission to the United Nations.

Kuwait estimates its damages at 60 billion dollars, including the loss from oil wells set ablaze by Iraqi troops fleeing an allied offensive aimed at dislodging them from Kuwait.

Economic sanctions bar Iraq from selling oil. The sanctions are not likely to be lifted in the near future because Iraq still has to abide by conditions imposed by the Security Council, including destruction of its chemical weapons. US officials have said they will not support the lifting of sanctions until Iraq President Saddam Hussein is out of power.

The United States had urged that Iraq pay 40 per cent to 50 per cent, while developing nations urged 5 to 10 per cent.

Perez de Cuellar gave the figure in a report of the Security Council. By establishing the ceiling, Iraq would presumably have enough funds left over to rebuild its economy shattered by the Gulf War.

The secretary-general said that by 1993, Iraqi imports should absorb about 48 per cent of its export earnings and debt servicing about 22 per cent.



SAFWAN (Iraq): A young Iraqi boy being treated by an American doctor at an army hospital in Safwan, southern Iraq. The condition of the boy, who has an irregular heart beat, is worsening and he needs an operation involving open-heart surgery. If he does not receive treatment soon, he will die.

share power and bring about other democratic reform.

Taking his leave of reporters who covered his four-year tenure, Webster said in a wide-ranging interview Thursday that he didn't see "anything in hindsight that suggests" Saddam would have pulled his troops out of Kuwait unless the allies had forced him out militarily.

Removing Saddam himself from power was not a US goal, he said.

"Saddam Hussein is still very much in charge," Webster said. He has surrounded himself with those he can trust and has begun rebuilding his country's devastated infrastructure, he said.

Iraqi society has become so "subdued" under his repressive rule that even the punishment inflicted by the massive allied bombings of Iraq didn't force the population of Baghdad into the streets to remove Saddam, Webster said.

Two groups which did rebel — the Kurdish minority in the north and the Muslim Shiites in the south — were brutally repressed.

The only leverage the United States and its allies have to remove Saddam is to withhold oil revenues that he could use to buy influence and rearm in the future, Webster said.

"It will require a continued concerted policy of the coalition members to encourage those things that would remove him," he said. "Without that, I think he'll stay there" as he has since taking power in 1979, Webster said.

Turkey and Saudi Arabia, through which the pipes pass to sea terminals, turned off the oil flow to punish Iraq for the invasion.

A UN resolution adopted April 3 to establish a cease-fire with Iraq prohibits resumption of the oil flow until the Iraqis destroy all their arsenals of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

But Webster said he was concerned that Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other countries might seek the pipelines reopening so they can collect the reparations they are entitled to under the cease-fire resolution.

## BRIEFLY

**5 killed in Kashmir** : Muslim militants attacked a police station and damaged security vehicles Friday in Kashmir, as five people were killed in violence in the northern region, AFP reports from Jammu.

Some 3,000 army and paramilitary forces launched searches in Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, and the districts of Baramulla and Badgam after the attacks, officials said.

Forty-three suspects with arms and ammunition were detained during the search, they said here in the winter capital of Kashmir.

An unspecified number of militants attacked and damaged Srinagar's Karan Nagar area police station, the officials said.

**2.5m new CPC members** : Nearly 2.5 million new members have joined the ranks of the Chinese Communist Party since the June 1989 crackdown, bringing the total membership to more than 50 million, The People's Daily reported Friday, AFP from Beijing says.

The report, citing the organization department of the Party Central Committee, was published by the Official party daily four days before the second anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

The daily said 2.441 million candidates, "among the best elements," successfully passed the selection, probationary period and other interviews to swell the ranks of the ruling party to 50.32 million.

Those selected were among 10.8 million who applied to join the party.

**Riyadh lifts ruling on pilgrims** : Saudi Arabia has lifted a recent ruling that Arab Israeli Muslim pilgrims travelling to the kingdom must transit through Egypt rather than Jordan, a Jordanian religious affairs official said Friday, AFP reports from Amman.

Samir Al-Kodah, quoted by the Jordanian news agency Petra said the Saudi government had decided to allow Arab Israelis to transit through Jordan on their way to Islam's holiest city of Mecca in western Saudi Arabia.

An Islamic affairs official in Jerusalem had announced the new Saudi restriction on Wednesday.

**Water in White House being checked** : Samples of water from the White House and the vice presidential residence have been sent to a laboratory for further analysis, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Friday, AP from Washington reports.

White House doctors ordered the tests last week to see if the water contained chemicals that might have caused autoimmune-system disorders in President George Bush, his wife Barbara and their dog Millie.

The Bushes lived in the vice presidential residence for eight years before moving to the White House.

**Cholera kills 40 in UP** : Some 40 people have died of cholera and gastroenteritis in the northern Uttar Pradesh state during the last few days, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said Friday, AFP says from New Delhi.

Hundreds more are inflicted by the epidemics, the agency said, adding that Lucknow, the State Capital, and another district of Faizpur were the worst hit.

Some 450 people were suffering from the diseases in Lucknow, PTI quoted government officials as saying.

**Iraq seeks urgent medical aid** : Iraq on Friday appealed for urgent medical aid from the International Committee of the Red Cross to confront epidemics and shortages in hospitals, the official Iraqi News Agency reported, AFP from Nicosia says.

Health Minister Abdel Salam Mohammad said made the appeal during talks with a Red Cross delegation and its mission chief in Baghdad, the agency's aid in a dispatch monitored here.

It said the minister stressed his country's "urgent need for help from health and humanitarian organisations in carrying out its health and preventative programmes.

**2 lakh Kurds back home** : More than 205,000 Iraqi Kurds have returned from Turkey to their villages in the regions of Zakho and Dohuk in northern Iraq with the assistance of the International Organisation for Migrations (IOM), the organisation said Friday, AFP from Geneva reports.

The flow of refugees returning under IOM auspices since fleeing a government onslaught in March is around 20,000 per day, with the Geneva-based organisation increasingly taking over from western military forces, the IOM statement said.

**UK minister's visit to Lanka cancelled** : A visit to Sri Lanka by a British Foreign Office Junior Minister has been cancelled because of the expulsion earlier this week of the British High Commissioner (ambassador), Diplomatic sources said on Friday, Reuters reports from London.

Mark Lennox-Boyd, an under-secretary at the foreign office, was scheduled to visit Colombo next month.

The sources said the visit was cancelled because the Sri Lankan government on Wednesday declared High Commissioner David Gladstone Persona Non Grata and told him to leave.

It had accused Gladstone of interfering in local elections.

**11 killed in Soviet blast** : A bomb ripped through the tail car of a passenger train heading from Moscow to the Azerbaijani capital of Baku, killing at least 11 people and injuring eight others, Soviet media reported Friday, AP says from Moscow.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast, which occurred in Dagestan, an autonomous Soviet republic north of Azerbaijan, at 5:05 p.m. (1405 gmt) Thursday. Pictures of the twisted, gutted train car were shown on the Mass state television news program, "Vremya."

The consequences are horrible — nine people killed instantly, the car completely destroyed.

The state news agency Tass said that in addition to the nine people killed instantly, two others later died in a hospital.

## Polls in Punjab to be held on schedule

NEW DELHI, June 1: India's caretaker government said Friday that elections would be held in Punjab on schedule, as a powerful communist party demanded that the controversial polls be postponed, reports AFP.

Minister of State for Home Affairs Subodh Kant Sahay told reporters in the Punjab city of Jalandhar that New Delhi was determined to go ahead with the elections set for June 22, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

Sahay promised greater security against Sikh separatist attacks for candidates contesting the simultaneous polls to Punjab's 13 seats in parliament and the 117-member state legislature.

**Hurd condemns**

AFP adds from Luxembourg : British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd condemned the continuing abuses of human rights in Burma and urged other countries in South East Asia to exert influence on the Burmese authorities to adopt a more humane approach.

Speaking at a meeting between EC and Asean Foreign Ministers in Luxembourg on Thursday night, Mr. Hurd stressed that "the EC have repeatedly expressed their concern at the continuing abuse of human rights in Burma and at the failure to transfer power to MPs democratically elected in 1990."

"The Burmese people clearly expressed their wishes and these should be respected."

"Their policies have maintained a potentially rich country in a state of unnecessary and artificial poverty, deterring trade, foreign aid and investment. There are regional costs too in terms of trade forgone as well as political instability," he said.

## Former PM was not wearing bullet-proof jacket

# Female assassin exploited Rajiv's softness towards women

VISHAKAPATNAM, India, June 1: Rajiv Gandhi's soft spot for women as he electioneered was exploited by his female assassin to breach a security cordon, a senior police official said on Friday.

"There is no doubt in our minds that Gandhi's softness towards women was carefully studied by his assassins," said Police Commissioner Mahendra Kumawat, who was in charge of Gandhi's security on the day he was killed.

Hundreds of women penetrated the former Prime Minister's Security cordon at Gandhi's urging, Kumawat told Reuters.

Gandhi addressed his last public rally in Vishakapatnam in southern Tamil Nadu state on May 21 to rally support for Uma Gajpati Raju, a woman candidate of his Congress Party, before his fatal meeting in Sriperumpudur later that night.

In Sriperumpudur he was due to address a crowd for Margatham Chandra Shekhar, another woman candidate.

Gandhi, 46, was blown up after a woman elbowed her way to the front of a line of well-wishers to present him with a garland.

The woman, as yet unidentified, apparently triggered plastic explosives embedded with hundreds of

steel pellets strapped around her waist as she bent down to touch his feet, a traditional sign of respect.

Gandhi related to supporters on the campaign trail by playing what local newspapers began calling "garland volleyball" in which he tossed garlands or shawls that were flung at him back to women in the crowd.

Kumawat said that handling security when large numbers

of women were present had its problems.

"It is not possible for an ordinary policeman to frisk a lady. Besides, women generally are not as big a security risk as men can be. So we found that at a critical time our defences were down", Kumawat said.

Although a few police-women were at the scene of Gandhi's assassination, local newspaper reports said he pushed one out of the way to

allow his assassin to approach him.

A videotape of Gandhi's public meeting in Vishakapatnam shows him beckoning to women to come closer to the speaker's platform.

"As a result we went through a nightmare protecting him from the milling crowd," Kumawat said.

He said hundreds of women crossed into the security enclosure at Gandhi's urging.

"But he looked thrilled with the response he got and he kept flinging hundreds of handkerchiefs printed with his party emblem to the cheering women," Kumawat said.

On recent campaign trips Gandhi had begun to dodge his security personnel to mingle with supporters.

"He even took away the keys of an escort car which he complained was coming between him and the people," Kumawat said.

He said Gandhi was seen as being particularly casual about his security when women supporters tried to come near him.

"We saw in Bombay and several other places how dangerously close he allowed people, particularly women, to come to him. Surely, Mr Gandhi's style must also have been watched by his enemies," Kumawat said.

PTI adds: The former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was not wearing the customary bullet proof jacket during his tour of Tamil Nadu and at the time of the Sriperumpudur bomb blast which killed him, official sources said.

## 3 Irish troops killed as mortar hits security base

BELFAST, June 1: Three soldiers were killed and 18 others were injured in a mortar attack on a northern Ireland security base late on Friday night, police said.

"We think the attack was launched from the back of a lorry that was parked on high ground near the base," a police spokesman told Reuters.

"Three UDR (Ulster Defence Regiment) soldiers were killed and 18 were injured."

He said that contrary to earlier reports, no civilians were involved and all the injured were soldiers from the Glenann Base in the southern county of Armagh.

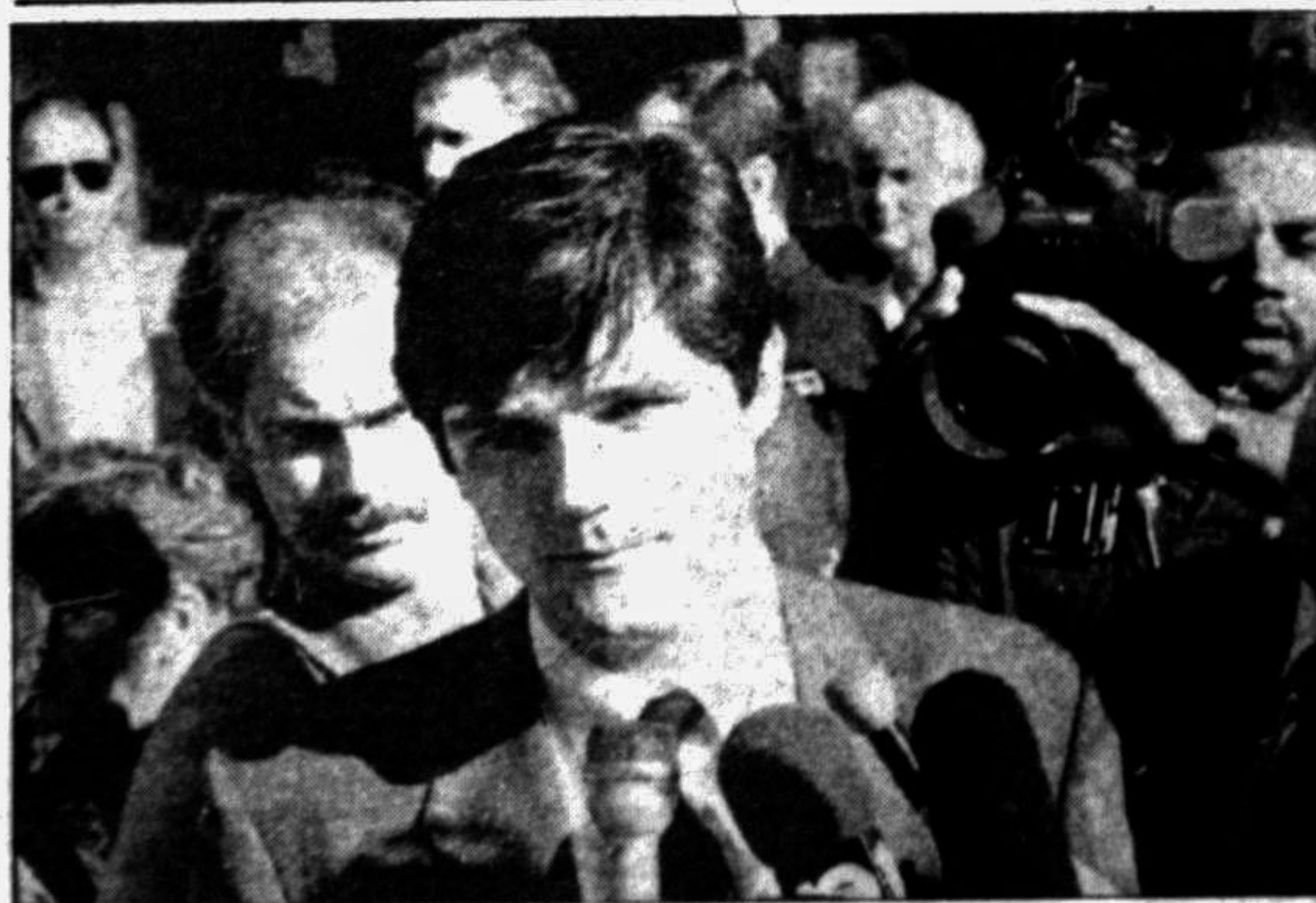
Belfast's downtown radio

reported that several missiles had been fired at the heavily fortified position. Police could not confirm this.

Local press reports said the explosion shook houses 15 miles (24 km) away and could be heard 50 miles (80 km) away in county Dublin in the Irish Republic.

Some reports said the base was on fire after the attack but firemen were not immediately able to approach for fear of further explosions. They eventually put the fire out.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack. The Irish republican Army (IRA), fighting against British rule in northern Ireland, has carried out similar attacks in the past.



WEST PALM BEACH, Florida : William Kennedy Smith is surrounded by the media after his appearance May 31 at the Palm Beach County courthouse. Smith pleaded not guilty to a sexual battery charge stemming from an incident over the Easter weekend at the Kennedy compound.

Iraq is required to pay a percentage of its future oil for compensation to victims — including individuals, governments and corporations — under the Security Council's cease-fire resolution of April 3.

Payments would cover environmental damage from the oil Iraq deliberately spilled into the Gulf, the loss of revenue Kuwait suffered when Iraq blew up and set fire to its oil wells, and the loss of wages to scores of thousands of foreign-

ers who fled Kuwait after the Iraqi invasion of Aug 2.

The process of adjudication, attachment of Iraqi oil profits and eventual payment is expected to be complicated.

A Washington report adds : Iraq President Saddam Hussein remains firmly in charge of his country, and the United States must keep his oil pipelines closed in order to weaken his grip on power, says the retiring director of the CIA.

William Webster, outgoing head of the Central Intelligence Agency, also says the United States is skeptical that Saddam has any intention of fulfilling his promises to

## Off the Record

### Saudi prince broke

ROME (Georgia) : Farmers, land speculators and the just plain curious crowded into a tent for the auction of 1,200 acres (486 hectares) owned by Saudi Prince Faisal, reports AP.

The prince has a 21-million-dollar debt and a US Bankruptcy Court headache. His mansion in Atlanta already has been sold, for 7.5 million dollars.

The auction Monday of a portion of Prince Faisal Mohamed Al-Saud Al Kabir's 8,000 acres (3,240 hectares) in north Georgia raised more than 1.8 million dollars. It was the first of three summer sales to whittle his debt.

Faisal, 46, came to Georgia in 1975 for military training and bought land along the Etowah River. He hoped to build an English-style manor, complete with castle. According to court testimony, the prince fell behind in payments on the land for more than two years and it's being sold to satisfy creditors.

Bill Waters of Rome bought 216 acres (87.5 hectares) for 435,000 dollars. Waters, one of more than 300 people who attended the sale, owns a home in the middle of the prince's property and had resisted the prince's attempts to buy him out.

"I've been an island on the prince's property for years," Waters said. "I didn't plan to buy all of this but this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance."

### 48 tons drugs seized in Soviet Union

MOSCOW : Last year, the police confiscated 48 tons of drugs in the Soviet Union. The last five years increased the damage caused by drug crime by 573.1 per cent in Moscow alone while its compensation fell by 435 per cent, says the weekly Economics and Life, reports IAN.

Police drug squads are working at a loss though their activities used to be profitable quite recently. Official statistics don't show any incomes from confiscated drugs while drug crime has increased by 190 per cent and the number of dealers' arrests by 50.

The weekly accuses statisticians of deliberate underestimations and demands dependable figures at all official levels and differentiated legal and economic policies in respect of small and big drug dealers.

### It's never late for marriage

SYDNEY: An Australian couple with a combined age of 186 years were on their honeymoon on Friday after marrying earlier in the day, reports AFP.

It was the second marriage for both Minnie Munro, 102, and Dudley Reid, 84, who were wed before friends and family at the Orana Nursing Home at Point Clear, north of Sydney.

"It went extremely well and they both looked very handsome," one nursing staff employee said.

### 500 Tajiks to perform Haj

DUSHANBE, June 1: This year the trip to the holy places of Makkah will be much easier for the Muslims from Tajikistan, reports IAN.

Meeting the requests of the believers, the President of the Tajik SSR Kakhkhar Makhkamov has given instructions to the Republican Civil Aviation Board to organise charter return flights from Dushanbe to Jeddah from June 12 to July 3.

It is expected that about 500 pilgrims will make a Haj in this way.

Moreover, the President has also instructed the Committee for Religious Affairs under the Republican Cabinet of Ministers to organise the pilgrimage and the Health Ministry to send experienced doctors to accompany the pilgrims.

### Uma Shankar cremated

NEW DELHI, June 1: The Vice-President, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, the Prime Minister, Chandra Shekhar, the Congress (I) President, P V Narasimha Rao and other prominent leaders were present at the cremation of the Congress leader and freedom fighter, Uma Shankar Dikshit, reports PTI.

A five gun salute was given and the buglers sounded the last post.