

# BRIEFLY

**Non-party govt in Algeria:** Algerian Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali said on Sunday he was still working to form a non-party government dedicated to preparing for fair general elections. Reuter from Algiers reports.

It would be ready within the next few days, he said in a 10-minute speech on Algerian television.

He made no mention of a quick presidential election Islamic militants, whose demands plunged the country into violence, said on Friday the authorities had agreed both elections would be held this year.

**Iran warns Iraq:** Iran would not remain silent if the Baghdad government launched a new military operation against the Shia Muslim population in southern Iraq, national television said in Teheran on Sunday. AFP reports from Teheran.

"Remaining silent in the face of an Iraqi military operation against southern Iraqi Shites could bring trouble for economic projects in south-western Iran — the part of Iran which borders the main Shiite population centres in Iraq — the report said.

This would compromise the country's security, the television added in a commentary.

**Opposition challenges Major:** Britain's opposition Labour Party, riding high in opinion polls, challenged Prime Minister John Major's ruling Conservatives on Sunday to call an immediate general election. Reuter reports from London.

Labour leader Neil Kinnock urged Major to call an election now rather than wait until July 1992, the deadline for a new vote.

**Pak spies in Kabul:** Afghanistan protested to Pakistan on Sunday over what it called continued interference in its internal affairs by sending spies and saboteurs, Kabul Radio reported. Reuter says from Islamabad.

The broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, said a strong protest note was handed to the Pakistani Charge d'Affaires in Kabul following the arrest of a Pakistani national in the eastern province Paktia.

The note said Adalat Khan had entered Afghanistan illegally and was engaged in terrorist activities.

The Soviet-backed Kabul government frequently accuses Pakistan of sending spies to help guerillas who have been fighting it for more than 12 years.

**6 shot dead in Lanka:** Tamil Tiger guerillas ambushed and shot dead six soldiers in northeastern Sri Lanka as security forces killed four militants elsewhere, a military spokesman in Colombo said Monday. AFP reports.

Gunmen believed to be from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ambushed the soldiers on routine patrol in Trincomalee district Sunday, killing six of them instantly in a hail of automatic weapons fire, the spokesman said.

He said security forces shot dead at least four suspected LTTE men in a separate gunbattle in nearby Welioya region Sunday.

"Our soldiers observed four terrorists falling from trees when we fired at them", the spokesman said.

**US terms for Israel on ME:** Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Sunday the United States told Israel that if it froze the construction of settlements on occupied Arab land its other conditions for convening a peace conference could be met. AP from Jerusalem says.

Shamir also confirmed reports that apart from the two issues he raised in a letter he sent to Bush Thursday night — UN participation and the scope of the conference — he also wanted veto power over which Palestinians would attend the talks.

The Palestinians would be part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, he told reporters. "Clearly, we rely on Jordan to compose the delegation, but the Palestinian component must be agreed by us," Shamir said.

He said this was stipulated in the 1978 Camp David accords. These US-mediated accords govern the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and lay down guidelines for an overall Middle East peace.

Shamir's letter to Bush was in response to letters the US President sent to the prospective conference participants in an attempt to pinpoint which obstacles remained and how they could be overcome.

**'Global warming is a threat to human health'**

SYDNEY, June 10: An abrupt rise in infectious diseases during one of the wettest summers on record in Australia's tropical north has provided evidence that global warming is a threat to human health, doctors say, reports AFP.

Aileen Plant, chief medical officer of the northern territory's department of health and communications, said four epidemics had hit the territory since January, spreading to areas normally free from these diseases.

The epidemics conform with predictions in a report submitted to the national health and medical research council at its twice-yearly meeting in Brisbane on Thursday. Dr Plant said.

The report says, it is not yet possible to predict with confidence what changes are taking place to the climate of Australia, but it stresses that it is vital that planning be undertaken now to address potential health problems.

"We are not predicting catastrophe, one of the authors, Christine Ewan, told Agence France-Press, but human health is dependent on the environment, and if you change the environment you must expect new problems with health."

Dr Ewan, of the University of Wollongong south of here, said the report accepted the view of many scientists that the average temperature of the earth's atmosphere will rise by one to four degrees Centigrade (two to seven degrees Fahrenheit) by the year 2030, causing a 15-centimetre (six-inch) rise in sea levels as ice melts at the poles.

Warming, known as the Greenhouse effect, is also expected to produce more rain in tropical areas such as northern Australia.

Tropical rains and rising sea levels could cause the water table to rise in places, disrupt sewage systems and allow toxic contaminants to leach into catchment areas, Dr Ewan said.

Garry James, of the federal department of community services and health in Canberra, said, most reputable scientists accept that there is global warming. We see it as having a very serious potential for human health.

**Heatwave kills 200 in Sind**

KARACHI, June 10: A searing heatwave roasting Pakistan's southern Sind province killed at least 200 people on Sunday, raising the toll to more than 300. Hyderabad Mayor Aftab Ahmed Sheikh said today, reports Reuter.

"Hell has opened its door on Sind. The hell is raining heat on Sind", Sheikh said in a telephone interview.

Some 70 people died on Sunday around Hyderabad, 150 km (90 miles) northeast of Karachi. The Mayor said figures had not arrived from remote areas and the toll could rise.

At least 29 deaths were reported from the Sukkur area in northern Sind, 27 from Nawabshah, 20 from Sanghar and the rest from smaller towns.

**24 Punjab candidates in safe police custody**

NEW DELHI, June 10: Nine of more than two dozen Punjab election candidates being kept in a police safe house have threatened to go on a death fast unless they are allowed to campaign, reports said Monday. AFP.

The protesting politicians have also said the government should reimburse them for the money they spent campaigning prior to their virtual detention by police, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Police last week placed in safe custody 30 politicians contesting the prestigious Amritsar seat of the 117-member Punjab legislature after a spate of bloody attacks left 21 contestants dead in the troubled northern state.

The nine disgruntled protesters have also demanded houses in safe localities after the June 22 state and parliamentary balloting, saying they felt insecure because of their decision to contest the polls, PTI said.

Sikh militants opposing elections in federal-controlled Punjab have been blamed for the murders and security agencies placed the 30 politicians in a fortified private guest house in Amritsar, a hotbed of Sikh separatism.

Security agencies in New Delhi said the contestants were removed to the safe house because they had refused to accept offered police protection despite increased attacks on candidates.

Paramilitary troopers with machineguns and mortars guard the safe house, which is cordoned off by rings of police in armoured cars, denying the politicians even a peep out of their room windows, officials said.

**Major volcanic eruption feared**

**Thousands of US troops from Clark Base evacuated**

MANILA, June 10: Thousands of Americans left Clark Air Base on Monday with dogs, cats and personal belongings after seismologists warned of a major eruption by a nearby volcano dormant for six centuries, reports AP.

The decision to evacuate the giant base was taken early Monday after the 4,795-foot (1,462-metre) Mount Pinatubo spewed searing gases, ash and rock Sunday at speeds up to 100 kilometres (60 miles) per hour. No casualties have been reported.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said gas, ash and not rocks flowed again Monday and a larger eruption was expected. The institute said the entire western slope of the volcano, about 16 kilometres (10 miles) west of Clark, was covered by ash.

Rains fell across the area Sunday night, and officials warned residents to move to higher ground to escape mud flows.

Air Force spokesman Lt. Col. Ron Rand announced the evacuation during a 5 am Monday (2100 GMT Sunday) broadcast over the US military's Far East Network.

An hour later, the first vehicles began rolling out of Clark for the US-run Subic Bay naval base, where the 16,000 troops, dependents and civilian employees will be housed until the danger is past. The miles-long (kilometres-

**Books on Mao selling like hotcakes**

BEIJING, June 10: Books about Mao Zedong are selling like hotcakes, China's official Xinhua news agency said Monday, reports AFP.

Renewed interest in the founder of the People's Republic is so great that over the past three years more than 50 books have been published, not to mention new films made and new plays performed, about his life.

The study of Mao's works regained popularity during the ideological backlash following the repression of the June 1989 pro-democracy movement here.

Some recently published books have sold several million copies and certain works are now out of stock, Xinhua said.

The agency cited an unnamed bookshop in the centre of Beijing as saying it sometimes sold more than two hundred books a day on the life and works of the "great helmsman," who died in 1976.

Books published on him over the past few years fall into two categories: historical and political accounts and works about his daily life.

One of the best sellers, according to Xinhua, is "Mao Zedong and his Secretary Tan Jiyang," written in 1989 by Pang Xianzhi, Deputy Director of the Party Literature Research Centre. Xinhua said it has already sold more than 200,000 copies.

The agency said the reason many Chinese read about Mao was to "have a better understanding of China's history."

It quoted college teacher Xue Xini as saying, "Everything about Mao Zedong was shrouded in mystery in the past."

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There was no indication how long the Americans would stay, but they were ordered to take along important papers and three days' worth of food, water and clothing.

Subic base spokesman Bob Coble said families at the naval installation had been asked to take in evacuees and that others would double-up in bachelor officer and enlisted quarters.

"Everybody understands it's not like living at home, but it should not be so terrible," Coble said.

An undetermined number of people were to stay behind to guard the facility and maintain essential services. Base spokesman Maj. Wayne Crist said those staying behind would number only a few hundred.

**BELGRADE:** An estimated 10,000 demonstrators for the Serbian Movement for Renewal opposition party gather in Belgrade's central square to demand the resignation of the government of the Republic of Serbia and the removal of the communist red star for the federal Yugoslavian flag.

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# 8 former Presidents, PMs quit upper house for Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI, June 10: Many an elder has chosen to leave the Rajya Sabha to join more active politics by seeking elections to the Lower House. Twelve of them are in the fray in the current mid-term poll, reports PTI.

Four of India's Presidents and four Prime Ministers besides Union Ministers were members of the Upper House before entering the Lok Sabha and then occupying the top offices.

Parliamentary records show a total of 90 members of the Upper House made their way to the Lok Sabha since the second general elections in 1957 till now with some of them getting in through by-

elections.

Dr Zakir Hussain, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, N Sanjeeva Raddy and Zail Singh are Presidents who were one time members of both the houses while Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indra Gandhi VP Singh, and Chandra Shekhar are the Prime Ministers with this distinction.

These Rajya Sabha members who are either elected indirectly from the state legislatures or nominated to the permanent house, go through the electoral test seeking a popular mandate.

Once an elder is elected to the Lok Sabha, he has no option but to quit the Upper House but a Lok Sabha member elected from more than one

constituency can retain a seat of his choice.

Parliamentary records show that 15 Rajya Sabha members each got elected to the Lok Sabha in the second and third general elections in 1957 and 1962 while 14 exercised this option in the fourth elections in 1967.

In 1971, only five Rajya Sabha members, the minimum till date, were elected to the Lok Sabha.

While the 1977 elections returned 11 Rajya Sabha members to the Lower House, their numbers dipped to nine in the 1980 and 1984 general polls.

The 1989 elections again saw 12 Rajya Sabha MPs returned to power in the Lok Sabha.

The architect of the Indian constitution, Dr B R Ambedkar was a member of the Upper House from the erstwhile state of Bombay in 1952 while Dr Zakir Hussain was nominated by the president.

Prof N G Ranga, the nonagenarian parliamentarian from Andhra Pradesh and former Defence Minister V K Krishna Menon from Kerala were among the 15 Rajya Sabha members to be elected to the Lok Sabha in 1957.

Other political stalwarts who were elected to the Lok Sabha in 1957 included, Dr P Subbarayan, Manubhai Shah, KC Reddy and Surendra Mohanty and Princess Vijaya Raje.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Y B Chavan, Prof Humayun Kabir, Dr Bejawada Gopal Reddy and Bibh-udhendra Mishra were among the 15 Rajya Sabha members who had opted for the Lower House in the 1962 general elections.

Former President Dr Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed and N Sanjiv Reddy, former Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi besides, Ashok Mehia, C N Annadurai, P C Sethi, and Mohammed Saif Qureshi and A B Vajpayee, figured in the list of 14 members of the Upper House who were elected to the Lok Sabha in, 1967 general elections.

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**GARDEZ (Afghanistan):** An Afghan Mujahideen commander aims his US-made anti-aircraft 'Stinger' missile as the Mujahideen begin massing near this provincial capital. The Mujahideen have recently enjoyed successes in their 12-year-old war with the Soviet-backed Kabul government of President Najibullah. — AFP photo

# 24 Punjab candidates in safe police custody

NEW DELHI, June 10: Nine of more than two dozen Punjab election candidates being kept in a police safe house have threatened to go on a death fast unless they are allowed to campaign, reports said Monday. AFP.

The protesting politicians have also said the government should reimburse them for the money they spent campaigning prior to their virtual detention by police, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Police last week placed in safe custody 30 politicians contesting the prestigious Am-

ritsar seat of the 117-member Punjab legislature after a spate of bloody attacks left 21 contestants dead in the troubled northern state.

The nine disgruntled protesters have also demanded houses in safe localities after the June 22 state and parliamentary balloting, saying they felt insecure because of their decision to contest the polls, PTI said.

Sikh militants opposing elections in federal-controlled Punjab have been blamed for the murders and security agencies placed the 30 politicians

in a fortified private guest house in Amritsar, a hotbed of Sikh separatism.

Security agencies in New Delhi said the contestants were removed to the safe house because they had refused to accept offered police protection despite increased attacks on candidates.

Paramilitary troopers with machineguns and mortars guard the safe house, which is cordoned off by rings of police in armoured cars, denying the politicians even a peep out of their room windows, officials said.

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# Pak troops called to avert sectarian clash

LAHORE (Pakistan), June 10: Paramilitary forces were called to a town in Pakistan's Punjab province to avert clashes between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslim sects after a militant Islamic scholar was shot dead on Sunday, police said, reports Reuter.

Abdul Samad Azad, Local Patron of the Militant Anjuman Siphah-I-Sahaba (ASS), Sunni organisation was shot in Leiah, western Punjab, while going to a mosque for morning prayers.

The ASS is strongly anti-Shi'ite and police said Azad's murder caused tension between the two sects. There were no immediate clashes, but paramilitary forces were called in as a precaution.

The ASS blames Shi'ites for the murder of its founder last year and of an ASS parliament deputy in January.

In March, a court sentenced an ASS supporter to

death for killing an Iranian Shi'ite official. The ASS accuses Iran of interfering in Pakistan's internal affairs through links with local Shi'ite groups.

# New Patriot to be tested in July

BOSTON, June 10: Prototype of a new generation of Patriot missile, designed to shoot down Stealth aircraft as well as Cruise and tactical missiles, will be field-tested next month, US Defence industry sources said on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The new missile, doubled the Patriot growth missile, is designed to have double the range and altitude of the existing Patriot.

# Off the Record

## Bangladeshi folk song on Mamata's lips

MAMATA BANNERJEE, the fiery Congress-I MP from West Bengal, has now realised that the only way to wriggle out of tight corners is by using her wit. And has she learnt it the hard way. Recently, at an election rally in the Muslim-dominated pocket of Beckbagan, the crowds demanded that she speak in Urdu and it seemed for a moment that she was stumped. But she quickly gathered herself and burst out with an Urdu shair, "Muddae lakh bura chae to kyahota hai. Wolhota hajjo manzure khuda hota hai", reports PTI.

The crowds cheered and applauded thunderously and soon there was no stopping her. After entertaining the audience with Urdu poetry, she finally ended her performance in Bengali.

"Brothers," she exclaimed, "there is a folk song in Bangladesh whose opening lines begin with Allah, meghde, paani de (O God, give us clouds, give us rain). The farmers sang this song to invoke the rains during drought and famine." And as the crowds waited in bated breath for her to complete the song, Bannerjee said, But the CPI-M has changed it to, Allah, megh de, paani de, paani dile bonyade, bonnyar trane taka de, taka dile gari de, gari dile baari de(O Lord, give us clouds and rain, with flood money for relief, and with the money we shall have cars and houses!)



## Three brothers quit music

NASHVILLE, Tennessee: The name of the Gatlin Brothers' tour says it all: "Adios, For Now," reports AP.

The popular country music band has decided to quit, at least for the time being, when their tour ends late in 1992.

The Gatlins "may decide eventually to get back together," spokeswoman Brenda Horn said Sunday. "But right now, they just need some time of the road. They've been doing it for so long now. They just need a break."

The brothers Larry, Steve and Rudy cited health problems, higher business costs and competition from newcomers as reasons for their decision.

The trio launched a string of 15 Top 10 country singles in 1979 with "All the Gold in California," but have been without a major hit for four years.

"I want us to go out with some style, with some dignity, with some class," Larry Gatlin said. "So, for the time being, adios, no hard feelings."

## A family reunion indeed

SPRINGFIELD, Missouri: Actor Don Johnson and his wife, actress Melanie Griffith, dropped by a local hospital to visit Johnson's father and were an immediate hit with the nursing staff, reports AP.

Several nurses at St John's Regional Health Center collected photographs from the two stars as they visited with Johnson's father, Wayne Johnson, who is recovering from heart surgery, said Johnson's cousin, Doug Johnson.

Doug Johnson said the visit turned into a family reunion of sorts. "The family all got together," he said. "I hadn't seen (Don) in 10 years. It was enjoyable."

Johnson starred in television's "Miami Vice." Griffith's movie credits include "Working Girl" and "Bonfire of the Vanities."

## 'Japan should buy 70,000 N-arms'

TOKYO: Japan should buy 70,000 nuclear warheads from the Soviet Union" this bizarre suggestion