

They hate mother tongue!

KATHMANDU, June 16: Pro-Indian politicians in Nepal have threatened to stage street protests if the Himalayan kingdom's infant Parliament insists they address it in the national language, reports Reuter.

start a regarding dress and language, we will be compelled to start a struggle from the very beginning," party leader Gajendra Narayan Singh told a weekend news conference.

The Sadbhavana (Goodwill) Party said its six representatives would speak north Indian Hindi in the 205-seat Assembly and would defy etiquette by wearing long cloths draped from the waist, traditional dress in their Terai region bordering India.

Officials at the Parliament, due to convene on June 20 after Nepal's first free polls in three decades, said the impoverished country could not afford simultaneous translation facilities between Hindi, 12 major regional dialects and standard Nepali.

"How can we cope if each member insists on speaking in a mother tongue?" one senior official said.

Clashes leave 112 dead in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, June 16: Fierce clashes in northern Sri Lanka left 100 Tamil guerrillas and 12 government troops dead, military officials here said Sunday, as the region remained under an indefinite curfew, reports UNI.

Troops clearing rebel-held areas shot dead 100 militants in a clash near the town of Vavuniya, 254 kilometers (158 miles) north of here, on Saturday.

Spokesmen put government casualties at four dead and 12 wounded, but press reports here said 12 soldiers were killed and about 40 wounded.

US official in China for talks on arms sales

BEIJING, June 16: US Under Secretary of State Reginald Bartholomew arrived Sunday to press Chinese officials to curb missile sales to Third World countries, a growing irritant in US-China relations, reports AP. Washington is especially concerned about Western intelligence reports that China is planning to sell ballistic missiles to Syria and Pakistan. China denies the reports.

Bartholomew was scheduled to meet Sunday with Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and attend an evening banquet with Vice Foreign Minister Liu Huaqiu serving as host.

Iraqis to topple Saddam: Bush

LOS ANGELES, June 16: President George Bush said Saturday it was never a US objective in the Gulf war to throw Saddam Hussein out of office, but he still hopes the Iraqi people will do the job, reports AP.

Bush also heatedly denied that he or former President Ronald Reagan did anything in the 1980 campaign to delay the release of the US hostages in Iran.

Eight former hostages have called for an investigation of the accusations that the Reagan campaign sought to delay their release until after the 1980 election. The hostage issue has been cited as one of the main reasons former President Jimmy Carter lost his re-election bid that year to Reagan.

Bush said he welcomes a congressional investigation into those charges, but warned against its becoming "a billion-dollar witch-hunt."

He said Vice President Dan Quayle is "absolutely" qualified to be president someday and "he's going to be on the ticket if I run again" in 1992.

And Bush vowed to back recommendations to close military bases made by Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and Gen Colin Powell, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The president made the comments in a wide-ranging, 35-minute interview Saturday in his hotel suite with three local television reporters before a golf outing with Reagan.

Our objective was never to throw him out of office. Look at all the UN resolutions."

"Our objective was to throw him out of Kuwait, and boy, did our people perform well," said the president.

He said the United States will not normalise relations with Baghdad or ease trade sanctions as long as Saddam remained in power.

"I'm still hopeful that rec-

weapon has been set back into the Dark Ages."

Bush was asked if he hoped Quayle would be president someday.

"Please don't inject me into 1996 politics before a final decision's been made on 1992.... If you're asking me is he qualified, the answer is, absolutely yes," he replied.

Bush also said health concerns will weigh on his decision whether to seek re-election.

he will not remain with a nuclear capability, Bush said in an interview with local television stations. He was here as part of a weekend trip that will also take in Colorado and Wisconsin.

An Iraq defector claiming to be a top nuclear scientist has told US officials there may be four nuclear weapons research facilities in northern Iraq that escaped the Allied bombing campaign.

Slovenia, Croatia to declare independence by June 26

BELGRADE, June 16: The Yugoslav republics of Slovenia and Croatia both announced Saturday they would declare their independence by June 26 at the latest, the Tanjug agency reported citing an official Slovenian statement, reports AFP.

An "action plan" was prepared by the presidents of the two republics, Milan Kucan of Slovenia and Franjo Tudjman of Croatia, during a closed-door meeting Saturday, Tanjug said.

They said their intention to declare the autonomy of their respective republics did not mean that they would halt participation in negotiations with the central Yugoslav government and other republics about the future of the country, which they would like to see as a loose confederation of sovereign states.



Bush: Saddam to be toppled



Saddam: Firmly saddled in power

ognizing the economy in that country is very sorry, that the Iraqi people will do what they should have done long ago, in my view. This man is unforgivably brutal," said Bush.

The president also said he wants the United Nations to "examine every lead" on allegations that Iraq still has nuclear weapons material hidden away. But he commented that he was certain Saddam's ability to make "an atomic

power in 1992, but he felt good enough Saturday to do the job for four more years.

AFP from Los Angeles says: President George Bush Saturday reiterated that Iraq must not be allowed to have a nuclear capability, following reports that some Iraqi nuclear facilities may have survived the Gulf war.

We have to make clear that

BRIEFLY

11 Pak rly officials suspended:

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif suspended eleven senior railway officials Saturday after an initial inquiry into the Ghotki train accident in which scores of people were killed a week ago, AFP from Islamabad says.

The suspended officials include the Chief Operating Superintendent, the Chief Signals and Telecommunication Engineer, their two deputies and other senior officials from the concerned departments, the official Associated Press of Pakistan said.

It did not say why they were suspended.

The General Manager of Pakistan Railways and a number of officials posted at Ghotki were already suspended.

Udpike wins literary prize:

US author John Udpike on Sunday won one of Italy's most prestigious and lucrative literary awards, the 50-million-lire (42,000-dollar) Scanno Prize, reports AP from Scanno.

The prolific author was honored for his book "Trust Me." Udpike has been the recipient of a number of literary awards, including the Pulitzer Prize, but joked with organizers that with most awards "you can't send your kids to college."

Former winners of the Scanno Award, presented in this mountain village in the Abruzzi region, include Peruvian author Mario Vargas Llosa and American Saul Bellow.

40,000 thirsty Afghans flee homes:

At least 40,000 Afghans trapped without water during a month of fighting between government troops and Muslim insurgents have fled their homes in western Herat Province, the guerrillas said Saturday, reports AP from Islamabad.

Most of the fleeing families were reportedly headed toward Iran or closer to the provincial capital of Herat, where water is available.

The areas hardest hit were Zindajan and Ghorian districts, about 60 kilometers (35 miles) west of Herat capital, near the Iranian border, said Najibullah Lefryc, a spokesman for the US-backed resistance headquartered in Pakistan.

Claims by both sides in the 13-year-old war are often exaggerated and often impossible to verify.

The Kabul government rarely acknowledges when Afghans flee their war-ravaged homeland.

Iran blasts Kuwait's policies:

A leading Iranian newspaper Saturday blasted the Kuwaiti government's post-war treatment of long-time resident Palestinians and Bedouins, AFP from Tehran says.

"Upwards of 100,000 people died in the process of restoring Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah to power early this year, and more than three months after Iraq was bombed out of Kuwait the outside world is slowly realizing that the royal family has no intention of sharing power," the English-language Kayhan International commented.

Italian Jew stabbed in Jerusalem:

Two Palestinian girls on Saturday, stabbed an Italian Jewish tourist in Arab East Jerusalem and later told police they had planned to kill a Jew," police said, AFP from January reports.

Rulo Tiziano, 32, was studying Hebrew at a Tel Aviv school and considering immigrating to Israel.

He was returning from prayers at the wailing wall in the old city of Jerusalem when he was intercepted by the two girls aged 17 and 15.

One of them stabbed him with a knife, wounding him in the chest and a thigh. The other girls' screams brought guards running who prevented her too from knifing the tourist.

Labour leading over Tories:

Britain's Opposition Labour Party has opened up a 10-point lead over Prime Minister John Major's Conservatives, according to an opinion poll Sunday, Reuter from London says.

The survey in the Observer newspaper showed labour had 45 per cent support against 42 per cent a month ago, while the Conservatives had slipped three points to 35 per cent.

Support for the centrist Liberal Democrats was unchanged at 16 per cent.

The Conservatives are struggling to pull the nation out of a sharp recession brought on by a credit squeeze imposed to beat inflation.

Albanian asylum seekers sent back:

Twenty-eight adults and two children who sailed from this northeastern port Saturday became the first Albanian asylum-seekers to be sent back by Italy under a new hardline policy, AP from Ravenna says.

The ferry Buona Speranza (Good Hope) was due to bring them to the Albanian port of Durres, across the Adriatic, on Sunday evening, the Italian news agency ANSA reported. The Albanians were rescued in the Mediterranean sea earlier in the week as they tried to make the crossing in boats of fortune, part of a new wave of asylum hopefuls who headed to Italy.

On Thursday, Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis, while visiting in Albania, announced that Tirana's moves toward democracy meant Italy would no longer consider giving political asylum status to refugees from what was Europe's last hardline Stalinist state and that any more would be refugees would be sent back.

Many of the more than 600 arrivals of the past week were waiting on ferries in Ancona port Saturday night to be sent back to their impoverished homeland.

Gorbachev tells Soviet TV

'I'll go to G-7 meet as neither beggar nor blackmailer'

MOSCOW, June 16: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has said he will go to July's G-7 economic summit as neither beggar nor blackmailer, but offering mutually-beneficial economic cooperation to the West, reports Reuter.

He gave an outline of his intentions in an interview with Soviet television on Saturday night, hours after accepting a formal invitation from British Prime Minister John Major.

Gorbachev said he was not going to London to discuss specific figures but to give his views on how to intensify economic cooperation and in what areas.

"I think it will not be an easy discussion," he said.

Gorbachev will meet leaders of the G-7 countries — the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Britain and Canada — after their annual summit on July 15-17.

The invitation, delivered by British Ambassador Sir Rodric Braithwaite, crowns a successful campaign by the Soviet leader to gatecrash the G-7 party.

Senior Western politicians were concerned that Gor-



Gorbachev's flair for publicity would force them to write him a blank cheque — aid which would be swallowed up by the inefficient Soviet economy without reforming it.

Gorbachev aides have mentioned sums of 30 to 50 billion dollars a year for five years, according to International Monetary Fund sources.

Soviet conservatives say it is humiliating that the Kremlin leader should be seen going

with what amounts to a begging-bowl to their ideological enemies.

Gorbachev, reiterating arguments made previously by his aides dismissed this interpretation. He was not looking for charity, he said but proposing profitable cooperation between equal partners.

"Some say I am going to London to blackmail, others — as a beggar. These are all trivial superficial light weight, irresponsible judgements," he said.

"We will have a working meeting at which I will give my views. I will have something to say about how I see development of cooperation between the Soviet Union and the developed countries."

Gorbachev said he would discuss what he would say with leaders of Soviet republics before going to London and would be representing their views as well.

"We will not take decisions about any sum or concrete things. It will be a political and economic discussion about how to build further our cooperation," he said.

Prime Minister Valentin

Philippines volcanic flows swamp villages: 35 killed

OLONGAPO, Philippines, June 16: Eight patients were crushed to death in a Philippines hospital, bringing to 35 the total number killed by an erupting volcano that has disgorged huge falls of ash and cascading walls of mud, doctors and local official said on Sunday, reports Reuter.

In Olongapo city, 30 KM (18 miles) southwest of erupting Mount Pinatubo, part of the general hospital collapsed late on Saturday, killing eight people and injuring 50. Dr Concordia Ligad said.

Hundreds of building were

Rally in Calcutta to raise funds for cyclone survivors

CALCUTTA, June 16: Intellectuals of the city of processions on Sunday, took the streets braving torrential rains to collect funds for the cyclone-hit and flood-affected people across the borders in Bangladesh, reports PTI.

Lakhs of people who are also our near and dear ones, have been rendered homeless and fighting with death. Our cultural and linguistic heritage is one and same we have one Tagore and one Nazrul ... It is our historic responsibility to respond to the call of the affected ones in this hour of crisis, said a leaflet distributed by the processionists.

Among the processionists were film actress, Aparna Sen, Director, Mrinal Sen, writer Dibyendu Palit, poet Sunil Gangopadhyay, painter Prabhas Karmakar, folk singer Ajit Dey and others.

who fled the eruptions, relief officials said.

Huge mudflows have swamped villages on the flanks of the volcano, burying at least 10 people, according to initial casualty reports being compiled by rescue officials. Poor communications made a detailed assessment difficult, they said. Three people died when bus terminals in Angles and Olongapo collapsed

Massage parlours follows collapse of communism

VIENNA, June 16: Prostitution is flourishing in Eastern Europe following the collapse of communism, taking such new capitalist forms as massage parlours and night clubs, reports AFP.

Figures are hard to come by, but press reports in Hun-

gary and Czechoslovakia indicate massage parlours have been opening at record rates in the past 18 months.

A brisk trade in Soviet dancers and prostitutes has appeared in most East European countries.

Young Soviet women are

lured to Eastern Europe with promises of work contracts in Western Europe and are forced to work illegally — but lucratively — in Czechoslovakia or Hungary.

It is in Hungary, where prostitution is illegal, that it appears to beat all previous records.

Since mid-May, four of the 60 massage parlours in the country were closed for being brothels, their operators charged with possessing illegal weapons and pimping.

Hungary's "King of Porn", Laszlo Voros, has been under arrest for over two weeks while the authorities examine his empire — a string of "therapeutic" institutions whose employees, mostly Romanians under 18, have often said they were forced into prostitution.

Another string, dubbed the "Russian mafia", funnels Russian prostitutes into Budapest night clubs where they charge less than their Hungarian counterparts.

If the night club owners refuse, they are often beaten up by Russian former soldiers.

In Prague, a dozen "erotic massage parlours" vie for the hard currency of foreign visitors, mostly Germans.

Some institutions have specialized in sado-masochist practices and charge 10 to 17 dollars for each 40-minute session.

The streets of Prague are left to the "low-class" prostitutes, many of whom are gypsies. The city has 30,000 known prostitutes.

In Romania, where prostitution is illegal but tolerated, there have reports of an influx of "dancers" from Turkey, Cyprus and Hungary.

Off the Record

Larry Hagman again

WASHINGTON: It was Dallas as J.R. Ewing took on the politicians at the Texas Festival Ball on Washington Mall, reports AP.

Actor Larry Hagman, who played J.R. Ewing on the long-running television series "Dallas," was decked out in a white 10-gallon hat and black leather vest with a map of Texas on the back for Friday's evening of barbecued beef and chili.

The event was part of the Kennedy Center's tribute to the Long Star state.

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen was attired in jeans, bandanna, leather vest and crumpled cowboy hat.

Georgette Mosbacher, wife of Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher, showed there's more to Texas than cowgirls by arriving in a beaded Indian dress.

Limousines were the preferred mode of transportation, but park police on horseback added another Texas touch to the capital's streets.



WASHINGTON: The Great American Flag was unfurled on June 14 by several hundred volunteers on the grounds of the Washington Monument. The flag is the world's largest, measuring 210 feet by 411 feet and weighs seven tons. — AFP/UNB photo

Hair styles can't be altered

TOKYO: A magazine that published altered photos of Crown Prince Naruhito in different hair styles was scolded by an unamused Imperial Household Agency and could face sanctions, officials said Friday, reports AP.

The powerful agency, which runs the affairs of Emperor Akihito and his family, verbally reprimanded the magazine Thursday for the lighthearted look at Naruhito in the different hair dos.

The latest issue of the popular weekly Shukan Bunshun that hit the stands Thursday carried 10 portraits of the 31-year-old prince sporting generally subdued hair styles ranging from a Beatles cut to modish moused waves.

Titled "Hironomiya-sama Hair Style Remodeling Plan," the three-page spread included results of a survey of 100 young women on which hair style they preferred. Naruhito is also known as Hironomiya, and "sama" is added to Japanese names as an honorific.

The agency summoned the magazine's chief editor Kazuyoshi Hanada on Thursday and verbally protested the use of the photos, said Toyotaka Endo, an agency spokesman.

Hanada issued a statement saying the magazine was now "studying a response." The agency said it would determine whether to take further action after receiving a reply.

The agency tightly controls press coverage of the imperial family through a rigid Japanese system of pool reporting and can deny access to various events. It is extremely sensitive about the royal's image.

Camus manuscript sells at 1.63 lakh dollars

PARIS: The handwritten manuscript of Nobel prize-winning author Albert Camus acclaimed novel "L'etranger" (The Outsider) was sold for a million franc (165,000 dollars) at a Paris auction on Saturday, reports Reuter.

An anonymous Frenchman bought the manuscript from the estate of Professor Jacques Millot, a scientist and friend of Camus, who gave him the 104-page document.

Camus, who died in a car crash in 1960 at the age of 47, wrote the quasi-surrealistic novel about a lonely man who commits a gratuitous murder in 1940.

He penned in four alternative titles on the manuscript's cover in case publishers rejected the title under which it was read by generations in dozens of languages.

The four substitute titles were: "Modesty," "A Happy Man," "A Free Man" and "A Man Like All Others."

Ben Bella to run for Algeria's presidency

ALGIERS, June 16: Algeria's first President, Ahmed Ben Bella, on Saturday announced his candidacy for presidential elections promised by the end of the year and called on authorities to set a date for the poll, reports AFP.

Speaking at a press conference here, Ben Bella, 74, said President Chadli Bendjedid should announce a date for the presidential election to "help clear the atmosphere and restore serenity" to Algeria, under a state of siege since June 5.

In his first public address since the start of the current crisis, he called for a gradual easing of the state of siege, which was declared after nearly two weeks of street protests by Muslim fundamentalists in the capital Algiers, as soon as a new government was formed.

Ben Bella was President from Algeria's independence from France in 1962 until he was deposed and imprisoned in a bloodless coup in 1965. He was freed in 1981.

He said he was confident that the Algerian army, "an army of patriots," would return to the barracks.

"Our army is not a candidate for a military putsch," he said. If it were, it would already be in power.

He noted that individual and collective freedoms had not been suspended under the state of siege, which was aimed at "security."

Algeria's new Prime Minister, Said Ahmed Ghozali on Sunday promised the holding of early presidential elections, a major demand of the country's leading opposition party, the Islamic Salvation Front, which had led the street protests.

Ghozali did not indicate the date for the presidential vote during a televised speech Sunday but opposition leaders who met with him said the elections could be held before the end of the year.

Ben Bella, who returned to Algeria last September after year in exile, is head of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, which he founded.

An opinion poll, taken last month before the scheduled June 27 general election was postponed by Chadli, indicated his party would earn less than one per cent of the vote.



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti journalist Ibtisan Al Rakhail (C) is convicted in court at the Kuwaiti Palace of Justice June 15 of collaborating with the Iraqis during the occupation of Kuwait by working for Iraq's newspaper "Al Nidal". Al Rakhail was condemned to death for collaboration. — Photo AFP/UNB