

# Thousands of Tamils greet Congress victory Counting of votes boycotted in Bihar: slain Rajiv elected

NEW DELHI, June 17: Candidates of all parties except the Janata Dal Sunday boycotted the counting of votes in the Kishanganj Parliamentary Constituency in protest against the alleged rigging by the ruling JD in Bihar, according to the Cong-I candidate, M J Akbar, reports PTI.

Akbar told PTI on telephone from Kishoreganj, that polling agents of the Cong-I, the BJP and those of an independent candidate, Tasleemuddin walked out of the counting centre at 5.30 P.M. after four rounds of counting.

The polling agents of the boycotting parties later met and demanded repoll in the entire constituency, he said.

Akbar claimed that the rigging was done in collusion with the district administration and alleged that three different types of ink had

been used while stamping the ballot paper.

AFP reports from New Delhi: Slain former Premier Rajiv Gandhi was posthumously declared elected to the Indian Parliament from his constituency of Amethi, National Television reported.

The announcement did not give Gandhi's victory margin in the poll on May 20.

Gandhi, who was assassinated May 21, had represented Amethi, in his northern home state of Uttar Pradesh, in Parliament since 1981 when he won his first election.

The Election Commission is expected to issue the victory certificate to Mr Gandhi's family and order a by election in Amethi.

Gandhi was Prime Minister from 1984-89.

AFP adds from Madras, thousands of jubilant Tamils took to the streets here Sunday to celebrate the impending election victory of slain former Premier Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) party and its ally in the state where he was assassinated.

Tamils of both sexes thronged the office of Gandhi's Congress (I) and the regional All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) parties in this capital of Tamil Nadu State.

Many danced for joy, while others set off firecrackers, shouting slogans hailing the slain Gandhi and AIADMK Chief Jayalalitha Jataram, 43, who is poised to take over as Tamil Nadu's next Chief Minister.

Crowds were also shouting slogans denouncing the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE), which has been blamed for the Gandhi assassination. The LTTE has denied killing Gandhi.

Gandhi was killed May 21 when a woman suspected to be a Sri Lankan Tamil detonated a

## PAF fighter plane crashes: child killed

ISLAMABAD, June 17: A fighter aircraft of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) crashed into a populated area Sunday killing a child and injuring a civilian, an official statement said, reports AFP.

It said the fighter aircraft was on a routine training flight when it crashed near the PAF base at Kamra, about 70 kilometers (40 miles) northwest of here.

The pilot ejected safely but the debris of the falling aircraft killed a child and seriously injured a civilian.

# Sanctions against Iraq won't be lifted: Bush

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, California, June 17: President George Bush Sunday said he favoured improving ties with Iran, and reaffirmed his opposition to lifting sanctions against Iraq so long as President Saddam Hussein stays in power, reports AFP.

After a speech to an Asian-American group, Bush took a few minutes to talk about Iran and Iraq after demonstrators waved banners saying "stop

the Saddam Hussein genocide."

"They are right. We will not remove sanctions from Iraq as long as the brutal Saddam Hussein remains in power," Bush said to applause from the audience.

Other demonstrators began chanting, "Iran, Iran," Mr Bush responded: "I want to see a free Iran full of human rights where we can have better relations again, and thank God relations are getting a little better, but I wasn't to see them good."

Washington and Iran have no diplomatic ties. In addition, pro Iranian groups are suspected of holding six U.S. hostages in Lebanon.

During his speech, Bush once again defended his decision to renew most favoured nation (MFN) trading status for China, saying that it cannot be influenced by the west if it is isolated.

Bush announced three weeks ago that he was renewing men for China, a move which guarantees its exports to the United States continued access to the lowest available tariffs.

Congress has 90 days to defeat the measure, which faces strong opposition in both the upper and lower chambers.

"I want to be the President to facilitate changes for human rights in China," said Bush.

Also in his speech, Bush remembered thousands of Chinese students who took part in pro-democracy protest that were crushed in Beijing two years ago.

## China rejects US charges against arms sales to Pakistan

BEIJING, June 17: China rejected today American "criticism" of alleged missile sales to Pakistan and said the neighbouring countries were holding no negotiations on this matter, reports AFP.

"No negotiation is going on at present between China and Pakistan on the sale of weapons," a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

James Baker, US Secretary of State, Wednesday threatened Beijing with "grave consequences" in bilateral relations if China supplied Pakistan or Syria with surface-to-surface missiles.

"In the past China has provided Pakistan with some conventional weapons including a small number of tactical missiles," the Chinese spokesman said, adding there were no more such exchanges and "no reason for criticism."

However, Pakistan's government said Thursday it still hoped to take delivery of tactical M-11 missiles with a range of 300 kilometres (190 miles) — from China, one of its main military suppliers.

## BRIFFLY

### Volcano erupts again in Tokyo:

Japan's killer volcano erupted again Monday, sending a torrent of hot rocks down the mountainside and spewing ash over a hot springs resort, reports AP from Tokyo.

There were no reports of injuries from the latest blast of Mount Unzen in southern Japan, but the Meteorological Agency warned of additional eruptions, flows of hot rocks and superheated gas, and falling lava rocks as large as one meter (three feet) in diameter.

Since a June 3 blast killed 39 people, volcanic ash from Mount Unzen has blanketed the town of Shimabara at the eastern foot of the volcano. Monday's 7 am (2200 GMT Sunday) eruption also spewed ash the other direction, onto a resort about 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) from the crater.

Television news showed residents of the resort, also called Unzen, covering their faces with towels and masks to protect against the falling ash.

"It was as though snow had sprinkled down, and the asphalt had turned gray," said Yuichi Tanaka, an Unzen city official. He said people hosed the streets down with water to get rid of the ash.

### Israel to raise population in Gaza:

Israel plans to increase the Jewish population of the occupied Gaza Strip and of several West Bank settlements with a new building boom, an Israeli peace group in Jerusalem said, reports Reuter.

According to documents from the Housing Ministry obtained by the non-partisan peace now movement, Israel has earmarked lands in the occupied West Bank for five new Jewish settlements and has plans to expand existing ones there and in the Gaza Strip.

Documents sent to Reuters on Sunday stated that 16,100 housing units were to be built in the West Bank's Hebron area. This would increase the Jewish population there to about 80,000 from the current 8,000 according to peace now.

Another 13,550 housing units would be built in Gaza, currently home to about 4,000 Jews. The new units would boost the number of Jews there to a least 50,000, peace now said.

"Ten times more people will be in the Gaza Strip and in the Hebron Area." The plans are on the board to start construction immediately, said peace now spokesman Eran Hayet.

### Quake claims 8 in Georgia:

After shocks rippled through parts of Soviet Georgia on Sunday after an earthquake struck the northern part of the Republic, killing eight people and injuring about 200, Tass News Agency reported, reports Reuter from Moscow.

Tremors measuring two to three on the Soviet 12-point scale had been registered, Tass said.

Saturday's quake, which struck at 5 am, was recorded at eight-sufficient to cause serious destruction.

The earthquake, whose epicentre was about 130 km (80 miles) north of the republican capital Tbilisi, destroyed about 80 per cent of buildings left intact after a tremor in the region in April.

### Salvador rebels resume peace talks:

Representatives of El Salvador's US-backed government and leftist guerrillas resumed peace talks on Sunday with little apparent optimism about moving quickly to end their country's 11-year civil war.

Oscar Santamaría, head of the government delegation in Mexico said the talks were expected to last a week and would focus on the future of El Salvador's powerful armed forces and the terms for a ceasefire in the War which has taken over 75,000 lives.

"We have come here with the goodwill to work towards peace accords," Santamaría told reporters.

### Bush defends grant for China:

President Bush defended his decision to grant favourable trade benefits to China, telling a crowd of Asian-Americans that isolating Beijing would only damage chances for reform there, reports Reuter from Los Angeles.

"We can be sure that without American dialogue, the movement for reform in China will take a step backward," Bush said in remarks prepared for delivery in the afternoon in conservative orange country south of Los Angeles.

### Halon emitted during Gulf war:

Large amounts of Halon, a gas that can damage the earth's protective ozone layer, were emitted during the Gulf War, a Swedish researcher in Stockholm said in an interview published on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Other unpublished effects of the War may have included poisoning of rivers when allies bombed Iraq's chemical weapons factories, said Arne Jernelov, an environmental expert sent by the United Nations to Kuwait after the war ended in February.

"It is very likely that the Euphrates and Tigris (rivers) were poisoned when Iraq's chemical weapons factories were bombed," Jernelov told Swedish news agency.

### 1,000 mines detonated in Kuwait:

The Allies have detonated more than 1,000 mines in the waters off Kuwait and normal shipping traffic to the Emirate will soon be re-established, the French navy said on Monday, reports Reuter.

A navy statement in Paris said mine-clearing marine teams belonging to the nine-member western European union defence alliance had accounted for 969 of all the mines destroyed.

After its defeat Iraq gave the US-led allies maps showing the location of 1,200 mines laid by its navy off Kuwait city and towards channels leading to the Shatt Al-Arab waterway.

### 'US against Palestinian state':

Palestinian guerrilla leader George Habash says the United States does not want to see the creation of a Palestinian state and that Washington's Middle East peace initiative offers Palestinians no hope, reports Reuter.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) leader in Baghdad said in an interview late on Sunday that the way forward for Palestinians was to press on with the intifada (uprising) in the Israel occupied territories.

So far the American peace initiative, or what America calls peace initiative says no to the PLO and says also no to self-determination and says also no to any Palestinian state, he told Reuter and the viewers television agency.

### Jyoti Basu elected

CALCUTTA, June 17: The west Bengal Chief Minister, Jyoti Basu was declared elected from the Satgachia Assembly constituency defeating his nearest Congress-I rival, Amar Bhattacharjee by 20,195 votes, reports BSS.

Basu polled 54,798 votes as against 34,603 votes by Bhattacharjee.

### Rape at Palm Beach poised to cloud Kennedy's future

BOSTON, June 17: For the first time in a quarter-century some people in Massachusetts are thinking the inconceivable—that Senator Edward Kennedy can be beaten, reports AP.

Republicans, sensing Palm Beach could be their chance, already are planning for the 1994 senate race.

Still, the rape allegations against Kennedy nephew William Kennedy Smith at the family's Palm Beach, Florida, estate raise a difficult question for the Republicans: how to attack the senator about his private life, if at all?

State Republican Chairman Leon Lombardi said the liberal Democrat's actions at Palm Beach are fair game.

"His record will certainly be open to scrutiny," Lombardi said.

But a former Kennedy rival cautioned against negative campaigning.

"Running against Ted Kennedy is different than running against any other person because there is such respect that the Kennedy family is held in," said Republican state Treasurer Joseph Malone, who ran against Kennedy in 1988 and did not make personal attacks. The senator got an overwhelming 66 per cent of the vote.

Paul Donovan, a spokesman for the senator, said Sunday he does not believe Palm Beach will be a major issue in Kennedy's campaign for a seventh term.

"The people of Massachusetts know that he's been an effective, hard-working senator and his effectiveness has not at all been impaired by the Palm Beach incident," he said.

An easy way to highlight Kennedy's carousing image without referring directly to Palm Beach would be to run a woman against him, some say.

The mere presence of a woman on the Republican ticket would serve as a constant reminder of Kennedy's private life, said Todd Domke, a Republican consultant.

Domke even has a candidate in mind — Sen. Lucile Hicks, a moderate in the Legislature.

Hicks said she has not considered running against Kennedy. But she agreed that a female Republican would be a tough contender.

But Donovan said Kennedy enjoys wide support from women's groups.

Moreover, Massachusetts voters have stood by Kennedy before, when a woman passenger in the senator's car was killed in an accident.

Kennedy was first elected to the senate in 1962, taking the seat once held by his brother John.

This time, authorities are examining Kennedy's behavior in connection with charges against his nephew.

The senator reportedly woke up his son Patrick and Smith in the occurred. Sworn statements also have raised questions about Kennedy's responsiveness to police inquiries.

The senator has said he will temper his drinking habits in light of the Palm Beach case.

Some analysts believe Kennedy still is guaranteed a win.

David Garth, a political consultant who had worked with both Democrats and Republicans, said, "I don't know of any vehicle that has been denied more than the Kennedy vehicle, but it must be made of toughest metal."

### Yeltsin's victory a plus point for West, says Moscow

MOSCOW, June 17: Boris Yeltsin's imminent election to the post of the President of the Russian Federation (the largest of the republics making up the Soviet Union), assures the speeding up and the consolidation of the movement toward radical economic and political reforms not only in Russia, but in the nation as a whole for this election can be interpreted as a popular vote for perestroika. As such it indicates that the perestroika efforts headed by Mikhail Gorbachev, have been victorious in their long and arduous struggle against the conservative forces wishing to set the country back on its hapless past course, says IAN.

Given both of the political leaders' proclaimed policies, the outcome of the election indicates that the Soviet Union would be preserved as a Federation of Sovereign Republics with strong local governments and a strong national government.

In the run-up to the elections the Russian government seems to have come to the realization that it had much to lose and little to gain from being in confrontation with the Central Union Authorities in Moscow and that in union there was strength. It is to be noted that during the election campaign Boris Yeltsin had on a number of occasions stressed his desire to work hand-in-hand with the union structures headed by President Gorbachev, and in the speediest possible conclusion of the Union Treaty by the way, the Parliament of one Republic — Byelorussia — has already ratified the draft of the Union



MADRAS, India: Congress (I) supporters of the party of slain former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, sing and dance to celebrate their party's victory in Madras June 16. Although the counting of ballots continue, Congress (I) is leading in the nation's 10th national election since its independence in 1947. —Photo AFP/ UNB.

### 'Japan wants to speak for Asia'

TOKYO, June 17: A visit by Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama to Vietnam and Indonesia highlights Tokyo's increasingly active diplomacy and shows it plans to speak for Asia at next month's G-7 summit in London, diplomats said today, reports Reuter.

Nakayama returned on Sunday after his week-long visit, whose main thrust was on finding ways to solve the 12-year civil war in Cambodia.

Apparently he did not make much progress. "There was much discussion but the talks did not take the peace process much further," one Asian diplomat said.

### Last apartheid law in South Africa to be abolished

JOHANNESBURG, June 17: Parliament was set to abolish the last major apartheid law Monday as it moved to end the racial classification of citizens, reports AP.

The repeal of the Population Registration Act is seen as a milestone, but the action does not address the biggest race reform still confronting South Africa: negotiating a new constitution that will give blacks the vote.

The Population Registration Act of 1950 has been the foundation of virtually all apartheid measures and caused "discriminatory humiliation and heartache," Home Affairs Minister Gene Louw told Parliament in Cape Town.

During debate on the measure last week, Louw said repeal of the act "literally removes apartheid from the cradle to the grave."

A person's racial classification determined where a person could live, which schools they could attend, which public toilets they could use and which cemeteries they were buried in.

A replacement measure will end all new race classifications and removes race references that remained in other laws.

### Havana's underground being turned into Swiss cheese

HAVANA: Cuban workers are digging a network of tunnels in case of attack by the United States, and have vowed not to stop until they turn Havana's underground into "Swiss cheese," a newspaper reported Sunday, says AFP.

In a letter to President Fidel Castro that was published by the communist newspaper Juventud Rebelde, the workers pledged: "We will not rest until the capital is like Swiss cheese."

Over the past several weeks workers have been seen carrying cement and using public works trucks for taking away dirt.

The letter also made reference to Gulf war, in which it said the United States and its allies used "sophisticated military techniques to massacre the Iraqi people."

"Our population could save itself during a bombing attack by the empire (United States) by going underground and the emerging ... to fight, to fight against the Yankees and annihilate them, said the letter.

### Best military transport

MISHAWAKA (Indiana): Civilians itching to ride the best military transport since John Wayne's horse will have to wait a while longer, with the notable exception of weightlifting actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, reports AP.

The Humvee, the Army's all-purpose vehicle, will remain exclusively for the military for the time being, said Susan Carney, a spokeswoman for LTV corp.'s AM General Division.

Civilian sales have long been considered, but the company hasn't given the project the green light, she said Tuesday.

"I don't know that there's a specific issue holding it back, other than there's a lot to consider," Ms. Carney said.

The company has assembled about 80,000 Humvees, which is short for high Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, since production began in 1984. About 20,000 were shipped to the Persian Gulf and won high marks for ruggedness and durability in combat.

Even before the war, the vehicle's reputation attracted Schwarzenegger. He visited the plant in December and ordered the first sold privately.

"Arnold Schwarzenegger is getting a custom-built vehicle," said Ms. Carney. "I don't know all the details."

The government pays 26,000 dollars for the basic vehicle. Ms. Carney said she didn't know how much Schwarzenegger will pay.

### Fahd to pay for Haj of Soviet Muslims

JEDDAH, June 17: King Fahd has invited 4,774 Muslims from the Soviet Union and 180 from Albania to perform the Islamic pilgrimage or haj at his personal expense, a Saudi official said, reports AP.

The announcement followed reports Thursday that hundreds of Muslims in the southern part of the Soviet Union had rioted because of the exorbitant cost of air tickets to Mecca.

The Saudi minister of pilgrimage and endowments, Abdel-Wahab Abdel-Waste, also said King Fahd offered money to upkeep mosques in the Soviet Union and supply them with amplifiers. He also ordered that 100,000 copies of the Koran be sent to Soviet Muslims and 250,000 copies to Albanian Muslims.

Last year, the Saudi monarch invited 1,560 Muslims from the Soviet Union to the haj and sent one million copies of the Koran to the Soviet Union.

Abdel-Waste said the cost of bringing this year's group of Soviet pilgrims to the holy city of Mecca will cost about 35 million Saudi rials (10 million dollars).

In a press release, Abdel-Waste said the Soviets have already arrived in Saudi Arabia for the haj, which climaxes next Friday.

The Saudi media has been filled with reports about how Muslims in Albania were unable to practice their religion before the nation's hardline Communist government began a series of reforms earlier this year.

### Off the Record

#### No 1 everywhere!

CHICAGO: Author Kurt Vonnegut Jr., a military prisoner in Germany in World War II, says America is ignoring problems at home as it glorifies the Persian Gulf War, reports AP.

Vonnegut, who took part in a book fair Saturday, said the government and media are glamorizing returning troops and ignoring the consequences of war.

"Our friends and relatives knew not to call us heroes," Vonnegut said of his service in World War II. "They knew we were American citizens who did the best we could."

The author of "Slaughterhouse Five," "Galapagos" and "Cat's Cradle" said the government has used the war as an excuse to ignore domestic issues.

"Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf tells us we're the only superpower. President George Bush tells us it was a fight against naked aggression, and we're still No. 1," Vonnegut said.

"Among the western industrialized nations, we're No. 1 in children living below the poverty line, we're No. 1 in teen-age pregnancies, we're No. 1 in murders of those under the age of 24."

#### Havana's underground being turned into Swiss cheese

HAVANA: Cuban workers are digging a network of tunnels in case of attack by the United States, and have vowed not to stop until they turn Havana's underground into "Swiss cheese," a newspaper reported Sunday, says AFP.

In a letter to President Fidel Castro that was published by the communist newspaper Juventud Rebelde, the workers pledged: "We will not rest until the capital is like Swiss cheese."

Over the past several weeks workers have been seen carrying cement and using public works trucks for taking away dirt.

The letter also made reference to Gulf war, in which it said the United States and its allies used "sophisticated military techniques to massacre the Iraqi people."

"Our population could save itself during a bombing attack by the empire (United States) by going underground and the emerging ... to fight, to fight against the Yankees and annihilate them, said the letter.

#### Best military transport

MISHAWAKA (Indiana): Civilians itching to ride the best military transport since John Wayne's horse will have to wait a while longer, with the notable exception of weightlifting actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, reports AP.

The Humvee, the Army's all-purpose vehicle, will remain exclusively for the military for the time being, said Susan Carney, a spokeswoman for LTV corp.'s AM General Division.

Civilian sales have long been considered, but the company hasn't given the project the green light, she said Tuesday.

"I don't know that there's a specific issue holding it back, other than there's a lot to consider," Ms. Carney said.

The company has assembled about 80,000 Humvees, which is short for high Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, since production began in 1984. About 20,000 were shipped to the Persian Gulf and won high marks for ruggedness and durability in combat.

Even before the war, the vehicle's reputation attracted Schwarzenegger. He visited the plant in December and ordered the first sold privately.

"Arnold Schwarzenegger is getting a custom-built vehicle," said Ms. Carney. "I don't know all the details."

The government pays 26,000 dollars for the basic vehicle. Ms. Carney said she didn't know how much Schwarzenegger will pay.



SOWETO, South Africa: ANC's Deputy President Nelson Mandela salutes supporters on his arrival at a stadium for a South African Youth Day rally here June 16. The rally, meant to mark June 16, 1976 killing of Soweto schoolchildren by police, had drawn only a few thousand supporters some three hours before Mandela's arrival. —Photo AFP/ UNB.