

Belgrade threatens decisive military action

Slovenia refuses to help elect Y'slav President : Croatians to quit Army

LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia, June 30 : Breakaway Slovenia refused to participate in electing a new Yugoslav Head of State on Saturday, blocking the rapid implementation of a European community-sponsored peace accord, reports Reuter.

The small Alpine republic, which declared independence on Tuesday, boycotted a hastily-summed meeting of Yugoslavia's collective presidency to appoint a new head of state and end a six-week deadlock between the rival republics.

Slovenian President, Milan Kucan earlier vowed that the Northern republic, which lies on the borders of Italy, Austria and Hungary, would never become part of Yugoslavia again.

"I can see no democratic way through which Slovenia can be part of Yugoslavia. It can only be annexed," he told a news conference.

Kucan and his Foreign Minister

Dimitarj Rupel said they told a three-man EC peace mission bluntly on Friday night that Slovenia could never turn back from independence because Slovenians had died for the cause.

They were speaking a day after a shaky ceasefire went into effect between Slovenian Forces and Yugoslav troops who stormed into the republic to crush its independence bid.

The EC mission flew to Luxembourg on Saturday saying all sides in Yugoslavia had agreed to its three-point peace plan—acceptance of the ceasefire, election of a new President and a three month delay before Slovenia and Croatia in implementing their independence declarations.

The eight-man presidency was summoned to meet in Belgrade on Saturday night to elect a head of State, a post due by Croatian to go to former Croatian Prime Minister Stipe Mestic.

Representatives of Serbia, Yugoslavia's biggest republic and three other republics and provinces which blocked Mestic's election on May 15 said they were ready to drop their veto if Slovenia and Croatia also honoured the EC-backed peace plan.

Then Slovenia's Janecz Drnovsek, a former Yugoslav President, announced he would not attend.

He gave no reason but Kucan said he had submitted the peace accord to Slovenia's Parliament for approval, its decision was not expected until today.

Yugoslav officials said consultations were under way in an attempt to hold the presidency meeting at a later date.

Another report from Belgrade says, the Yugoslav army on Saturday threatened "decisive military action" against Slovenia unless it accepted proposals to implement a comprehensive ceasefire.

The warning was issued on television by Colonel Marko Negovanovic of the high command. He said the army had sent a "final demand" to Slovenia's leaders on measures to end the conflict.

"If the leadership of the republic of Slovenia does not fulfil these demands... the high command will order measures in accordance with the situation in the country, including maximum raising of combat readiness of the Yugoslav People's Army, the necessary mobilisation measures and decisive military action," Negovanovic said.

Officials in Ljubljana, the Slovenian capital, said a gen-

eral had presented at 12-point list of demands and arrangements for securing the ceasefire, such as exchanging prisoners and casualties, supplying army units and lifting blockades on them.

The general was told by Slovenia's defence and interior ministers to present the list in writing and await a reply from the republic's breakaway government.

Negovanovic said Slovenia's defence units were waging a "dirty, cruel and deceitful war"

on the army which stormed into the territory on Wednesday after it declared independence.

"Yugoslavia is on the verge of a civil war," he said, adding that Croatia, which has also declared independence, was also carrying out a general mobilisation of its forces.

A message from Zagreb said: The republic of Croatia said on Saturday it would order its citizens to let violence escalate in the secession-torn

Balkan state.

The decisions followed a meeting of the Croatian government of Friday to discuss "the aggression and crime of the Yugoslav military in the attempt to occupy, Slovenia", Tanjug news agency said.

Croatia, which like Slovenia declared independence on Tuesday, also decided to stop all payments to the federal budget, to divert funds intended for the army to local guard units and to send no more recruits to the federal army, Tanjug said.

The Zagreb government had decided "that Croatia stop all payments to the federal budget, that until further notice money will not be sent to the Yugoslav army but to national guard units and that in case of escalation of violence by the Yugoslav army all citizens of Croatia serving in the army may be called to leave the ranks, Tanjug said.

Rajiv's assassination ordered in December

NEW DELHI, June 30 : Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's assassination was ordered in December by the shadow head of a Sri Lankan rebel militia and was carried out by four of his trusted lieutenants, an Indian news magazine reported Sunday, reports AP.

The planning for the assassination was meticulous and included "dry runs" in which the killers attended two political rallies addressed by Gandhi and former Prime Minister VP Singh to prove they could evade bodyguards, the respected magazine India Today said.

Photographs were taken of the rehearsals and shown to senior members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the militia fighting a civil war in northern Sri Lanka, the magazine said, quoting sources in the team investigating the assassination.

A senior investigating officer said the magazine's reconstruction of the crime was unsubstantiated. "It may turn out to be true but we cannot prove anything yet," said the officer, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Gandhi was killed May 21 at an election rally in the south Indian town of Sriperumbudur when a young woman approached him, bowed and detonated explosives strapped to her waist. Gandhi, the assassin and 16 other people died in the blast.

The woman, identified only by her nickname Thanu, attended a rally addressed by Gandhi on April 18 in Madras to check on security measures around the former Prime Minister, India Today said. She also got close to Singh at an election meeting the next month and touched his feet in a gesture of respect.

SAARC FMs to meet Wednesday

COLOMBO, June 30 : South Asian Foreign Ministers will meet in the Indian Ocean Atoll Nation of the Maldives on Wednesday to prepare the agenda for a head of state summit here in November, officials said, reports AFP.

The ministerial meeting will finalise the agenda for the sixth South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit and review the seven-nation grouping's progress, diplomats said.

BRIEFLY

**Gaddafi in Khartoum:** Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi arrived Khartoum Saturday to attend celebrations marking the second anniversary of the rule by the Sudanese government under Prime Minister Hassan Ahmed al-Bashir. Xinhua from Khartoum says.

Gaddafi was greeted at Khartoum airport by Al-Bashir.

The Libyan leader told reporters at the airport that his visit would include talks with Al-Bashir on bilateral, African and Arab affairs.

The talks, Gaddafi added, would cover steps being taken to implement the Sudanese-Libyan Integration Agreement signed last year. The accord provides for close coordination and final unity of the two countries.

**Financial Times newsman held:** The Lagos correspondent of the London business newspaper The Financial Times was arrested at his home by Nigerian security forces late Saturday, his colleagues reported, AFP from Lagos says.

British national William Keeling, who has lived in the West African country for a year, was arrested shortly after a Nigerian Information Ministry statement dismissed as "totally false" a report published Thursday by The Financial Times on Nigeria's oil revenues.

No official confirmation of the arrest was immediately available.

**Elizabeth meets British troops:** Queen Elizabeth Saturday flew to Northern Ireland and met British frontline troops at a military ceremony staged amid tight security, Xinhua from London says.

Hundreds of heavily-armed police and troops sealed off the town of Lisburn-Co Natrim, when she arrived to present colours to the Ulster Defence Regiment.

It was her first visit to Northern Ireland since 1977 when an IRA bomb was found in the University of Ulster, which she visited according to a spokeswoman of Buckingham Palace.

The Palace delays the announcement of any royal visit to Northern Ireland until arrival to minimise security risks. The Irish Republican Army (IRA) is fighting for an end to the British rule in Northern Ireland.

**2 killed in Yugoslavia:** Two persons were killed early Sunday in this Slovenian capital when they refused to stop at a police roadblock, a spokesman for the Slovene Information Ministry in Ljubljana said, as fears mounted of an attack by Yugoslav federal troops, AFP reports from Ljubljana.

Tight security has been clamped on Ljubljana with leaders of the breakaway republic anticipating an army attack following a warning by a general that if the Slovene forces did not respect a cease-fire agreed Friday, the army would take decisive measures.

**Nathan holds talks with Arafat :** Israeli pacifist Abie Nathan, jailed last year for meeting Yasser Arafat, held talks with the PLO Chairman again on Saturday and said they would have more discussions Monday, reports Reuter from Tunis.

Nathan, saying he will pay any price to break down distrust between Israelis and Palestinians, described his meeting as "very refreshing".

Nathan has been leading a campaign against an Israeli law that forbids contact with any member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, considered by Israel a terrorist organisation.

He spent 122 days in jails in 1990 for previous meetings with Arafat. Early this month he ended a 40-day hunger strike to promote Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

**90 rebels give in to army in Rangoon:** A total of 90 ethnic rebels and militant Burmese students have surrendered to Rangoon military authorities, the official Radio Rangoon reported Saturday, reports AFP from Bangkok.

The radio, monitored here, said 59 ethnic minority insurgents and 31 anti-Rangoon students gave themselves up separately to Burmese army outposts near several border areas between May 1-24.

About a dozen ethnic insurgency groups in Burma have been fighting the Central government in Rangoon for autonomy since the country gained independence from Britain in 1948.

**Highest temperature in Moscow:** The temperature hit 32.6 degrees Centigrade (91 degrees Fahrenheit) in the shade in Moscow Friday, making it the hottest June 29th in Moscow for more than a century, the local weather service said, AFP from Moscow reports.

For the past month, temperatures in the Soviet Capital have hovered between 25 and 30 degrees Centigrade (77 and 86 degrees Fahrenheit).

Beaches north of the city along the Moskova river have been packed for weeks, with some residents even swimming at night.

Electric fans were unavailable at state stores, which had only heaters in stock.

PPP routed in Pak Kashmir polls : Indians open fire

MUZAFFARABAD (Pakistan), June 30: Conservatives backed by Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif led Benazir Bhutto's opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in early results from Saturday's Regional Election in Pakistan-ruled Kashmir, reports Reuter.

Azad (free) Kashmir has been the PPP's last bastion since it was routed in national and provincial elections last October.

State president Sardar Abdul Qayyum said his All-Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference (AJKMC) would win more than half of 40 legislative assembly seats contested in a vote marred by violence which killed some 10 people.

Results released by an election commission for 15 seats gave 14 to AJKMC and one to an alliance of small groups. Bhutto's PPP had won no seats. The assembly will consist of a total of 48 members eight of whom will be elected by the



Nawaz Sharif—the victor

40 directly elected members. Indian troops opened fire across the cease-fire line dividing disputed Kashmir shortly after polling started, officials said.

The Indians sprayed intense rifle fire for an hour from bunkers overlooking Athmugam disrupting voting at three polling stations in Pakistan administered Azad Kashmir.

They were trying to sabotage the election poll official, Sardar Anwar said in Muzaffarabad, capital of Azad Kashmir.

No casualties were reported from the Indian firing, but government officials said six people died in clashes between rival political activists in the mountain region.

Indian and Pakistani troops often exchange small arms and artillery fire across the United Nations-monitored cease-fire line in the Athmugam area of the Secnic Neelum Valley.

The Valley serves as a major route for Muslim militants fighting Indian rule in the two thirds of Kashmir under India.

Pakistan denies Indian charges that it is arming and training the militants who have fought an increasingly bloody secessionist campaign against Delhi's rule for 18 months.

India and Pakistan nearly went to war for the fourth time a year ago over the Kashmir uprising and tension remains

high along the cease-fire line. He's been lying so much I hope like Heck he's telling the truth, this time Bush said serious consideration was being given to ordering an air strike against targets suspected of violating the accord but said no final decision had been made.

The administration sources who spoke after Bush had met with his top military advisers on Friday in Washington, said "there was a pretty good chance we'll do something."

We have the means to do it without the loss of (American) life, the source said referring to the air strikes and cruise missile used during the war.

In his CNN interview, Eagleburger predicted the dispute would be resolved peacefully because I can not believe that the Iraqis will be so stupid as to think they can get away with this for very long.

Iraqi soldiers on Friday refused to admit UN inspectors to a military base and fired into the air.

Will USSR become a slave to West?

MOSCOW, June 30 : At first Soviet hardliners asked this question strictly in the interest of internal political struggle, which reached its peak on the eve of the Presidential election in Russia, reports IAN.

The conservatives did everything to discredit the Russian leader, Mr Boris Yeltsin, who favours the western model of development. Eventually, the conservatives suffered an electoral defeat and Yeltsin scored a landslide victory with more than 57 per cent of the vote in his republic. Although the results of the election reflect the popularity of the Russian leader, they also represent support for his political and social course.

It is wrong to reduce the polemics about possible Soviet dependence on the West in case of massive western aid, a new "Marshall plan", merely to internal political struggle in this country. The kernel of the matter is that such fears are also expressed by experts in developing countries. The authors of some newspaper articles go as far as to suggest that the Soviet Union may become a western colony. Political scientists who previously heard the stern "Nyet" from the Kremlin to all suggestions of a compromise with the West now say that the Soviet Union has made a series of major political concessions in exchange for the promise of lavish aid.

In fact, some analysts tend to regard all the changes that have taken place in the Soviet Union in the last few years as a string of unilateral concessions to the West. Is that so? Is the Soviet Union reducing its ar-

maments and withdrawing its troops from Eastern Europe only because the United States has forced it to do so?

Soviet economists have noted for a long time that the Soviet economy cannot afford extravagant military spending and assistance to our "socialist" friends throughout the world. The public has long demanded that the Soviet Union should stop exporting revolution and the "socialist way of life". So, Gorbachev's policy just did what the internal situation in the Soviet Union had required for a long time. It was a concession to common sense rather than to the United States, a concession to states-

manship rather than alien ideological influence.

The Soviet Union sharply reduced its aid to Cuba not because the US department of state demanded that but because the Soviet budget became too thin to maintain the "revolutionary island." Moreover, the policy of Glasnost has made it clear that Soviet economic relations with Cuba were abnormal and were dictated by ideological rather than economic considerations. The Soviet public also demanded that these relations be reviewed and the issue was repeatedly raised in the Soviet parliament.

As for the three Baltic re-

publics, United States and Western Europe have never recognised their annexation to the Soviet Union under the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact. The US policy to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia has not change in principle. The drive to sovereignty in these republics reflects the general trend in the Soviet Union. Moreover, some other republics, such as Georgia, Moldavia and Armenia, are even more radical in their search for independence.

However, neither the United States nor Western Europe have got anything to do with this process. Moreover, they are worried by it because they realise that disintegration of the Soviet Union, a country with nuclear weapons deployed in its many regions, would pose a serious threat to the world.

The West hailed the "Nine plus One" agreement signed by Gorbachev and the leaders of nine Soviet republics, and agreement that has laid the groundwork for the creation of a new federative state. It is wrong not to see anything but political egotism in the western policy to the USSR. The West suffered just as much as the USSR from the cold war, its atmosphere of nuclear fear, inflated defence budgets and bloc mentality. So now, it wants the Soviet Union to be a neighbour living by the standards of international law rather than a slave that may revolt any time. It is to ensure civilised evolution in the Soviet Union that the West is offering help.



BONDS OF AMITY — Perestroika brings Gorbachev and French President Francois Mitterrand together.

Off the Record

AIDS test for dating!

NEW YORK: Newly eligible bachelor Donald Trump says he asks women to take an AIDS test at his doctor's office before he wines and dines them, reports AP.

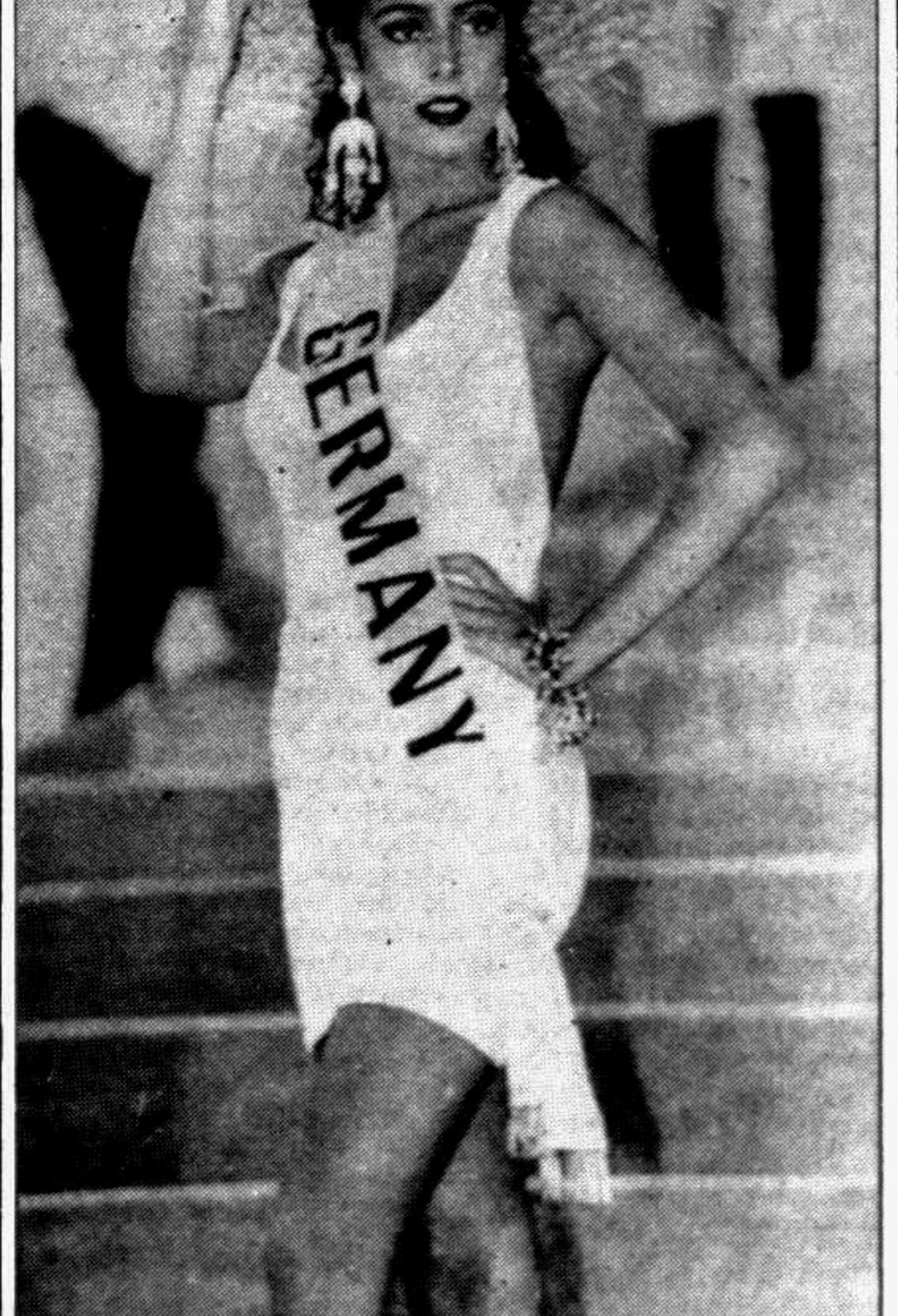
"It's one of the worst times in the history of the world to be dating," said Trump, who at 45 has declared himself unattached and ready to play the field.

Just months after his divorce from wife Ivana was finalized in December, Trump has split with Marla Maples and begun dating Italian model Carla Bruni. That relationship, says Trump, is just the first in what he anticipates will be a long, hard search for "the right woman."

Step one in his search for true love: asking potential sweethearts to stop by his doctor's office for an AIDS test.

"I have been known to say that to women," the developer told New York Newsday. "It's one way to be careful. There are a lot of ways. I'm saying, take all of those ways and double them, because you will need them."

"It's very scary out there," Trump added.



DAKAR : Miss Germany, Susanne Petry, poses for photographers 27 June in preparation for the upcoming election of Miss Europe held here late 28 June. She won the title of Miss Europe 91 competing against some thirty other candidates from all over Europe. — AFP/UNB Photo

He stole women's underwear

SEOUL: A 33-year-old South Korean bachelor told police he stole women's underwear because he was lonely, newspapers reported Sunday, reports Reuter.

Police, who arrested Pyo Hyung-Yeol for snatching his next door neighbour's underwear from a clothes line, later discovered he had stolen more than 150 female undergarments since March this year, they said.

"I did it to console my unhappy condition as an old bachelor," newspapers quoted Pyo as saying.

US judge convicted of taking bribe

NEW ORLEANS (Louisiana) : A federal judge made history Saturday by becoming the first in 200 years to be convicted of taking a bribe, reports AFP.

US district judge Robert Collins, 60, was convicted of scheming to split a 100,000-dollar bribe from a drug smuggler.

Judge Collins, the first black federal judge in the modern-day deep south, was caught with 16,500 in money marked by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and faces up to 25 years in prison and 7,500,000 dollars in fines.

"Right now, he's unable to handle it," said his attorney Julian Murray, adding that the judge was too upset to comment. "He's in a state of mind of incredulity He's in a state of shock"

Judge Collins was found guilty of bribery, conspiracy and obstruction of justice along with the alleged bagman, John Ross, a politically connected businessman.

The judge will not resign, but he will not hear cases until his appeal is over, said Murray.

A federal judge can be removed only through impeachment by Congress.

The justice department said that until now, no federal judge had been convicted of bribery.

Wali accuses Pak generals of selling arms to Afghan rebels

ISLAMABAD, June 30: A leftist Pakistani politician accused army generals Sunday of selling arms meant for Afghan guerrillas on the open market, reports Reuter.

In an interview published in the independent "Frontier Post" newspaper, Khan Abdul Wali Khan said some of the deadliest weapons were falling into the hands of "terrorists."

Afghan guerrillas were selling a major portion of the arms channelled to them from the United States through Pakistan's, he said.

The ISI's Ojri dump in Rawalpindi, which stockpiled weapons destined for the Afghan Mujahideen guerrillas, explored in 1988 killing about 100 people.

Khan, whose Pushtun-based party opposes Pakistani support for Afghan guerrillas trying to topple the government in Kabul, said he saw a multi-barrel rocket launcher at the home of a tribal leader.

Already the blood feuds of the tribal areas are fought out

3 held in Karachi on suspicion of killing judge

KARACHI (Pakistan), June 30: Three men suspected of assassinating a Pakistani judge trying the husband of former Premier Benazir Bhutto have been arrested after an 11-day manhunt, police said on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The three, arrested on Friday night, were being interrogated in connection with the shooting of judge Nabi Sher Junejo in an ambush on a Karachi street on June 18.

They were all members of the opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP) or its youth wing, the People's Student Federation, a police spokesman said.