

# BRIEFLY

## Salvador talks end without truce :

Delegations of the Salvadoran government and leftist rebels concluded a round of peace talks in Caraballeda Sunday without declaring a cease-fire or reaching agreement on the key issue of military reform, guerrilla leaders said, AFP reports.

Other sources close to the negotiations said the talks would probably resume some time in the next two weeks.

Representatives of the rightist government of President Alfredo Christiana and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) had been meeting at this beach resort near Caraballeda since May 25 as part of United Nations-mediated talks.

## Hawke beats off challenge :

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke beat off a leadership challenge from his deputy, Paul Keating, in a vote of the Labor Party caucus in Canberra, AFP reports from Canberra.

Keating immediately resigned as Deputy Prime Minister and as Treasurer, or Finance Minister after a secret ballot of MPs produced a vote of 66 to 44 in favour of Hawke.

The caucus broke up after less than 45 minutes and was due to meet again at 11:30 am (0130 GMT) to elect a new deputy leader.

## Gorbachev to attend July summit :

A German newspaper reported on Sunday that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev would attend the July summit in London of the world's seven major industrial democracies but only as a guest, Reuter reports from Berlin.

The Berliner Morgen Post quoted unnamed government sources in Bonn as saying Gorbachev would not be an official participant and would take part only in discussions dealing with economic crisis in the Soviet Union.

It said US President George Bush had agreed on this compromise in talks with Gorbachev's Foreign Economic Strategy Adviser Yevgeny Primakov last week.

## 12 killed in Lanka flood :

At least 12 people were killed and 17,000 families left homeless when heavy rains caused severe flooding in Sri Lanka, police said on Sunday, Reuter from Colombo says.

Four people died at Galle in the south and three at Kalutara also in the south.

Police said two days of continuous rain since Friday had completely destroyed 2,000 homes.

## Israel invites Hussein :

Israel has welcomed Jordanian King Hussein's willingness to hold direct talks with the Jewish state and Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy Monday invited Hussein to visit Jerusalem, report reaching Cairo said, Xinhua reports.

In an interview with French magazine 'Le Point', King Hussein said Jordan is ready to hold face-to-face dialogue with Israel for the sake of future generations.

The king also reportedly said Jordan will agree to the establishment of a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation in the future.

## Chehey meets Egyptian FM :

US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney met in Cairo Sunday with Egyptian Foreign Minister Moussa for talks on post-war security, the Middle East peace process and disarmament, AFP from Cairo reports.

"The US is committed to finding a way to limit weapons of mass destruction" in the region, Cheney told reporters. "Our concern is to find peace and security in the Middle East."

Moussa said Egypt supported the recent initiative proposed by US President George Bush for the elimination of such weapons, and he referred to President Hosni Mubarak's call for the region to be turned into a demilitarized zone.

## Syria recalls troops from Gulf :

Syria said on Sunday that it had started recalling its forces from the Gulf where they fought with the United States and its Allies to expel Iraq from Kuwait, Reuter reports from Damascus.

Syrian officials said that the first batch arrived home on Sunday.

"The first batch of our Armed Forces, which were assigned to defend the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and to liberate Kuwait and which it has been decided to return home, arrived home on Sunday," one official told Reuter.

## Pakistan warned by Arafat of plot to sabotage N-plant

ISLAMABAD, June 3 : Pakistan has been warned by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat of a plot to sabotage its secret nuclear plant near Islamabad, opposition leader Benazir Bhutto said on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Bhutto told Parliament that Arafat tipped her off about the plot when she met him last week in New Delhi at the funeral of assassinated former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Arafat told her he had "solid" information that an inside operation was being planned to sabotage the uranium-enrichment plant at Kahuta, south-east of Islamabad, she said.

Bhutto said Arafat had told her he had also warned Gandhi of a plot on his life. She added: "We must take this threat to the nuclear plant seriously."

She did not say where Arafat got his information from.

But Bhutto said Arafat had told her the attack on Kahuta was being planned from inside the plant.

"It will be an attack from inside, a sabotage," she said. Pakistani officials and politicians have in the past expressed fears of an attack by India or Israel to destroy the

## Benazir terms budget as black warrant

ISLAMABAD June 3 : Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto accused Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's seven-month-old government on Sunday of economic mismanagement and demanded its resignation, reports Reuter.

She was opening a debate in Parliament on Sharif's first budget, which she described as a black warrant.

The black warrant tells of runaway inflation of budgetary deficits, fiscal irresponsibility, reduced allocations in the social and welfare sectors and additional tax burdens on an already overburdened people, she said.

The former Prime Minister accusing the government of destroying the economy said repeatedly during her speech they have failed they must go, they must go. Finance Minister Sartaz Aziz, announcing a 258.3 billion rupee (11 billion dollars) package for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, said on Thursday the entire budget revenue for the year would be spent on the armed forces and debt servicing.

Bhutto said she was planning arms reduction talks with traditional rival India when President Ghulam Ishaq Khan sacked her last August on disputed charges of abusing power.

She said both countries which have fought three wars since their independence in 1947 faced economic problems and had become big borrowers only a mutual agreement on reducing arms would help them improve their economic situation.

Bhutto also attacked Sharif's programme to privatise state enterprises which she said were being offered to government favourites at throw away prices.

I want to warn the businessmen of Pakistan do not touch this loot sale, she said repeating a previous warning that she would return the matter if she returned to power.

She blamed the government for a sharp rise in prices of essential commodities saying it

## Advani for India to develop N-plant

NEW YORK, June 3 : India must develop nuclear power to maintain leverage in international diplomacy, the leader of India's pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said in a published interview, reports Reuter.

"With two nuclear countries (Pakistan and China) on our borders, India has no other choice than to develop a nuclear deterrent of its own," BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani said in the latest issue of Newsweek International.

The staunchly pro-Hindu BJP is making a serious bid for power in India's general election.

On accusations that Muslims will be treated poorly if "Muslims comes to power," Advani said, "When we talk of a Hindu Rashtra (Hindu nation) we speak about it in the same sense as one would say that Britain is a Christian country. It underscores the essential personality of that country. We guarantee equality, justice, freedom of worship to all."

Advani is optimistic he will be able to form a government on his own and said the assassination of former Prime Minister and Congress party leader Rajiv Gandhi meant "that people want a government that can deal with terrorism and contain its threat."

## Benjedid won't allow polls to be derailed

ALGIERS, June 3 : Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, resisting pressure from fundamentalist for an Islamic state, declared he would not allow democratic general elections this month to be derailed, reports Reuter.

Setting the scene for a confrontation with thousands of militants who have been protesting daily in Algiers and other cities, he declared on Sunday night that all legal steps would be taken to ensure the right condition and atmosphere for the elections.

The June 27 poll for a 542 seat Parliament is the first multi-party general election since Algeria gained independence from France in 1962 after an eight-year war.

Chadli laid the ground work three years ago in reforms which allowed other parties apart from the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) to be formed.

Radical Islamic fundamentalists grouped in the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), emerged as the main political opposition during local election last year.

The FIS is demanding an Islamic State and has pledged if it gains power to introduce sharia civil and penal law from the first year and bring in Islamic management of the economy.

## S. American body protests French nuclear test

SANTIAGO, June 3 : A South American Environmental Commission Sunday protested a French nuclear test on a Pacific atoll of the Polynesian Islands, reports AFP.

France conducted the test on the Fangataufa atoll May 20 and it was stronger than two other tests in the area detected during the same month, the Commission's Secretary General, Teodoro Bustamante, said in a statement.

He said the latest test forced the commission to call for an "immediate and definitive" end to the experiments.

Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru make up the commission whose main concern is protecting the South Pacific.

had found it convenient to hide under the cover of the effects of the Gulf war.

In reality Bhutto said the inflationary spiral is a direct result of the object insensitivity of the government to the problems of the people and the harsh, insensitive policies pursued by it.

## Iraqi bid to import vegetable from Jordan

BAGHDAD, June 3 : The Iraqi authorities are trying to buy vegetables worth 15 million dollars from neighbouring Jordan for sale at Government shops, the semi-official newspaper Babil said on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The deal would be one of the first for food imports by the Iraqi state since the United Nations sanctions committee gave countries the freedom to release Iraqi assets to buy food, medicines and other essentials.

There is extensive trade across the Iraqi-Jordanian border but Iraqi officials say this is all in the hands of private traders.

# 6 sr Bhutanese officials seek asylum in Nepal

KATHMANDU, June 3 : A group of six senior officials of the Royal Bhutanese Government Sunday sought political asylum in Nepal "due to the political crisis in the kingdom of Bhutan," reports PTI.

Addressing a press conference, the civil servants holding important positions in the Bhutanese Administration, said they had submitted to the Nepalese Prime Minister an appeal for "sanctuary and safe haven" in the country.

In a joint statement they said the political crisis in Bhutan has triggered an exodus of civil servants.

The statement said a major political upheaval was currently taking place in Bhutan and the roots of the problem lay in the Royal Government's three years old policy of alienating the predominantly Nepalese population of southern Bhutan from the National Mainstream.

These people constitute over fifty per cent of Bhutan's total population, it said.

They also denied an Indian press report based on a release of the Bhutanese embassies in New Delhi, on May 31 about their being charged with "criminal misappropriation" and refused the allegation of their "defalcating" government funds — substantial or otherwise — in several departments. This "is false and a blatant lie," they said.

The statement said that the Royal Government had imposed "Drukpa" culture and values to suppress the distinct Hindu culture and the Nepal language to ensure the dominance of the ruling "Drukpa" elite belonging to the minority community of western Bhutan.

During the past one year, they said, the harsh crackdown ordered by the Royal Government against any form of dissidence had resulted in the indiscriminate arrest, deportation and exodus of thousands of citizens. For those still in the country, survival

had become difficult.

All basic facilities like health care, education and postal services, had been withdrawn from the southern districts.

The six officers who arrived in Kathmandu on May 21 are : R B Basnet, Managing Director, and Rakesh K Chhetri, Assistant Managing Director, State Trading Corporation of Bhutan, Bhim Subba, Director-General of Power, D P Basnet, Joint Director, Department of Trade and Industries, Mandhraj Tamang, Deputy Director, Planning Commission, and Mrs Usha Tamang, Assistant Director (Banking), Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan.



PUSAN (South Korea) : A radical student winds-up to throw a firebomb at riot police on Sunday outside Pusan University. Dozens of protesters were injured when they fought against riot police with firebombs, pipes and iron bars. The violence erupted after tens of thousands of students and workers took to the streets in defiance of a police ban. —AFP photo

## 13,934 foreigners denied entry into Japan in '90

TOKYO, June 3 : A record 13,934 foreigners were denied entry into Japan in 1990, up 33.9 per cent from 1989, reflecting a surge in workers who attempted to enter with tourist visas, the government said Saturday, reports AFP.

The Justice Ministry said South Koreans accounted for the largest share with 3,433, although the figure represented a decline of 12.1 per cent.

Malaysians followed with 3,408 up 70.4 per cent. Thais with 2,962, up 273.5 per cent, and Iranians with 1,571, up 383.4 per cent.

## Former Indian minister killed in road mishap

GUWAHATI, June 3 : Dinesh Goswami, a Rajya Sabha member and former Union Minister was killed in a car accident on his return journey from an election campaign in upper Assam, on the Dharamtul Bridge across the river Kopili, 70 kms from here, Sunday morning, reports PTI.

Two other party colleagues, Saraj Sen and Dhiren Bhattacharjee, were also killed along with Goswami who was the Vice-President of the Natun Assam Gana Parishad, a breakaway fact on of the Assam Gana Parishad.

## Militants kill 4 security men in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, June 3 : Four security personnel, including an army jawan, were killed and another was injured in the Kashmir valley since Sunday night, official sources said on Monday, reports PTI.

A Manager and a Cashier of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank, Rampore Branch, who were abducted by the militants in the saffron-rich town of Rampore in the day, were rescued by the security forces after raiding the militants' hideout on Sunday.

Three jawans of Jammu and Kashmir police were blown into pieces when the vehicle in which they were travelling from Sumbal to Mansbal was blown up in a mine explosion near tourist spot of Mansbal Cattle Farm on Monday morning.

Earlier, two jawans of army received serious injuries when militants ambushed a convoy near Rampore on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway.

## Khmer rejects Sihanouk's truce proposal

JAKARTA, June 3 : Cambodia's Khmer Rouge has rejected proposals by Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen on the leadership of its Supreme National Council (SNC) and an extended ceasefire, Prince Sihanouk said on Monday, reports AFP.

A well-informed western diplomat said nationalist leader Son Sann also rejected the SNC and ceasefire proposals. Prince Ranariddh, Prince Sihanouk's son and head of his movement, expressed disagreement on the SNC proposal but said he wanted to consult his father.

Prince Sihanouk and Hun Sen announced Sunday agreement on an expanded SNC with the former monarch as Chairman and the Phnom Penh leader as Vice-Chairman. They also proposed to extend a month-old ceasefire until a formal peace accord is signed.

The Prince said the Khmer Rouge was opposed to Hun Sen serving as Vice-Chairman of the SNC, created in September as part of a plan to put Cambodia under UN management pending elections.

## Mujahedeen block road linking Kabul, USSR

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, June 3 : Afghan rebel forces said on Monday they had succeeded in blocking the main road between the Afghan capital of Kabul and the Soviet border following weekend fighting in Parwan Province, reports AFP.

In a communique carried by the rebel News Agency Mida, a northern supervisory council led by Commander Ahmed Shah Masood said his troops had destroyed 27 government tanks and combat vehicles near the Salang Tunnel in Parwan.

# Poll ordered in Kuwait : Police officers offer to resign

KUWAIT, June 3 : The Emir of Kuwait, under pressure from the west to speed up democratic reform, has announced general elections in 17 months' time and revived a toothless national assembly, reports Reuter.

Opposition spokesmen immediately denounced the move as a ploy to buy time to rig the elections to be held in October next year.

They have been campaigning for immediate polls since a US-led coalition forced Iraq troops out of the country at the

end of February.

But western diplomats said the Emir's announcement was a step towards democracy and welcomed the fact that a time for the elections had been set. The Emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, had previously promised voting would take place some time next year.

"It's a positive step," said one western diplomat. A lot of people questioned whether the government was sincere in calling for elections and there is a lot of criticism that he had

not set a date," he said.

The United States has put pressure on the Kuwait government to respect human rights following a wave of killings of suspected Palestinian collaborators after Kuwait was freed in February.

Interior Minister Sheikh Ahmed Hamoud al-Jaber al-Sabah was quoted on Sunday as saying several senior police officers had resigned in the interests of national security and to allow new leaders to come through the ranks.

His statement in the newspaper, which has close links to state security, was believed to be the first time police resignations had been made public.

It did not say how many officers had offered to quit but said the ministry was examining their offers "case by case".

"The desire of chief officers to leave room for new leaders and to revive the force dictated this position," the Minister said.

Crown Prince Sheikh Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah launched the government crackdown on May 27 saying foreigners suspected of links with Iraq were being seized and tortured in police cells. He accused some Interior Ministry employees of involvement in a crime wave.

Human rights groups say some torture is still being carried out in police cells and by armed Kuwaitis seeking to avenge the humiliation of occupation.

## S. American body protests French nuclear test

SANTIAGO, June 3 : A South American Environmental Commission Sunday protested a French nuclear test on a Pacific atoll of the Polynesian Islands, reports AFP.

France conducted the test on the Fangataufa atoll May 20 and it was stronger than two other tests in the area detected during the same month, the Commission's Secretary General, Teodoro Bustamante, said in a statement.

He said the latest test forced the commission to call for an "immediate and definitive" end to the experiments.

Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru make up the commission whose main concern is protecting the South Pacific.

## Mao's wife commits suicide : Time

NEW YORK, June 3 : The widow of China's late Chairman Mao Zedong has committed suicide, according to the latest issue of Time magazine, reports Reuter.

The US news weekly, citing unnamed Beijing sources, said Jiang Qing, 77, was believed to have hanged herself late last month.

Jiang, who was the ringleader of the Gang of Four, was alleged to have hanged herself at the suburban Beijing villa where she had been held, Time said.

She was convicted 10 years ago for helping to carry out the bloody Cultural Revolution. Jiang was sentenced to death, but execution was suspended for two years to allow her to repent. She never did, but in 1983 the sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

At the height of the accusations against her, Jiang told her judges: "I was Chairman Mao's dog. If he said bite someone, I bit him."

The Gang of Four, radical leaders during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, were arrested within a month of the death of their patron Mao in September 1976.

Jiang, who was known to have throat cancer, may have wished to cut short her suffering, Time said.

# Off the Record

## Child prodigy

SINGAPORE : A 13-year-old Malaysian boy will become the youngest ever student at the National University of Singapore (NUS) next month when he joins the Science Department, university officials said, reports Reuter.

Loh Chang Schools, was accepted by the university after special entrance examinations. He has also been accepted by two US universities.

"We prefer to send him to NUS as it is nearer, more affordable and there won't be any culture shock," Loh's father, a biochemist in Ipoh, Malaysia, told Singapore's Sunday Times newspaper.

The boy said he expected a generation gap "in his relations with his older classmates. Our social interests are different. I like chess, computer games and programming but my older friends have different interests."

## Lapierre again on Calcutta

CALCUTTA : French novelist Dominique Lapierre is planning a second book based on Calcutta, where his "City of Joy" has been turned into a movie amid controversy, reports AFP.

Mr Lapierre said Sunday the novel would be based on his experiences in the eastern Indian metropolis.

"My next book will be dealing with the people doing great things for others which I saw here," he said, revealing no more.

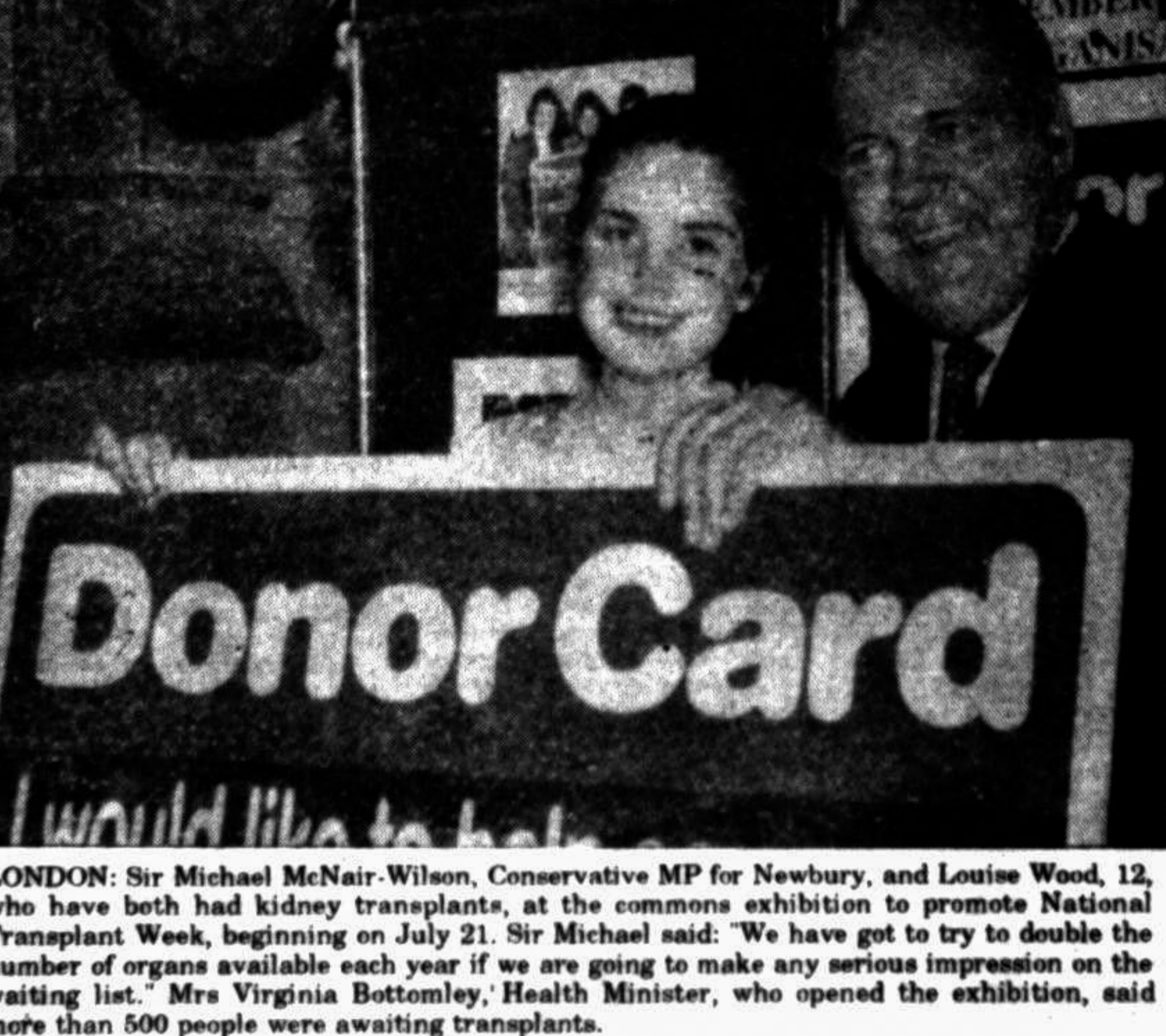
His latest book "Beyond Love" was released during the week.

The author said the novel had been inspired by Mother Teresa, the 80-year-old Roman catholic nun who won the 1979 Nobel peace prize for her work among the poorest of the poor in this impoverished city.

He traced the roots of the novel back to a 1985 visit to New York by Mother Teresa when she opened a home for AIDS patients in Manhattan.

"Beyond Love" is to be filmed by Arthur Penn, who directed the highly acclaimed movie "Bonnie And Clyde," with the shooting set to begin sometime early in 1992.

It is based on Mr Lapierre's research involving interviews with scientists and doctors working on patients of the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).



LONDON: Sir Michael McNair-Wilson, Conservative MP for Newbury, and Louise Wood, 12, who have both had kidney transplants, at the commons exhibition to promote National Transplant Week, beginning on July 21. Sir Michael said: "We have got to try to double the number of organs available each year if we are going to make any serious impression on the waiting list." Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Health Minister, who opened the exhibition, said more than 500 people were awaiting transplants.