

## Reformers to form political party in Soviet Union

MOSCOW, June 28: Reformers hope to soon form a broad-based, Western-type political party to rival the Communist Party, Moscow Mayor Gavril Popov said Friday, report agencies.

Popov spoke to reporters after opening the key session of the Russian Republican Party, one of the groups mentioned as the possible core of the new party.

Several other high-profile Soviet leaders have openly expressed interest in forming a new party, including communists Eduard Shevardnadze, the former Soviet foreign minister, and Alexander Yakovlev, former politburo member.

However, Popov said the new organisation would not take the Soviet Communist Party for its role model.

The basic function of the Soviet Communist Party has been to unceasingly control the action of the administration," Popov said. "We don't need that type of party. We need a party that will hold elections and win elections."

However, earlier this week Yakovlev denied he was leaving the Communist Party, according to the independent news agency Interfax.

"I think not only Yakovlev, but every honest person should leave the Communist Party," Popov told reporters Friday.

If Popov and others succeed, the split could further threaten the Communist Party's hold on national power.

On Thursday, the ruling Communist Party published a proposed draft platform in the newspaper Moskovskaya Pravda, acknowledging past mistakes of perestroika and embracing some proposals of reform-minded Communists.

The move was widely seen as an attempt to head off challenges from possible rival parties.

The most prominent defector is Boris N. Yeltsin, Gorbachev's main rival and president of Russia who quit the party last July. Millions of people have marched in demonstrations that blame the communists for ruining the country during seven decades in power.

## Shantibahini

From Page 1 Col. 5  
a group of Shantibahini attacked the security forces from deep forest.

The Shantibahini also suffered casualty and fled into deep forest with their casualties, the sources said but could not give the number.

The Shantibahini men also made another attack at Bhusanchara of Borkal upazila earlier on Monday, the day of Eid-ul-Azha. One BDR sepoy was killed at Andermanik of Borkal upazila when they opened fire from across the border.

In the same place, three other security men were ambushed and killed by them few days back. One Ansar was also killed recently at Nibaran Tila of Khagrachhari district and sixty-one houses of tribals were set ablaze and the family members were forced to cross the border on gun point.

## Begum Zia

From Page 1 Col. 8  
parliamentary system.

Prominent among them were Barrister Ishtiaque Ahmed, Advocate Shamsul Haque Chowdhury and Justice Abdul Rahman Chowdhury. All of them expressed their satisfaction over the decision of BNP.

But BNP always stood for the presidential system which is mentioned in the party manifesto and constitution of BNP. It is now the moral responsibility of BNP to inform the countrymen who have voted it to power of the fundamental change.

## Brunei minister

From Page 1 Col. 8  
The Sultan and the people of Brunei for their gesture in helping the affected people of Bangladesh.

She also explained various measures taken up by her government to help rehabilitate the affected people.

Major General Muzammel Hossain, Bangladesh Ambassador to Malaysia, who is also concurrently accredited to Brunei, was also present.

Dato Selamat who flew here by a special aircraft brought relief goods and cash for the cyclone victims.

State Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation Lutfur Rahman received him at the Zia International Airport.

About 20 tons of first consignment relief materials containing medicines, food and clothes were handed over to Bangladesh authorities immediately after it was unloaded.

However, Popov said it would be "illogical" if Yeltsin were to join a new political party, since he won the presidency as an independent candidate.

It is unclear which side Gorbachev, the Communist Party General Secretary, would support. Hard-liners tried to oust him as Party chief in April, and he has leaned toward reformers in recent weeks.

## Ukraine puts off signing treaty

Ukraine, the Soviet Union's second-largest republic, on Thursday decided to put off until September a decision on whether to sign a planned new national union treaty, a move seen as a severe blow to the policies of President Gorbachev.

## Privatisation

The Soviet parliament today passed a law on privatising state enterprises, but without the key clauses spelling out just how they were to be taken out of state control.

The law provides for the setting up of a privatisation ministry and lays down the principle that "all enterprises in the country may be privatised."

It nevertheless excludes certain strategic sectors and calls for the setting up of a special body to draw up a list of enterprises to be privatised.

The Supreme Soviet adopted the overall framework of the law by 261 votes to 56 with 27 abstentions.

## 400 families homeless by Jamuna erosion

SERAJGANJ, June 28: Some 400 families in four villages of Belkuchi and Sadar upazilas of the district were rendered homeless till today due to continuing erosion of the river Jamuna, reports UNB.

Water level in the Jamuna receded by 11 centimetres yesterday, according to Water Development Board sources here this evening.

Sadar Upazila Chairman Advocate Abdul Latif said that about 200 families of Ghonapara, Moregram and Patkpara villages in his upazila lost their homestead because of erosion.

Some 200 families of village Chhidramatia of Belkuchi upazila were rendered homeless following the erosion of Jamuna. Upazila Chairman Abdul Latif Biswas said.

## SSC exams

From Page 1 Col. 5

Controllers of Examination of both Comilla and Jessore Boards said necessary arrangements have been made in the cyclone battered areas for smooth holding of examinations. The educational institutions which were damaged by the cyclone and tidal surge have been repaired, they said.

A total of 1,30,240 candidates will appear from 131 centres of Comilla Board with one overseas centre in Saudi Arabia. Another 98,513 candidates will appear from 104 centres of Jessore Board.

## JS session

From Page 1 Col. 7  
the private member's day of the week to move its bill, piloted by Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad.

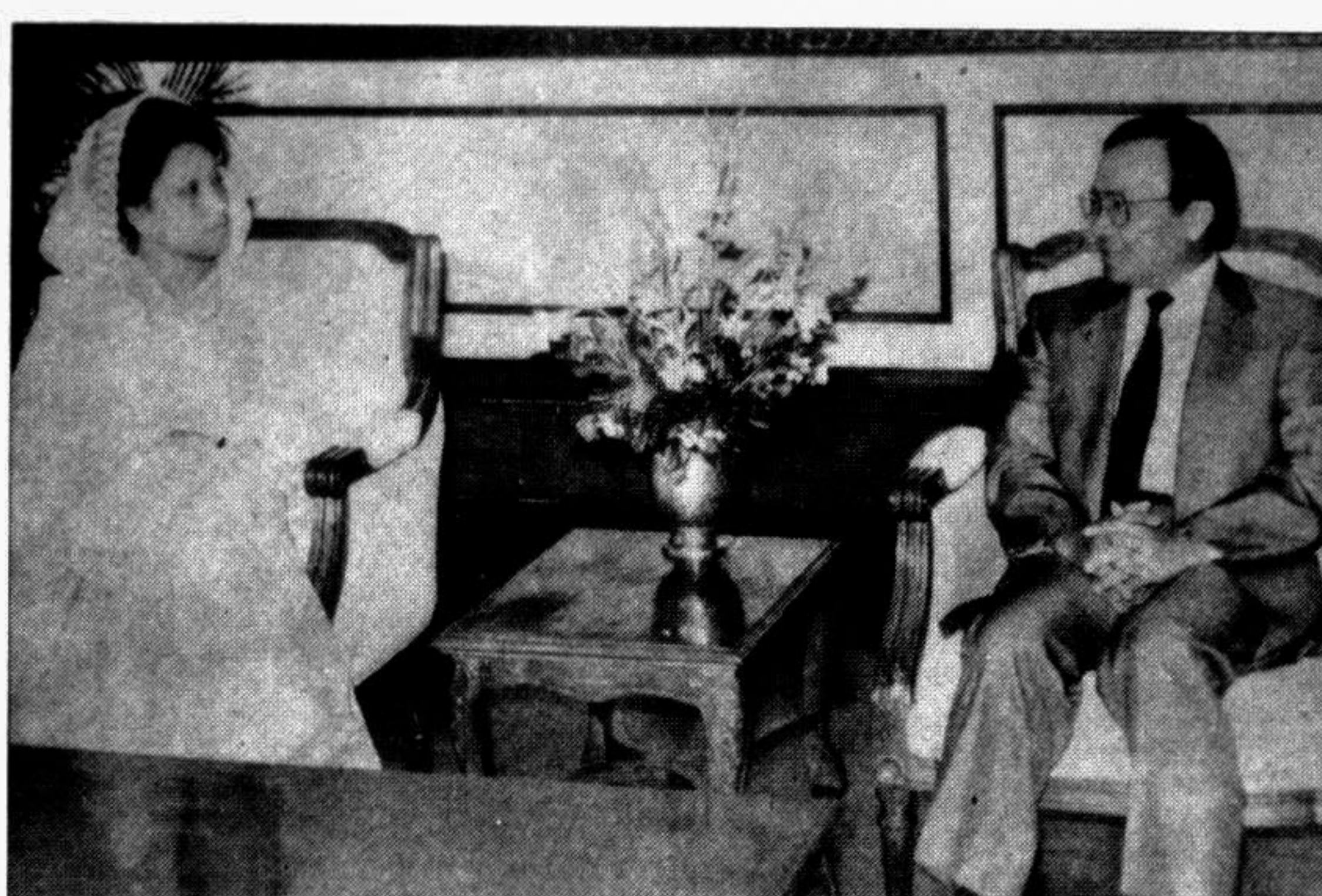
According to Parliament Secretariat sources, discussion on the budget will continue till July 8 and on July 9, the BNP Parliamentary Party will sit again to decide about the Constitution amendment bill.

If the Constitution amendment bill is passed by Parliament, it will have to be sent to the Acting President for authentication. The President will have to refer the bill to the Election Commission for holding a referendum on it within seven days of the passage of the bill.

The Constitution amendment bill, as proposed by the BNP, provides for election of the President by the Parliament members with the Speaker of Parliament presiding over the election. Hence Parliament will have to be summoned again to elect the President after the referendum.

Meanwhile, the Awami League has also proposed that the President be elected by members of Parliament but the election should be conducted by the Election Commission. In that case there would be no need for summoning Parliament to complete the election of the President.

Editor: S. M. Ali



Datuk Haji Selamat Bin Haji Munap, Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports of Brunei, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at 'Sugandha' on Friday.

— PID photo

## JKLF holding missing Israeli

## Kashmiri militants kill govt official, abduct another

SRINAGAR, June 28: Kashmiri militants today killed a government engineer and kidnapped an executive from the state-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC), official sources said here, reports AFP.

The sources said the bullet-scarred body of the Muslim engineer, Noor Mohammad Shah, was found in the Bachpora area of Srinagar city this morning, but that his assailants had not been identified.

Five armed men stormed into a room in the city's Pampur district where K. Doraswamy a Bombay-based IOC executive was holding discussions with other company employees Friday, demanded the most senior company official present and abducted him at gunpoint, IOC sources said.

The militants sped off with the official in a car, they added.

Militants last year kidnapped and killed a Hindustan Machine Tool executive and his assistant and a prominent academic and killed them when authorities rejected militants demands for exchanging them for imprisoned colleague.

The new kidnapping took place a day after foreign tourists fled Kashmir valley following a shootout between Israeli tourists and militant kidnappers which left one Israeli and two militants dead and three Israelis wounded.

AP adds: The main Kashmiri separatist group said Friday it had rescued an Israeli tourist who escaped from another militant group and would decide what to do with him.

The tourist, Yair Yitzhaki, was one of six Israeli men who were kidnapped Wednesday night and told they would be executed because they were

Jewish. One of the Israelis was killed and four others escaped Thursday after overpowering their abductors.

Yitzhaki's whereabouts remained a mystery until Friday when the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front sent statements to local reporters claiming it had taken custody of the missing Israeli.

The brief statement gave no conditions for his release.

However, the Srinagar correspondent of the British Broadcasting Corporation said the JKLF telephoned him Friday and said it was forming a committee to decide what will be done with this Israeli.

The reporter, Yusuf Jameel, asked to speak to Yitzhaki. He said the Liberation Front telephoned him a second time and let him talk to an English-speaking foreigner who identified himself as Yitzhaki.

"I am with the JKLF people and they are looking after me", the reporter quoted Yitzhaki as saying.

Jameel said Yitzhaki told him that after he escaped from the kidnappers, he hid in tall grass for about six hours but got thirsty. Yitzhaki said he went to a house in search of water, but someone hit him on the head and several people beat him before the JKLF intervened.

The Guardians of the Islamic Revolution, one of the smallest and most fundamentalist of a score of Kashmiri militant organizations, claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of the Israelis but did not mention Yitzhaki's fate.

The Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front is the oldest and biggest of the Muslim militant groups fighting for independence from predominantly

Hindu India. It is considered one of the most moderate.

After the Israelis were kidnapped, the government ordered all foreign tourists to leave the valley. About 60 foreigners, mostly Israelis, left Srinagar Thursday in buses escorted by armed police. About 30 others flew to New Delhi on commercial flights Thursday and Friday.

More than 2,500 people, mostly Muslim militants and their supporters, have been killed in Kashmir since the government cracked down on the escalating separatist movement in January 1990.

Foreigners generally have been immune from the violence. Erez Kahane, the Israeli who was shot to death when he and his friends tried to overpower their abductors, is the only foreigner known to have been killed.

However, in late March, the Muslim Janab (Martyrs) Force kidnapped three Swedish engineers working on a hydroelectric project near Srinagar. They are still being held.

Jammu-Kashmir is the only Indian state with a Muslim majority. About two-thirds of Jammu-Kashmir's 6 million people are Muslim. Nationwide, Muslims make up 12 per cent of India's 844 million people and Hindus account for 82 per cent.

India has set aside restrictions on Israeli personnel by allowing a consular official to visit Kashmir in connection with an attack on Israeli tourists, a government spokesman said today.

New Delhi has no diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv, whose official presence is limited to a consulate in Bombay.

## Over 600 Jessore AL, JSD workers join BNP

By Staff Correspondent

More than six hundred leaders and workers of different political parties in Jessore have joined the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

A simple function was arranged there Wednesday to mark their joining where BNP Joint Secretary and State Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs Tariqul Islam was also present. Tariqul Islam told The Daily Star that those who joined included are: Monirumpur upazila Awami Jubo League President G M Majid, Awami League Leaders Asghar and Ismail and two union parishad chairmen. Besides 400 workers of Awami League also joined the BNP along with them.

In another function on Thursday last a renowned industrialist and chairman of Diara union parishad of Jessore, Anwar Hossain who belonged to JSD (INU) joined the BNP along with 200 workers of JSD. Tariqul Islam was also present in this meeting. President of JSD of Chandgaon union under Jessore district also joined BNP.

## 2 killed in bomb blast

SEVILLE, June 28: A mail bomb exploded in a local prison Friday, killing two people and injuring 24, officials said. Prison spokesman Emilio Alonso said the explosion at Seville-1 prison occurred around 11:30 a.m. (1030 GMT) when the package was being passed through a scanner.

## Tokyo rocked

TOKYO, June 28: An earthquake with a preliminary reading of 4.5 on the Richter scale shook the metropolitan Tokyo area Friday. There were no reports of damage or injuries, reports AP.

## GM Syed

From Page 1 Col. 4

in Jumma Bazaar where security is usually tight. It follows a new wave of murders, robberies and bank hold-ups in the capital.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif earlier ordered the transfer of Islamabad's Police chief for his alleged failure to check crimes in the capital. The order came after this week's murder of the wife of an intelligence department official by unidentified assailants.

Meanwhile in the Punjab capital Lahore, residents continued protests against Wednesday's slaughtering of 13 members of a businessman's family. Shops and commercial centres in Pakistan's second biggest city were closed and thousands of slogan-chanting people attended the mass funeral Thursday.

Sharif sent federal intelligence teams to Lahore to trace the culprits.

Related story on Page 5

## The Midnight File

### BJP move condemned

Bangladesh Hindu, Boudha, Christian Otkya Parishad on Friday unequivocally condemned the renewed promise of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to build Ram Mandir on the site of the historic Babri Masjid at Ayodhya in India. "We are afraid that such a step will increasingly flare up communalism and fundamentalist activities on the soil of secular India," the Parishad said in a statement issued in Dhaka, reports BSS.

### Four Picasso paintings found

PRAGUE, June 28: Four Picasso paintings stolen by Czech nationals in early May from the Czechoslovak National Gallery and valued at 30 million dollars were recovered by Czech and German police, officials said Friday. Three of the four paintings were shown at a news conference Friday in Prague. The fourth was reportedly intercepted in the German town of Bayreuth, reports AP.

### Bush praises Pretorias' NPT decision

WASHINGTON, June 28: President George Bush on Friday praised "the statesmanship and vision" of South African President FW de Klerk for his government's decision Thursday to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Bush called on other nations in the region to sign the treaty. Israel, China, India and Pakistan are the major holdouts, reports AP.

## Iraqis fire blank shots to ward off UN inspectors

UNITED NATIONS, June 28: Iraqi soldiers fired shots into the air while again denying UN inspectors' access Friday to the uranium enrichment device that had been hidden in an army barracks. UN and US officials said Friday, reports AP.

The inspection team had been barred from entering the Abu Gharaib barracks near Baghdad from Sunday, when it arrived for a surprise inspection, until Wednesday, when the machinery had been removed.

The United States accuses Iraq of trying to hide nuclear weapons production.

Iraqi officials denied entry to the team at a military transportation site east of Fallujah, where the uranium enrichment equipment had been moved. US and UN officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"They found the stuff, and the Iraqis did it again," said one US diplomat.

UN officials said Iraqi troops fired into the air to punctuate their refusal to let the inspectors in.

Members of the UN Special Commission on verifying Iraq's cooperation with the dismantling of its offensive weapons were meeting and unavailable for immediate comment.

The executive director of the Special Commission, Rolf Ekeus, was expected to make a strong public statement later Friday, UN officials said.

The United States has been tracking the movements of the equipment through overhead reconnaissance photography and providing the imagery to the Special Commission to guide its work.

The Los Angeles Times, citing unnamed administration aides, reported in Friday's editions that the US Defense Department has been ordered to prepare plans for military strikes on possible nuclear caches throughout Iraq.

The Defense Department would not confirm the report.

The acting US ambassador, Alexander Watson, said Wednesday that the Iraqis

were apparently moving around the parts of a crude device for enriching uranium to weapons-grade material by the electro-magnetic isotope separation process.

In Baghdad, Iraqi authorities lashed out at the UN nuclear inspectors, saying they were not being objective and that most of them were Americans.

Deputy Foreign Minister Nizar Hamdoun however told a news conference that Iraq "will continue to cooperate fully with all the missions sent by the United Nations."

According to Hamdoun, 90 per cent of the special commission's members were from countries which took part in the US-led coalition that drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait in February, ending a seven-month occupation of the Emirate.

## Khashoggi charged with violating French customs laws

GRASSE, France, June 28: Saudi Arabian entrepreneur Adnan Khashoggi has been charged with violating French customs laws in connection with invaluable paintings he purchased from the late Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos, court sources said, reports Reuters.

The sources told reporters today that Khashoggi was present with his lawyers when judge Jean-Paul Renard read out the charges on Thursday in the courthouse of this Riviera resort town.

Khashoggi was allowed to remain free pending trial at a future unspecified date, the sources said. The charge did not spell out how customs laws were alleged to have been violated.

The sources said the charges were connected with a collection of 38 paintings by Cezanne, El Greco, Gauguin, Magritte, Renoir and Picasso which Khashoggi purchased from Marcos.

## Kidnapping for ransom

From Page 1 Col. 4

betraying promises he made calling for legislative and presidential elections before the end of the year.

"Until now the FIS has never proclaimed a Jihad, nor authorized the use of weapons," he said. He did not specify what action he would order FIS followers to take.

During the night, street barricades were set alight in some fundamentalist neighborhoods, and gunshots could be heard. Some residents who stayed indoors in compliance with an overnight curfew chanted pro-fundamentalist slogans and banged pots.

Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali said Thursday night he was determined to keep

Algeria on the path toward its first democratic elections for Parliament and the presidency. He praised the military, "which has done its duty and will continue to do it firmly and resolutely."

Ghozali expressed hope that the emergency could be lifted soon. He said no one should be excluded from the political process, but issued a warning to fundamentalist leaders.

"The people won't understand if the state is too slow in acting against those who openly reject the law by calling for violence, urging soldiers to desert and working in a campaign to undermine the country's institutions," he said.

Ghozali called on all opposition parties to take a clear position on national unity, individual liberties and democracy. He voiced concern that unrest could scare away foreign investment needed to help Algeria reduce its 25-billion-dollar foreign debt.

The latest confrontations, around Algiers and in eastern coastal towns, started after officials began removing signs reading "Islamic Community" on public buildings and restoring the state motto: "By The People, For The People."

The Islamic Salvation Front had replaced the official motto on many district halls after winning control of nearly 900 of Algeria's 1,500 districts in June 1990 municipal elections.

The clashes recalled riots of October 1988 that started this North African country of 24 million people on the road to democracy. In a week of violence in 1988, 159 people were killed by official count, up to 500 according to unofficial estimates, and hundreds of people were arrested.

## Slovenia frontiers bombed

From Page 1 Col. 7  
columns of civilian cars at frontier crossings and witnesses said seven people were killed when jets strafed civilian trucks near Treble south of the city.

European Community leaders accused by Slovenia of encouraging the Belgrade federal government by their inaction, sent three foreign ministers to Yugoslavia for talks to end the conflict.

Some ministers said the Community had agreed in principle to suspend bilateral and EC aid to Yugoslavia, but officials said the freeze might not be introduced if the mission by the foreign ministers of Luxembourg, Italy and the Netherlands succeeded.

"It's unacceptable that today in Europe people are being shot or that suddenly the right of self-determination should no longer play a role," German Chancellor Helmut Kohl told reporters attending a two-day EC summit in Luxembourg.

In Prague Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier said officials of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) were likely to hold a first crisis management session next week to discuss the conflict.

In Ljubljana police said two jets pounded Brnik airport outside the city this morning with bursts of cannon or machine-gun fire.

A hanger, two small aircraft of Slovenia's Air Adria carrier and two other buildings were destroyed. The runway and control tower were not hit and there were no reports of casualties.

Western officials fear the conflict could degenerate into ethnic warring awakening old rivalries between the well-to-do Slovenes and Croats on the one hand and the country's majority Serbs.

Serbs account for more than eight million out of the 23 million population and dominate the army and government structure.

Alert in Croatia

Croatia put its police force on a state of alert and mobilised its reservists today, Croatian Television reported, quoting an official communique.

The communique, issued by the Presidential Council, which is headed by President Franjo Tudjman, castigated federal Prime Minister Ante

Markovic for his role in the Yugoslav army's intervention this week in the breakaway republics of Croatia and Slovenia.

President Tudjman, fearing an attack from Yugoslavia's army, pledged on Thursday that his republic would defend its bid for independence.

"The authorities of Croatia will respond with dignity and in a civilised manner to any political or military attack on Croatia," Tudjman said in a statement to media tycoon Robert Maxwell, owner of Britain's Mirror Group of newspapers.

"We will try to solve every problem in a democratic way of defending our freedom using every civilised instrument," Tudjman said.

Britain's Independent Television News (ITN) said Croatia's leaders were meeting in emergency session to consider a request for help from Slovenia.

Yugoslav army tanks pounded through the Croatian city of Osijek, sparking panic among residents, but reporters said the convoy was heading for the Slovenian border, ITN said.

Tudjman appealed to the international community to support his republic's independence.

No country has recognised the two republics' declarations of independence. The United States and Britain have urged them to remain within the 72-year-old Yugoslav federation.

Croatia had offered to help create a "federation of sovereign states" in Yugoslavia, Tudjman said.

He said that when Belgrade rejected the proposal Croatia had acted in the same way that American colonies did in 1777 with their declaration of independence.

US for dialogue

Earlier the United States called on Yugoslavia to avoid using violence to resolve the

country's civil strife as Slovenian defense forces clashed with federal troops in Ljubljana.

Said State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler, "Yugoslavia is a powder keg."

"We can support greater autonomy and sovereignty for the republics," Miss Tutwiler said. "In other words, a new basis for unity in Yugoslavia, but only through peaceful means such as negotiation and dialogue."

Miss Tutwiler did not blame the federal army for responding to the strife, but condemned Kucan's call to his people to resist with "all means available" and his severing of talks with the central Yugoslav government.

"Kucan broke off talks with the federal authorities, something which we strongly urge him to reconsider," she said.

A high-level US official, who asked not to be named, said the United States did not feel the federal Yugoslav army was acting irresponsibly. But the official said the United States could not back the army publicly because of fear they would interpret US support as unconditional.

Earlier Thursday, Fitzwater said the United States may work with Western allies to promote a peaceful end to the crisis.

He said the United States was considering joint action with the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe — including Europe, the US and Canada — and the European Community to promote negotiation.

The spokesman said the US government had no intention of taking unilateral action in the Yugoslav crisis, underscoring the important role the European allies could play in the matter.

More on page 5 and an editorial