

# BRIEFLY

## Bush in Japan for four-day visit:

US President George Bush arrived in Japan Tuesday for a four-day visit expected to be dominated by American efforts to slash the huge Japanese trade surplus, reports Reuter from Japan.

Bush, accompanied by his wife Barbara and a high-powered business delegation, flew to Osaka in western Japan after talks in South Korea.

He was due to spend the day sightseeing in the ancient capital cities of Kyoto and Nara before heading for Tokyo in the evening.

## UN resumes food supply to Sudan:

The United Nations on Monday resumed its emergency airlift of food aid to south Sudan following a four-month suspension imposed after a relief plane struck a land mine, reports AP from Cairo.

In a press statement released in Cairo, the World Food Programme said it will deliver over 1,000 tons of food to the rebel-besieged regional capital of Wau, 620 miles (990 kilometers) southwest of Khartoum.

Wau's population of 150,000 faces starvation due to a lack of food mainly attributed to ongoing fighting between government forces and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army, the statement said.

The rebels have been fighting the government since 1983. They seek greater autonomy and economic development for the Christian and animist south. Sudan is dominated by Muslim northerners.

## Heavy rains kill 30 in Argentina:

Heavy rains set off a flash flood that killed at least 30 people Monday northwest Argentina, Civil Defence reported, says AP from Buenos Aires.

All but one of the deaths were reported in San Carlos Minas, a town on the banks of a stream 150 kilometers (93 miles) west of Cordoba, the country's third biggest city. The victims apparently drowned.

According to the government news agency Telam, the floodwaters gathered in the mountainous plateau above San Carlos Minas and descended with a fury, washing away most everything in its path.

The town itself was hard hit. Streets were flooded, homes washed away, communications cut. In addition to the known deaths, dozens of people were reported missing.

## Quake rocks Iranian city:

An earthquake measuring 4.2 degrees on the open-ended Richter Scale jolted the northern Iranian city of Rudbar and its suburbs Tuesday, the officials Iran news agency reported, says AP from Tehran.

The quake's epicentre was 200 kilometers (124 miles) northwest of the capital, IRNA said, citing the Geophysics Institute at Tehran University. There were no reports of casualties or damage.

A severe quake measuring 7.3 degrees ripped through that area in June 1990 killing thousands of people and leaving countless others homeless. Scores of tremors have since rocked Rudbar, IRNA said.

## Algeria denies link with Iraq:

Algeria's prime minister on Monday denied a British newspaper report that his country has cooperated with Iraq in a program aimed at building the Islamic world's first atomic bomb, reports AP from Paris.

Sid Ahmed Ghazali, interviewed on France's Europe 1 radio station, said the security officials who purportedly supplied the Sunday Times of London with its information should either renounce the report or publish evidence to back the allegations.

The Times report said Iraq had evaded a military blockade to smuggle more than 10 tons of uranium into Jordan. From there, the material was moved by ship to Algeria before UN inspection teams arrived in Iraq last May, the Times said.

It quoted unnamed officials as saying Iraqi technicians may have been working at Algeria's Chinese-built heavy water reactor at Ain Oussera, south of Algiers, which is due to begin production next year.

## Idea on capitalism was wrong: CPM

MADRAS, Jan 7: India's largest communist party, one of the handful in the world to retain power and privilege, has said it made a mistake three decades ago in saying capitalism was decaying, reports Reuter.

The rare admission was made in a draft resolution circulated among delegates to the annual congress of the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPM) being held this week in Madras.

"This understanding was too simplistic," the resolution said. "This was serious error that prevented a concrete study."

Despite the worldwide collapse of the movement, the

CPM said it would take a more radical line in the future. "Capitalism will not collapse automatically," the party said. "It has to be overthrown by struggle, under the leadership of a Marxist-Leninist party."

The Congress is the first since the collapse of the Soviet Union, which has long been the guiding star of the CPM. The party holds power in the eastern state of West Bengal, and along with other leftist allies, controls more than 50 seats in the 544-member national parliament. It has said the only other "true" socialist parties in the world are in China, Vietnam, North Korea and Cuba.

## Shevardnadze wants to help establish democracy in Georgia

MOSCOW, Jan 7: Georgia's most famous politician, Eduard Shevardnadze, said on Monday he was ready to return to his war-torn homeland and help it establish democracy after the overthrow of President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, reports Reuter. "I am ready to take part in the democratic processes as much as I can, in whatever way possible," he told Russian Television in an interview recorded before Gamsakhurdia fled Tbilisi during the night.

Shevardnadze, the last Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union and the man who helped President Mikhail Gorbachev transform international relations, was formerly communist party leader in the Transcaucasian republic. Many Georgians associate him with repressive tactics used against dissidents and "black marketers" in the 1970s and are wary about welcoming him back. "You know what he was like when he was here," said Jaba Ioseliani, leader of the paramilitary mkhdedronti (horsemen) opposition group that played a key role in Gamsakhurdia's downfall. "Now he speaks with another voice. He has another face," Ioseliani told Reuter in

a recent interview in Tbilisi. Other opposition leaders shared this sceptical view. "Personally, I don't trust him. I don't believe in such transformations. Shevardnadze reminds me of the man who conducted massive repressions in Georgia," Georgy Chanturia, leader of the National Democratic Party, said. "But some were prepared to give Shevardnadze a chance to end the worst civil unrest in the republic's recent history.



WASHINGTON: Elyakim Rubinstein (C), chief of Israeli negotiator with the Palestinians and Joseph Hadass (L) co-chairman of Israel's negotiations with Lebanon, speaks to reporters upon their arrival at the Madison hotel on Jan 6. —AFP/UNB photo

## Myanmar junta orders varsity teachers Give full support or face consequences

BANGKOK, Jan 7: The university teachers of Myanmar have been ordered to give their full support to the ruling junta or face the consequences, reports AFP.

The warning came in a special meeting with university staff and the country's military intelligence chief Major-General Khin Nyunt on Sunday.

The 52-year-old Khin Nyunt, in his speech which was seen here on Tuesday, said the December anti-government student demonstrations in Yangon which led to the junta shutting all universities until further notice would not have happened if the teachers had moved in to halt them.

He warned that if the teachers secretly supported

the students' demands that the military be overthrown it would be a "grave mistake."

"The teachers have the main responsibility of preventing the events which can bring undesirable results, and giving good guidance to their pupils," said Khin Nyunt.

"We have found however that there have been many shortcomings on the part of teachers in giving guidance and control to students," he said.

"We have a lot of experience in dealing with the education sector. We will in no way allow an insignificant problem to grow until it brings anarchy to the country," he added.

Western observers believe Khin Nyunt's remarks could signal the start of a purge of

teachers to try to rid the profession of members sympathetic to the students and their pro-democracy movement.

The demonstration stunned the junta. They thought they had the schools and universities completely infiltrated with informers. The fact that a demonstration could take place without the slightest advance warning shows the military has a major intelligence gathering problem," said one Bangkok-based analyst.

Meanwhile, a guerrilla commander claimed today that opposition forces in eastern Myanmar had killed more than 100 government soldiers after a week-long siege.

## China expels 3 Canadian MPs

BEIJING, Jan 7: China expelled today three members of a Canadian parliamentary delegation invited here on a mission to investigate human rights conditions, reports AFP.

The three — Svend Robinson, Beryl Gaffney and Geoff Scott — were expelled for "engaging in activities incompatible with their status in China" a Canadian embassy spokesman said.

Delegation staff told reporters Monday that the three had intended to go to Tiananmen Square to pay respects to those who had died in the military suppression of the 1989 Democracy Movement.

Canadian ambassador to China Fred Bird was called to the Foreign Ministry early Tuesday and informed that the delegation must leave the country on the next available flight, the spokesman added.

The Canadian consulate in Hong Kong said that the parliamentarians, who arrive here over the weekend, were expected in the British colony later today and would hold a news conference.

The Canadians were in China as part of visits from several western countries that took up China's offer last year to hold a dialogue on human rights issues.

## Sharif pledges to build modern navy

ISLAMABAD, Jan 7: Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has pledged to build a most modern and strong navy in order to further strengthen the coastal defence of the country, reports Xinhua.

He made the pledge while addressing the naval officers and seamen on board the flagship of the Pakistan navy after watching the naval weapons demonstration at Karachi port Monday.

The Prime Minister was quoted by today's local press reports as saying it is the top priority of the government to have a modern and strong defence for the country so that it can fully meet any external threat to the country.

He said that despite the resources constraints the navy will be provided with all possible assistance.

The federal government will provide financial assistance for building a complete naval base in Ormara located in the southwestern province of Baluchistan, he said.

## 13 guerillas killed in Andhra

NEW DELHI, Jan 7: Thirteen Maoist guerillas were killed in a gun battle with police in a forest in southern India United News of India said Tuesday, reports AP.

The guerillas fired on the police after setting off a bomb under their jeep Monday night, the news agency said. Three policemen were wounded in the explosion. It added.

Police had driven into the Pagdur forest because of a tip that the guerillas from the People's War Group were meeting in the dense woods in the Khammam district of Andhra Pradesh state.

The People's War Group is a Maoist organization that often targets policemen.

## Peacekeeping troops needed in Somalia, says UN envoy

NAIROBI (Kenya), Jan 7: Calling obstacles to peace "formidable," a senior UN official said Monday that an international peacekeeping force was needed to restore order in Mogadishu, Somalia's war-torn capital, reports AP.

"We cannot, in the 20th century, tolerate such a situation," James Jonah, UN under-secretary for African affairs, told journalists after a three-day peace mission to Somalia.

He said the United Nations would do everything it could to ensure a cease-fire in Mogadishu, which has been wracked by eight weeks of brutal clan fighting.

# Off the Record

## Bush, the booter

KYOTO, Japan, Jan 7: US President George Bush discovered a new type of football in the ancient Japanese capital of Kyoto today, joining the traditional court game of Kemuri during a visit to the former imperial palace.

In the palace courtyard, Bush joined 10 members of the imperial household agency in a game of Kemuri, a court game going back to the eighth century which involves kicking a half-inflated deer skin ball between players.

The President, wearing a dark suit in contrast to the brightly-colored robes of the court officials, joined the game with enthusiasm hitting the ball with his feet, knees and head (which is not allowed).

"We won," he joked before abandoning the game with visible regret.

## Scared Ray to attend Oscar celebration via satellite

CALCUTTA: Ailing film maker Satyajit Ray says he is daunted by the idea of attending a "wild" Oscar celebration and may skip the ceremony where he is to be given an award for lifetime achievement, reports AP.

Ray said in an interview Monday he may take part in the Oscar festivities by a satellite link with his Calcutta home. He had earlier said he might combine a medical examination in California with the Oscar ceremonies if his doctor let him.

Apart from the hassles of international jetting that can be strenuous, the very idea of attending that wild kind of celebration rather daunts me," said the 70-year-old film maker.

I am told that the alternative is that they will set up a satellite, which will be all right, Ray said, adding he will regret not being in Hollywood in March.

"It would be interesting to attend and tell the Hollywood people personally how much I owe to their films," he said.

Ray, who wrote and directed more than 30 films in his Bengali language of eastern India, said he grew up addicted to Hollywood gossip magazines.

## Adultery burns his 25-year marriage

LONDON: Film director Alan Parker, who made "Mississippi Burning" and "The Commitments," was divorced Monday from his wife of 25 years.

The London Divorce Court granted Annie Parker, 40, an uncontested divorce on grounds of her husband's adultery. They married in 1966.

Mrs. Parker lives in England and Parker's home is in California. He is a British citizen.

The 47-year-old Parker's string of hit films also includes "Fanny" and "Midnight Express."

## India to repatriate two lakh Lankan Tamils

NEW DELHI, Jan 7: India will repatriate an estimated 200,000 Sri Lankan Tamils who fled their homes to escape fighting between Tamil rebels and government forces, news reports said Tuesday, reports AP.

The first batch of 5,000 people will sail before the end of this month for Trincomalee, the eastern port city in Sri Lanka, the Times of India reported.

The refugees began arriving in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu in 1987 when Tamil rebels stepped up their campaign to set up a separate homeland in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

More than 17,000 people have been killed since the insurgency started in 1983. The guerillas claim Sri Lanka's mi-

nority Tamils have been discriminated against by the Sinhalese-dominated government in jobs and education.

The Times of India said the agreement to repatriate the refugees was finalised Monday at a meeting in New Delhi between Indian Foreign Minister Madhavsinh Solanki and his Sri Lankan counterpart, Ilarod Herat.

Most of the refugees have been settled in camps in Tamil Nadu, a predominantly Tamil state just across the Palk Strait from Sri Lanka. Other camps are located north of Tamil Nadu in Orissa state.

Both Sinhalese and Tamils migrated to the island of Sri Lanka from India more than 2,000 years ago. Today, Tamils comprise 18 per cent of the island nation's 17 million

people while Sinhalese form 75 per cent.

The refugee camps became hotbeds of Tamil guerrilla activity. Some camps were believed to have bred a wide rebel network which shielded the main suspect in the May 1991 assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The suspect, known as Sivasaran and said to be a member of the top guerilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, committed suicide in August as Indian police closed in on his hideout in south India.

Gandhi was probably targeted because he sent troops to Sri Lanka in 1987 to enforce a peace accord between the rebels and the Sri Lankan government.

## Imelda to run for presidency

MANILA, Jan 7: Former first lady Imelda Marcos said today she wants to run for president in Philippine elections scheduled for May, reports Reuter.

Minutes after pleading not guilty on corruption charges in a Manila court, Marcos said she hoped to secure the nomination of an opposition party as its candidate to contest the May polls.

"After months of direct consultation with our poor and oppressed citizens, I have decided to run for office to seek the presidency by submitting to the democratic process of a national convention," Marcos told reporters.

Marcos and the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos were ousted from power by a popular revolt in 1986, accused of looting billions of dollars from the country.

Marcos returned to an enthusiastic welcome from supporters last November after almost six years of exile in the United States.

The 62-year-old widow accused the woman who

ousted her, President Corason Aquino, of running "as sick and misdirected government."

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and oppressed citizens, I have decided to run for office to seek the presidency by submitting to the democratic

process of a national convention which will be held on Jan 26," Mrs. Marcos said.

After the announcement, Mrs. Marcos traveled to Lucena, 100 kilometers (60 miles) northeast of Manila, to campaign. She said she wanted to run as a candidate of the Nacionalista Party, which is divided among other presidential aspirants including Vice President Salvador Laurel.

The widow of former President Ferdinand Marcos has been meeting with opposition figures since returning Nov. 4 from nearly six years in exile in the United States.

On Tuesday, Mrs. Marcos pleaded innocent to six criminal charges alleging that she controlled and created private companies in Switzerland while she was governor of Manila during her husband's tenure.

The Aquino government hopes to get a conviction in these six cases to satisfy Swiss requirements for the release of some \$1.35 billion worth in Swiss accounts believed held by the Marcoses.

# Red Army won't withdraw from Baltics soon

RIGA, Latvia, Jan 7: About 200,000 troops of the former Soviet Union will remain in the Baltic states for several years, despite demands for their immediate withdrawal, a high-ranking Red Army officer said Monday, reports AP.

"We must be realistic, there are many things to sort out, and it will take up to three years at least," said Col. Vladimir Kandalovsky, chief of the Baltic military command's council of officers.

On Sunday, the presidents of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania demanded the immediate withdrawal of all former Soviet troops. In an appeal to the leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Baltic leaders also demanded that the soldiers hand over all arms and military equipment.

Negotiations on Soviet troop withdrawals broke down in November 1991, and no more talks are in sight.

"There can be no withdrawal of troops until their housing problem has been solved," Kandalovsky said in an interview with the Associated

Press.

He referred to the severe housing shortage in the former Soviet Union for the thousands of soldiers who are returning home from Eastern Europe, as well as for those who may be forced to leave the Baltics.

"And we certainly will not hand over any arms or military equipment. When we withdraw, we may sell...at going market prices," Kandalovsky said.

The Red Army, which sowed fear in the citizens of the vast Communist empire for more

than 70 years, has a very different face now that the republics are independent.

Soldiers openly peddle their uniforms and army emblems for hard currency on the streets of Riga and the Estonian capital, Tallinn, some even have been known to sell guns and ammunition. A Kalashnikov automatic rifle costs \$1,274 and a tank \$1.3 million, Kandalovsky said.

Still, Baltic officials worry that Soviet troops could attack residents, and Estonian Foreign Minister Lennart Meri appealed

for international peacekeepers.

"This is all sheer propaganda. They are just trying to influence thinking in the West," Kandalovsky said. "We do have problems and things are in general disarray, but we do not pose a threat to anyone."

He called for efforts to be made to resolve the housing shortage.

There are some 200,000 troops in the (Baltics) northwest military command. But with retired personnel and families of officers, we are talking of up to half a million peo-



BUCHAREST: An old Romanian couple take pity on a fugitive orphan hidden in a sewer. A few teenagers who are escapees from orphanages, sleep in the underground sewer network, living from day to day by begging. —AFP/UNB photo

## North Korea to sign N-safeguards accord

TOKYO, Jan 7: North Korea confirmed today it will accept inspection of its nuclear facilities after signing a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), reports Reuter.

Pyeonggang had decided to sign the nuclear safeguards accord soon and accept an inspection at a time agreed on with the IAEA, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement quoted by Pyonggang's official news agency, monitored in Tokyo.

The DPRK (North Korean) government will, thus make an active contribution to the

cause of completely eliminating nuclear weapons from the globe and defending peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world," it said.

On Monday, the Vienna-based IAEA said North Korea had notified it that it would sign this month a United Nations safeguards agreement to prevent nuclear proliferation.

The accord will open secret nuclear facilities in North Korea to international inspection by IAEA experts.

The United States believes Pyonggang is within a year of being able to produce an atomic bomb.

North Korea denies it is trying to make nuclear weapons.

North Korean ambassador to Austria Chon In-Chan told the IAEA the agreement would be signed before the end of January and early ratification would follow, the IAEA said.

Chon has scheduled a news conference for Tuesday in Vienna.

The South Korean Defense Ministry announced on Tuesday it had cancelled the 1992 team spirit joint military exercises with the United States. Pyonggang has repeatedly called for an end to the exercises.

The decision to cancel was taken because North Korea had agreed to sign a nuclear safeguards agreement.