

Aquino's move to form anti-Marcos front

MANILA, Feb 12: President Corason Aquino said Tuesday she was trying to unite rival forces opposed to the Marcos Administration, but her chief aide said later she was not abandoning her own favorite in the May 11 election, reports AP.

Aquino told foreign reporters she was considering uniting the forces of her favourite — former Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos — and House Speaker Ramon Mitra to prevent victory by candidates identified with the late president Ferdinand Marcos.

Pindi to suffer if it uses N-arms: Pawar

NEW DELHI, Feb 12: Pakistan would suffer for generations if it attempted to use nuclear weapons against India, Defence Minister Sharad Pawar has warned, reports AP.

The include Marcos' widow Imelda and Aquino's estranged cousin, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, a close Marcos associate.

"Our people do talk about that possibility," Aquino said of a possible alliance. "I guess we will make our decision when we believe that time has come. That is something that we will seriously consider, of course."

Aquino, who refused a second term, was propelled to power in the 1986 uprising that toppled Marcos and forced him into exile. He died in Hawaii in 1989.

Most of the major pro-administration political figures have rallied to Mitra, believed to have the largest and best-organized political network among the eight major contenders.

The speaker is also supported by several of Aquino's influential relatives.

But Aquino's chief aide, Franklin Drilon, said the president expected that Ramos would gain enough strength to encourage a merger of anti-Marcos forces behind him.



PAKISTAN: Supporters of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front clear a landslide of mud near Subri, 8 kilometre out of Muzaffarabad, on their way to cross the line of control separating Pakistani-held Kashmir from Indian-held Kashmir. Activists blamed the Pak government for deliberately halting their attempt. — AFP/UNB photo

One killed, 65 hurt as JKLF marchers, troops clash

MUZAFFARABAD, Feb 12: One person was killed and 65 others injured in a series of clashes, mostly with security forces, during Tuesday's march by Muslim militants towards the border with Indian-held Kashmir, reports AP.

The figures were given today by officials of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) which is organising the march and confirmed by reliable sources.

The fatal casualty was a young man trying to clear debris from the road out of Chinari, eight kilometers from

the line of control separating Indian and Pakistani forces in Kashmir.

He was hit on the head by a tear gas canister fired by police, said a JKLF official. A Pakistani official who asked not to be identified confirmed this.

Most of the injuries came when police made repeated charges to disperse demonstrators, firing tear gas.

As dawn broke today, an estimated 20,000 people were gathered at Chinari to resume the march, a JKLF spokesman told AP.

To reach their destination they will have to overcome more roadblocks erected by Pakistani security forces. But so far obstacles placed in the marchers' path, including induced landslides, felled trees and stacked boulders, have failed to stop them.

The Pakistani authorities "try to block our advance, but the people demolish everything," said a JKLF spokesman, who denied claims by Pakistani authorities in the frontier region that the march had been stopped.

US to send 10 more plane loads of supplies to CIS

WASHINGTON, Feb 12: The United States will send another 10 plane loads of supplies as part of operation 'provide hope' bringing to 64 the number of humanitarian shipments for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Pentagon said Tuesday, reports AP.

"We had 12 airlift missions yesterday that successfully delivered more than 450 tons of food and medical supplies to 12 different locations in the Commonwealth of Independent States," Pentagon spokesman Bob Hall said.

Hall added that a plane carrying 85 tons of food left Tuesday while six other planes were due to leave Wednesday.

The shipments, that will provide enough food for 16 million meals, will be directed first to hospitals and other care agencies in the CIS, he said.

The food shipments were valued at 44.5 million dollars and medical supplies at 43 million dollars while the cost of transporting the goods was placed at between five and 10 million dollars, Hall said.

Leaders of Sikh religious body arrested

CHANDIGARH, Feb 12: Leaders of a powerful Sikh religious body were arrested on Tuesday for urging a boycott of elections in Punjab and militants trying to disrupt the polls killed five political workers, police said, reports AP.

The Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, which controls Sikh temples, adopted a resolution to boycott next week's elections, Committee President Gurcharan Singh Tohra said.

Tohra and 16 other committee members were arrested on leaving the meeting at a Sikh temple in Anandpur Sahib, 100 km (60 miles) North of Chandigarh.

Punjab Home Secretary AS Chatha said they had been detained under India's strict anti-terrorist laws.

Japan, Germany to prevent exodus of former Soviet N-experts

TOKYO, Feb 12: Japan and Germany agree on the need to prevent and exodus of nuclear experts from the former Soviet Union, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said today, reports AP.

They said visiting German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher proposed an international peace technology fund to help unemployed nuclear scientists in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Genscher made the proposal during a dinner with Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Tuesday. Watanabe said he would study the idea.

Genscher also urged United Nations economic sanctions against countries which import technology and material to develop nuclear weapons, the officials said.

Women's caucus asks Bush to replace Quayle

WASHINGTON, Feb 12: The U.S. National Women's Political Caucus on Tuesday asked Vice President Dan Quayle as vice presidential candidate on the 1992 Republican ticket, reports AP.

"We urge President Bush to carefully consider the many women who could strengthen the ticket in 1992," the group said in a statement.

America's major political parties defer to their presidential candidate the choice of a running mate for vice president.

Off the Record

Facial expressions rule the body

CHICAGO: The mere act of making a facial expression is enough to cause the body to respond as if the emotion conveyed were real, a study says, reports AP.

Robert W. Levenson, a professor of psychology at the University of California at Berkeley, said studies in two cultures show a direct connection between facial expression and physiological activity such as heart rate.

"There is some sort of pattern detector (in the brain) that says this is a fear face and it activates a fear physiology," Levenson said Tuesday at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He said the same is true of other emotions — anger, disgust and sadness.

Levenson said the study was conducted by instructing subjects to make the face of an emotion without actually naming the emotion.

"You just lead them through the muscle movements," he said.

The subjects are connected to instruments that monitor heartbeat and skin temperature.

When they make the expression of fear, for example, the heart rate increases and the hands cool. In anger, the heart races and the hands warm. In sadness, the heart beat rises, and in disgust, the heart slows.

Bush festively begins campaign

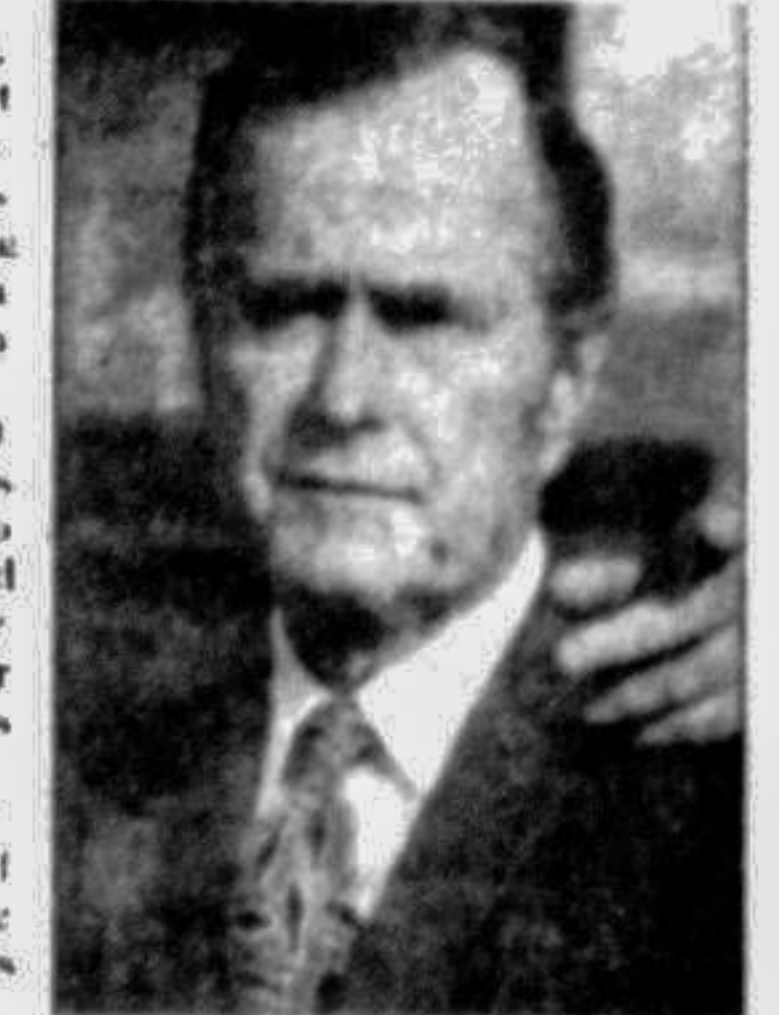
WASHINGTON: President George Bush plunges into campaign 1992 Wednesday with a festive announcement in Washington and a blitz of New Hampshire, where republican challenger Patrick Buchanan hopes to spoil the party, reports AP.

Bush and wife Barbara, along with Vice President Dan Quayle and wife Marilyn, will join hands before 1,000 cheering republican backers in a hotel ballroom draped in red, white and blue.

The President will tout his foreign policy strengths — that under his stewardship the Berlin wall fell, the Cold War thawed out and the chances of nuclear holocaust have dipped as low as they've ever been.

American stands alone the undisputed leader of the world, was one line expected in his announcement speech.

Having used the US flag to his benefit in 1988, he will also appeal to Americans' patriotism in the gulf conflict and emphasize family values.



Smoking is banned for Thai kids

BANGKOK: That teenagers will find access to cigarettes more difficult under new anti-smoking draft legislation which would ban their sale to youths under 18, government officials said Wednesday reports AP.

The proposed bill will also ban all cigarette advertising except in imported foreign publications or television programmes, they said.

The move was aimed at protecting the health of young people, an official said.

Sweets or chewing gum made to look like cigarettes or cigars will also be banned from the market because it was believed they encouraged children to smoke.

Blame your gene if you're bad in grammar

CHICAGO: A single dominant gene controls the ability to learn grammar, says a researcher who studied a family whose members don't know to add "ed" for the past tense of verbs or "s" for plural nouns, reports AP.

Myrna Gopnik of Montreal's McGill University said Monday the studies show that in all other ways the members are intellectually normal.

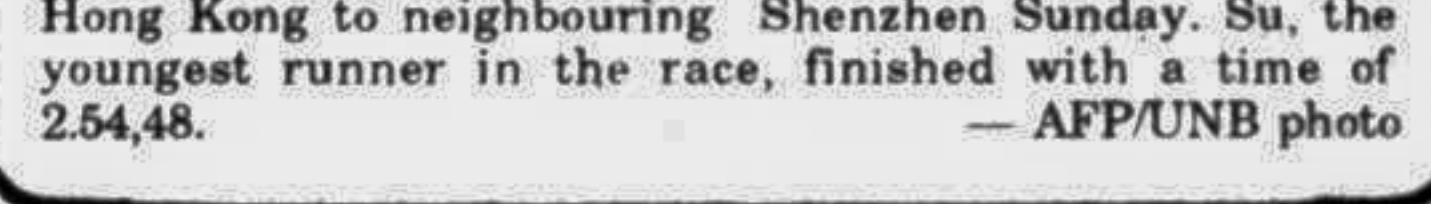
But, she said, "Language is a problem they solve by sheer wit."

She said people lacking the grammar gene "are worn out just by talking" because they must continually struggle with verb tense and noun plurals.

"The hardest part for them is people thinking that they are stupid," Gopnik said. "They are not. You have to think of them as people without a native language."

Gopnik reported on her research at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

He said his research shows that learning words and learning to apply the rules of grammar are two different functions springing from different parts of the brain.



SHENZHEN, China: 13-year-old Su Tzu Ling of Taiwan holds a bottle of water after finishing sixth in a field of over 600 runners at the first border crossing Marathon from Hong Kong to neighbouring Shenzhen Sunday. Su, the youngest runner in the race, finished with a time of 2:54.48. — AFP/UNB photo

BRIEFLY

Imelda starts poll campaign:

Former first lady Imelda Marcos launched her presidential campaign Tuesday by courting votes in her husband's home province of Ilocos Norte, AP reports from Philippines.

The widow of President Ferdinand Marcos told about 4,000 people at a rally in this city 410 kilometers north of Manila that she is seeking the presidency in the May 11 election to ease the sufferings of Filipinos and to vindicate the Marcos name.

"Only one issue is at stake in this election — are you much better off during the time of Marcos than under the term of Mos. Cory Aquino," Mrs. Marcos asked, referring to the President.

Supporters cheered "long live Imelda" and waved placards which read "Imelda, hope of the masses."

Reporters protest censorship:

More than 100 reporters marched through the capital Tuesday to protest censorship and demand the restoration of rights suspended after a failed coup attempt last week, reports AP from Venezuela.

The march ended at the National Congress, where the reporters asked legislators to include press liberty in its agenda Tuesday. Congressmen agreed to discuss the issue but the debate was postponed until Wednesday.

The marching reporters shouted "democracy with censorship is a dictatorship."

The demonstration took place 24 hours after President Carlos Andres Perez cancelled censorship imposed after rebel soldiers tried to oust him Feb 4.

36 boat people expelled from HK:

The British colonial government expelled 36 boat people from a fleet since recommending forced repatriation late last year, reports AP from Hong Kong.

Fourteen men, nine women, seven boys and six girls were placed on a plane bound for Hanoi. Parcels, heads hanging low, carried children aboard a Hercules C-130 transport plane, their dreams of resettlement in the West gone.

Police officers guided the Vietnamese, all recent arrivals, to the aircraft in grizzling rain. No force appears to have been used. On Nov 9, police threw screaming Vietnamese on a plane, the first forcible repatriation in almost two years, Hong Kong now has forced home 174 Vietnamese.

The programmed had been on hold since December 1989, when the expulsion of 51 boat people touched off international outrage.

Five BJP workers killed in Punjab:

Militants Tuesday shot dead five BJP workers — four at Amritsar and one in Ludhiana district — while they were campaigning for their party candidates for the February 19 Punjab elections, reports PTI from Chandigarh.

Elsewhere in the state, five militants were among eleven persons killed since last night.

Four BJP workers were killed and one was seriously injured when scooter borne militants spearheading the poll boycott campaign fired at them at two places in the Amritsar City while they were campaigning in three wheelers this evening.

Ghali, Weizman talk ME peace process:

Former Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman discussed the Middle East peace process during a 45-minute meeting on Tuesday with secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali, reports Reuter from United Nations.

Weizman, who recently resigned from the Israeli Knesset (parliament), told reporters it was a "bit of an emotional meeting" since the two men had been friends since the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat visited Jerusalem in 1977. They had also worked together closely on the camp David peace Accords.

Boutros-Ghali is a former Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State.

Charles, Diana visit British Cemetery

NEW DELHI, Feb 12: Prince Charles and Princess Diana of Britain paid homage Wednesday at a cemetery for British soldiers who died in World War II, reports AP.

The royal couple laid a wreath at the Stone of Remembrance and later went around the cemetery containing graves of 1,200 of the 25,000 soldiers who died here. The cemetery also has 99 graves of those who died during World War I.

India was a British colony until it gained independence in 1947.

The royal couple joined President Ramaswamy Venkataraman for a stroll through the Mogul Garden, part of the 340-room Presidential Palace.

They lunched with Venkataraman and his family before leaving for Jaipur, capital of the desert state of Rajasthan and former seat of one of India's leading royal families.

The royal visitors were given a formal send off at New Delhi by Vice President Shankar Dayal Sharma.

ROK parties kick off election campaign

SEOUL, Feb 12: The race to replace president Roh Tae-woo is on, albeit unofficially, as South Korea's ruling and opposition parties have both begun making campaign pledges and attacking opponents, reports AP.

No date has been set for the elections, but the ruling camp plans to hold them around March 20. The opposition in demanding that the voting be delayed until April to give more time for its candidates to prepare.

Under Korean law, campaigns can begin only after an election date is formally announced, but parties use all available loopholes to promote their candidates.

The loopholes allow parties to hold indoor rallies to inaugurate or reorganize their district chapters ahead of the elections and announce virtual campaign pledges.

"We must win the upcoming parliamentary elections without fail," Kim Young-sam, chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, told an indoor rally in the southwestern city of Taegu on Wednesday. "The results will

seriously affect the more important presidential elections later this year." Kim Young-sam's main opposition rival, Kim Deo-jung, also accused the government of President Roh Tae-woo of inefficiency and corruption at an indoor party rally in southern Seoul.

"Mr. Roh Tae-woo deepened the division of the nation by forming inner circles with people from his home province," said Kim, head of the main opposition group, the Democratic Party.

The two Kims have been major rivals since they worked together in the opposition in the 1960s. Both ran as opposition candidates in the 1987 presidential voting and lost to Roh. They are expected to run again in this year's presidential elections.

Kim Young-sam, 64, disbanded his second largest opposition party and merged with Roh's governing group in 1990. He is expected to become the ruling party's presidential-candidate in this year's elections.

Roh, whose single five-year term ends in February next year, cannot seek re-election.

Bush, Demirel to work with UN to free Iraq from Saddam's 'tyranny'

WASHINGTON, Feb 12: The United States and Turkey agreed Tuesday to boost bilateral cooperation to help former Soviet Republics in the Caucasus and Central Asia secure democracy and their ties to the West as well as counter Iranian influence, reports AP.

President George Bush said he and visiting Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel had also agreed to continue to work with the United Nations to free Iraq from President Saddam Hussein's "tyranny."

In two and a half hours of White House talks, the two men endorsed UN efforts to hold a conference on the Cyprus issue. Demirel said he would encourage Turkish Cypriots to cooperate, said US

Special Envoy on Cyprus Nelson Ledsky.

Bush told reporters that although both countries were already helping the Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union, they were exploring additional means to "help our

Seventh Fleet Commander in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Feb 12: Vice Adm. SR Arthur, Commander of the US Seventh Fleet, arrived in Sri Lanka Wednesday as part of official visits to nine Indian Ocean and East African nations, embassy officials said, reports AP.

new friends secure their independence, and move quickly and peacefully to establish ties with the West."

Demirel said that cooperation and international solidarity in that area were "indispensable."

"Obviously we would prefer to see Turkey and Turkish influence over Iranian influence," a senior US official who spoke on condition of anonymity said Monday.

"A factor is the possibility that others (countries), not democratic, not secular, might present themselves as an alternative model," David Gompert, director of European and Eurasian affairs said.

Lankan navy destroys Tigers' craft

COLOMBO, Feb 12: A navy gunboat fired at and sank a suspected Tamil guerrilla craft in Northern Sri Lanka, drowning four men on board, a military spokesman here said today, reports AP.

The navy vessel used heavy machine guns to destroy the boat believed to belong to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) off Velvetthurai late Tuesday, the spokesman said.

In another development, police recovered 9,700 rounds of machine gun ammunition buried on the coast in Northeast Trincomalee region, the spokesman said.

Armenia seeks US help to resolve feud with Azerbaijan

YEREVAN, Armenia, Feb 12: US Secretary of State James A Baker III ventured into a turbulent ethnic conflict Tuesday, hearing an appeal from the president of Armenia for help in resolving a bloody feud with neighboring Azerbaijan, reports AP.

Baker stopped in this ancient city on the second day of his mission to six former Soviet republics. Except for Armenia, the United States has not yet established diplomatic relations with any of them.

The Bush administration has recognized the independence of 14 of the 15 former Soviet republics, but established diplomatic ties only with nine. Critics of this deci-

sion have warned it plays into the hands of nationalists and religious extremists and deprives the United States of an opportunity to shape the course of these newly independent republics.

Washington is particularly concerned about the feud between predominantly Christian Armenia and Muslim Azerbaijan. The conflict revolves around Nagorno-Karabakh, a small Armenian enclave within Azerbaijan that is struggling to be a part of Armenia.

Armenian militants began what Russian media termed a major offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh on Tuesday, capturing an Azerbaijani village

where several people were killed.

Tensions have been escalating in recent weeks between Armenia and Azerbaijan following the crash last month of an Azerbaijani helicopter in which about 40 people — including civilians — were killed. Azerbaijan has accused Armenia of shooting down the aircraft.

Azerbaijan has cut off fuel and other supplies to landlocked Armenia in the dispute, which has killed hundreds in recent years. The blockade has slowed down life considerably in tiny Armenia, with many schools and factories shut down for lack of heat.

An eerie glow emanating

from the windows of this capital near biblical Mount Ararat is generated by kerosene lamps, the only source of light during extensive power shut-offs.

President Levon Ter-Petrosian appealed to Baker for help. "I hope and confident the United States will play a role... not only within the framework of international organizations but separately as well," he told reporters.

He did not specify what kind of separate US role he sought, but other officials said he urged Baker to protest Azerbaijan's blockade. He meets Wednesday with the leaders that state in its capital, Baku.

Baker said the United States supports mediation efforts undertaken by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and by the presidents of Russia and Kazakhstan.

"We think it's important for the future stability of this region that the problems be resolved peacefully," Baker said at the news conference after meeting with Ter-Petrosian.

The United States is concerned that the conflict could escalate if Turkey and Iran — which border Armenia and Azerbaijan get involved. Armenia claims Turkey has supplied weapons to the Azerbaijani military. Armenia's foreign minister recently vis-

ited Tehran.

Baker intends to make clear to Azerbaijan's leaders that diplomatic relations will only follow if the former republic adheres to mediation efforts for Nagorno-Karabakh, said an official traveling with Baker.

Peaceful resolution of disputes is one of five principles laid out by President Bush in letters to the six former republics Baker is visiting, the official said.

Baker visited the former republic of Moldova earlier in the day, where its president said it would adhere to these principles — including respect for human rights and economic and democratic reforms.

Bomb found near British foreign office

LONDON, Feb 12: A bomb apparently planted by the IRA was found by police Tuesday near government buildings where US Vice President Dan Quayle was scheduled to meet with British officials, the Home Secretary said, reports AP.

The device was discovered after several bomb warnings reportedly prompted authorities to evacuate the buildings.

Home Secretary Kenneth Baker said the bomb was found in a telephone booth near the Foreign Office.

Independent Television News reported that the device was a five-pound (2.2-kg) plastic explosive.