# BRIFFIY

# Sihanouk arrives in N Korea:

Cambodian Prince Norodom Sthanouk arrived in Pyongyang from Beijing Sunday to attend ceremonies marking the 80th birthday of North Korean President Kim Il Sung on Wednesday, the Korean central news agency reported, AFP reports from Tokyo.

In a dispatch monitored here the official agency said Prince Sihanouk was greeted at airport by Vice-President Li Long-Ok and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-Nam.

Peru congress leaders freed: Troops keeping congressional leaders under house arrest since President Alberto Fujimori seized authoritarian powers have withdrawn, Peruvian Senate President Felipe Osterling said Saturday, AFP reports from Lima.

Osterling, who along with Chamber of Deputies President Roberto Ramirez De Villar has been under house arrest since Fujimori dissolved congress and suspended constitutional rights Sunday, said the soldiers placed outside his home were withdrawn Saturday.

The apparent lifting of the house arrest has not been announced officially by Fujimori's new emergency government.

Osterling left his house and went to the parliament building, surrounded by troops and tanks, but was prevented from entering. Along with other legislators he then tried to stage a demonstration in a downtown Lima plaza but troops and police broke it up.

#### Three killed as bridge collapses Rescue workers on Saturday found the bodies of three people who died when a bridge collapsed due to flooding in and around this Adriatic city, police and news reports said, AP

reports from Pescara. The victims were driving in two separate cars over a bridge outside the city. The bridge collapsed under pressure of floodwaters from the Tavo River, which had swollen following days of heavy rainfall, news reports said. Another four people were rescued after their car fell into the water.

The flooding caused hundreds of billions of lire (hundreds of millions of dollars) in damage in Pescara and the surrounding area, the Italian news agency ANSA reported.

Landslides and fallen bridges blocked numerous roads and flooded factories. About 100 fishing boats were severely damaged after they were carried into sea by the raging Pescara

#### Arafat meets Mubarak : PLO leader Yasser Arafat gave a bearhug to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Saturday and said he was rapidly recovering from a plane crash, AP reports from Tunis.

Their meeting was held despite doctors prescribing "total rest" for Arafat to recuperate from bruises and an eye injury suffered in the accident Tuesday in the Libyan desert, PLO sources said.

"I feel great," a waving, smiling Arafat told photographers and reporters as he began 20 minutes of talks with the Egyptian leader.

PLO and Egyptian officials did not reveal the content of the talks, but Arafat has previously thanked Egypt for aiding the search for his downed plane.

#### Mitterrand off to Turkey: French President Francois Mitterrand leaves Monday for a two-day visit to Turkey, the first by a French head of state since Charles De Gaulle in 1968, AFP reports from Paris.

Mitterrand will be accompanied by five cabinet members including Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, as well as a delegation of French businessmen in a visit aimed primarily at strengthening bilateral ties.

He is scheduled for talks with President Turgut Ozal on Monday, when he will also meet with Prime Minister Suleiman Demireland, Deputy Prime Minister Erdal Inonu.

#### Emergency in Sicily: The government declared a state of emergency Saturday in the region of Sicily's mount Etne as lava from the erupting volcano

threatened a nearby village, AFP reports from Rome. Troops and civil defence teams were working desperately to save the village of Zafferena Etne as the flow of molten rock

advanced to just a few hundred metres (yards) away.

The government decision clears the way for an operation to try to brake or divert the flow, naval explosives experts were expected to arrive on the Mediterranean island to try to redirect the magma.

Meanwhile some 200 civil defence workers backed up by army teams using 22 heavy earthmoving vehicles worked to erect a new barrier after the lava Thursday broke through two other embankments set up to protect the village.

# PPP blames govt for students' clash

KARACHI, Apr 12: The opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP) accused the government on Saturday of involvement in a clash between students in which a villager was killed, reports AFP.

Thursday near Larkana, 500 kilometers (312 miles) north of Karachi, during an observance of the death anniversary of Bhutto's father and PPP founder, former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Officials have blamed 'rival student groups' for the incident, which involved light

But the PPP's central executive, in a resolution, condemned the so-called Umrani group for attempting to disrupt the gathering at Garhi Khuda Bakhsh, where Bhutto's father is buried. In particular it blamed

Brigadier Imtiaz, Director of Pakistan's Federal Intelligence Bureau, saying he was "the responsible hand behind the Umrani group.

"This is part of a dirty tricks campaign launched by tion said.

Pakistan's intelligence agen-

The Mohajir Qaumi movement, representing Urduspeaking migrants from India, has on many occasions blamed intelligence agencies for plotting to kill its leader Altaf Hussain and other top brass.

Bhutto herself had held "quasi-military intervention" responsible for the dismissal of her government on August

# Four CIS states fail to reach consensus on START

MOSCOW, Apr 12: The four CIS states with strategic nuclear weapons on their territory failed to agree Saturday to respect the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START). because of a new disagreement between Russia and Ukraine. officials said, reports AFP.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, who attended the talks between Ukraine. Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus, said Ukraine was demanding that the four states. rather than just Russia, should all be recognised as the parties to the treaty along with the United States

Meanwhile, the Itar-Tass news agency said the presidtum of the Russian Parliament issued a statement calling for the immediate setting-up of Russian armed forces.

Last month President Boris Yeltsin, who has been striving to maintain united armed forces under the aegis of the Commonwealth

Kinnock likely to

resign today

Kinnock, who led the opposi-

tion Labour Party to a new and

humiliating defeat in Thur

sday's general election, is

expected to resign his post on

Monday, British Sunday news-

would be replaced by the

popular John Smith, the

party's spokesman on eco

fourth consecutive one for

Labour, and the second under

humiliating in that it came as

Britain was in the worst

economic recession since the

1930's, and when Labour was

slightly ahead in most opinion

blamed Kinnock's poor image

among much of the electorate

news said the party could con-

vene a special congress in a

few months to formally elect

their new leader. A Mori opin-

ion poll published by the

Sunday Times concluded that

53 per cent of Britons would

prefer to see Smith leading

who is 54, is supported by

most of his colleagues in the

party's "shadow cabinet" and

most trade union leaders, the

The pro-Labour Sunday

Mirror said the partys number

two, Roy Hattersley, would

also step down. He was ex-

pected to be replaced by

Slums make up

30 pc of Indian

metropolis

timated 30 per cent of the

population in metropolitan

cities of India live in slums and

squatter settlements, an

indian official said, reports

Development M Arunachalm

was reported by "The State

sman" yesterday as saying that

Minister of State for Urban

NEW DELHI, Apr 12: An es-

The economic spokesman,

Many observers have

Independent Television

It was all the more

Several papers said Kinnock

Thursday's defeat was the

paper said, reports AFP.

Kinnock's leadership.

nomic affairs.

for the defeat.

the Labour Party.

press reports said

Margaret Beckett.

LONDON, Apr 12 : Neil

Independent States (CIS), announced the creation of a Commonwealth Russian Defence Ministry, but Independent States (CIS) has so far held off from actually

creating separate armed The parliament statement said that the Russian stance on unified armed forces had met incomprehension from certain other member-states of the

This was a clear reference to Ukraine, the second biggest of the former Soviet republics

after Russia. START was signed by the now defunct Soviet Union and the United States in January 1991. Since the collapse of the union late last year most western countries have recognised Russia as the legitimate heir to the countrys international treaty obligations.

Kozyrev told a press conference after the four republic meeting broke up : "We must all agree that there should be

the Kremlin.

Reuter.

with itself.

ease with himself.

LONDON, Apr 12 : British

Prime Minister John Major has

chosen his first full cabinet,

ousting four key figures left

over from the old guard of his

predecessor, 'Iron Lady'

Margaret Thatcher, reports

defied predictions to win a

fourth consecutive term in

Thursday's General election

mixed experience with fresh

faces to implement his vision

of 'a classless society at ease

close aide said 'now he has a

mandate from the people and

his own team I think we will

see a Prime Minister more at

Thatcher after she was ousted

by a party revolt 16 months

ago, kept on trusted Foreign

Secretary Douglas Hurd and

Norman Lamont who is

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Major, who replaced

Echoing Major's words, a

Major whose Conservatives

only one nuclear state in the

Otherwise there will be a radical geostrategic change in the world, he said, noting that the number of avowed nuclear states would suddenly jump from the present five to eight.

Another Russian negotiator agreed, saying that if the four countries were all recognised as signatories to the START treaty, it would mean remod-

elling the world set-up." Russia cannot follow that path, he said

The aim of Saturday's meeting had been to reach agreement between the four nuclear-armed republics on how to implement cuts of about one third in their respective strategic arsenals.

Russia currently holds about 17,000 nuclear warheads. Ukraine 4,300. Kazakhatan 1,600 and Belarus 1,200.

Under the START treaty

heads to 7,000.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko described the talks as tense and said his country's parliament was to discuss its demand to be a cosignatory of the treaty.

He reiterated Ukraine's desire to conclude the START treaty as soon as possible so as to carry on with the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The Kazakh Foreign Minister, Tuleutay Suleimenov, said the meeting had made steps forward but there was more work needed to achieve the signing of an agreement. We do not want to be a nu-

clear state, he said. Belarus's Deputy Foreign Minister, Vladimir Senko, said the meeting had not been in vain, even though many of the questions raised were sensi-

the ex-Soviet Union was committee to reducing the number of its strategic weapon war-

northeastern state of Assam in their first major strike since resuming a war for independence, officials said today, reports Reuter. They said 13 soldiers were injured, seven very seriously,

when the bomb destroyed their truck as it crossed a bridge near the central village of Sonkuria on Saturday night. Intelligence sources said they believed guerillas trained in Pakistan were to blame.

> It was the biggest death toll in a single incident since the army was sent into Assam last year on a successful campaign against the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), which accuses New Delhi of exploiting the state's rich resources of tea and oil. In January the rebel leader-

GUWHATI, India, Apr 12:

Maoist rebels killed 10 Indian soldiers with a bomb in the

ship agreed to a cease-fire and on terms for peace talks with the government that excluded their goal of an independent

Talks were due to start by the end of March but at the last minute hardline leaders baulked at other terms which

included laying down arms before discussions started.

**Assam Maoist rebels** 

kill 10 soldiers

That led to a split in ULFA. Moderates began handing over their weapons this week, saying they would start peace talks with New Delhi and the

state government. Simultaneously the army launched a fresh campaign against the hardliners, especially in their stronghold in Nalbari district.

On Saturday evening three trucks packed with troops were returning to barracks from village searches. As the first crossed the bridge, a huge blast destroyed it. Officials said the bomb was triggered by remote control, the first time ULFA is known to have used such a device.

Intelligence officials, who declined to be identified, said they had been told by surrendering moderates that a handpicked group of 25 ULFA hardliners was taken to Pakistan for explosives training last September.

They said they believed members of that group, who had now returned to Assam, were responsible for the bomb.

## 8 NLD MPs declared disqualified

YANGON, Apr 12 : Eight more parliament representatives from the National League for Democracy (NLD) have been declared as disqualified by the Myanmar General Election Commission, reports Xinhua.

According to two latest announcements by the Election Commission, the eight NLD members were cancelled from the list of the parliament representatives because they allegedly infringed the people's parliament election law of the country.

The announcements said that the eight persons shall have no right to contest the elections to be held within ten years under the peoples par liament election law.

Since the election was held in May 1990, 93 of the total 485 parliament representatives have been declared as disqualified. Among them over 80 came from the NLD which won 396 seats in the 1990 general election.

### Bangkok police tightens security at embassies

BANGKOK, Apr 12: Thai police have beefed up security at some embassies in Bangkok following the UN Security Council's decision to impose sanctions on Libya, special branch police commander Pl Maj-Gen Yothin Matayomand said Saturday, reports Xinhua.

The local newspaper "Bangkok Post" quoted Yothin as saying that more special branch police will help metropolitan police protect the US, UK, French and other embassies without waiting for requests from the embassies. Security Council Resolution

731 urged Tripoli to surrender suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie. Scotland, and the 1989 downing of a French UTA aircraft over Niger.

Pl-Maj-Gen Yothin said the special branch police and immigration officers are keeping a close watch on foreign criminals and local gangs that may get involved in terrorism.

# Off the Record



UNITED NATIONS: Elsie Eyakuze of Tanzania, aged 11, the youngest of the 262 super finalist, waits for the start of La Dictee, the French Spelling Championships, held in the United Nations General Assembly. - AFP/UNB photo.

## New Zealand records highest teenage births

WELLINGTON: New Zealand is one of the countries in the world that records the highest teenage births, largely resulting from pornography and unemployment, reports Xinhua.

Nationally, there were 30.89 births per 1,000 women under 20 each year between 1986 and 1988, according to Waikato, the Hamilton-based daily paper this week.

The only other western countries which come near the New Zealand rate are Scotland and England and Wales, with 30.9 and 30.1 births respectively.

In the central part of the North Island, the teenage fertility rate was twice the national level, the paper quoted New Zealand Family Planning Association National Educator Barbara Lusk as saying.

The educator attributed the high teenage pregnancies partly to pornography, as it encourages young children to

Teenagers now have free access to porno movies which contain graphic sexual scene. These include degradation of women, oral sex and sex with multiple partners.

#### Women from all over Asia served as sex slaves

TOKYO: Women from China, the Philippines and Taiwan were among tens of thousands of Asian women who had served as sex slaves for the Japanese army during World War Two, a Japanese daily reported Sunday, reports Reuter.

According to the Mainichi Shimbun, the government has found war-time documents which showed women not only from the Korean peninsula but from other Asian countries were forced to serve as prostitutes for the Japanese army in China, Taiwan and the Philippines. The government is expected to announce the finding on

Between 100,000 and 200,000 women, 80 per cent of them Korean, were forced into prostitution for the Japanese army, according to Japanese and South Korean reports. Mainichi quoted an unnamed government official as saying

that Tokyo would provide details of the findings and make another apology to South Korea.

"comfort women" as early as May, Mainichi said.

The government would give the details to other countries upon request, the official was quoted as saying.

#### as much as 50 per cent of The clash took place population in Bombay and 45 the present government per cent in Delhi was living in against the PPP," the resolusuch settlements. The slum population in the country This is not the first time would reach 62 million by that a political party has 2000 of which 32 million Japanese MP pointed an accusing finger at would be living in metropolitan

According to 1991 census, India has a population of 843.9

Xinhua.

India's urban population at the beginning of this century

cities, the minister added.

was 11 per cent of the total (26 million). By 1991, it was more than 25 per cent (217 million). By 2001, it was expected to reach 330 million.

(Finance Minister) has been battling a severe recession. Major gave Michael Daughter kills

TOKYO, Apr 12: The Chairman of the Budget Committee in Japan's Lower House of Parliament was stabbed to death by his daughter early Sunday, police said, Reuter reports.

They said Shinjiro Yamamura, 58, died after being stabbed in the neck and chest by his second daughter Kiriyo, 24, who was arrested soon afthe party leadership had he lost the election, an enlarged department for trade and industry. He campaigned vigorously and flamboyantly for Major in the election. This was another break with the legacy of Thatcher.

Heseltine, who would have

been his chief challenger for

MOSCOW: Supporters of Russian President Boris Yeltsin demonstrate in front of the

Kremlin in Moscow Saturday. The Sixth Russian Congress of Peoples Deputies continues in

Four key figures dropped

Major forms new cabinet

She clashed with Heseltine. The Cabinet members :

Prime Minister- John

Major, Lord Chancellor- Lord

and Commonwealth Affairs Secretary-Douglas Hurd, Lord Privy Seal, Leader of the House of Lords- John Wakeham, Home Secretary (Interior Minister)— Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exc hequer (Finance Minis ter)-Norman Lamont, Enviro nment Secretary- Michael Howard, Defence Secretary- Malcolm Riskind, Education and Science Secretary- John Patten, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons- Antony Newton, Transport Secretary-John Macgregor, Social Security Secretary- Peter Lilley, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Citizens' charter- William Waldegrave, Northern Ireland Secretary-Sir Patrick Mayhew, Minister of Agriculture-John Selwyn Gummer, Employment Secr etary - Gillian Shephard, Welsh Secretary- David Hunt, Trade and Industry Secretary-Michael Heseltine, Health Secretary- Virginia Bottomley, Scottish Secretary-Lang, Chief Secretary to the

says Reuter.

Mackay of Clashfern, Foreign

Treasury- Michael Portillo, National Heritage- David

#### Magazine banned for cartoon insulting Khomeini NICOSIA, Apr 12

— AFP/UNB photo

magazine which published a cartoon insulting the late revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini has been banned, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported today,

The agency, received in Cyprus, said the Islamic guidance ministry would hand over the publisher of the science magazine "farad" to the country's judicial authorities.

IRNA said the magazine's offices, near Tehran university campus, were sacked by an angry crowd following Saturday's banning. No details were given of the cartoon.

## Japan deports 2,291 illegal immigrants

TOKYO, Apr 12: Japan has deported 2,291 illegal immigrants, most of them Iranians or South Koreans, detained during a crackdown earlier this year, the Justice Ministry said today, reports Reuter.

A ministry official said 685 Iranians and 649 South Koreans, were among the 1,743 men and 548 women sent home.

The forced repatriation followed a fortnight-long ministry crackdown in major cities between late February and early March. Most of the deportees - 2,133 - were working illegally. Japan, suffering from a chronic labour shortage, has become a popular destination in recent years for tens of thousands of Asians seeking higher wages.

# IRA threatens to keep bomb attack on

DUBLIN, Apr 12: The IRA has smuggled enough weapons and explosives into Britain to keep its bombing campaign going for several months, Republican sources said today, reports Reuter.

"There'll be more of the same," one leading Republican source said after a car bomb killed three people and injured 90 in London's city financial district.

The Irish Republican Army may also target for attack protestant extremist leaders in northern Ireland. Republican militants blame the protestants for the defeat in last week's British general election of Gerry Adams, President of the Iraq's political arm Sinn Fein, the sources said.

That would inevitably lead to another round of sectarian killings in the province. Fortyone people have already died

since January 1 in one of the bloodiest starts to any year since the conflict erupted in

AP adds: The IRA, in a statement to media in Belfast, Northern Ireland, said one of its units planted the bomb in the financial district.

This attack is a direct consequence of Britain's illegal occupation of Irish territory and attacks such as this will continue so long as Britain persists in that occupation," the statement said.

The statement made no mention of the bombing of the Staples Corner junction in northwest London, which caused one slight injury.

The IRA said it regretted the deaths and injuries in the financial district bombing and blamed police for failing to act promptly after receiving a 25minute warning. Churchill-

Coleman called the warning hopelessly inadequate" and said it give the wrong location. All the victims were

trapped in damaged buildings or hit by debris. The dead were a 15-year-old girl, a man in his 20s and a third person whose body was discovered Saturday.

"This was deliberate attempt by the IRA to impose their views in the debate over the future of Northern Ireland," Home Secretary Kenneth Baker. The Cabinet member responsible for law and order, said on BBC radio. Sinn Fein, the IRA's politi-

cal wing, lost its only seat in Parliament to the moderate Social Democratic and Labor Party in Thursday's elections. "When it comes to the ballot box ... the IRA gets defeated,

so they resort to terrorism,"

Baker said.



LONDON: Policeman cleans away debris in street in central London Saturday where a bomb went off. Much of the financial district remained sealed off following two post election IRA - AFP/UNB photo bomb attack.