

## Plot to kidnap granddaughter of Rao : four held

NEW DELHI, June 7 : Indian police have arrested four suspected Sikh militants in Bombay and unearthed a plot to kidnap the granddaughter of Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, press reports said today, reports AFP.

An anti-terrorist squad arrested Rajbir Singh Sandhu and three other alleged members of the Khalistan Commando force after a shootout in the western port city Friday night which left two policemen injured, Press Trust of India said.

The four men surrendered with an AK-47 assault rifle and imported pistols after the shootout which followed a police ambush in a city suburb. Sandhu was identified as a close associate of captured Sikh militant Harjinder Singh Jinda, held for the 1986 assassination of former Army Chief A S Vaidya in the town of Pune near Bombay.

Bombay's Additional Police Commissioner, Aftab Khan, was quoted as saying Saturday that Sandhu and his three comrades had confessed to planning to abduct Rao's granddaughter, Vishal Rao.

# Sharif promises sweeping power for army to quell Sindh

KARACHI, June 7 : A grim Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif vowed Saturday to give his powerful military chief sweeping powers to quell burgeoning crime in southern Sindh province, reports AP.

"The main purpose is to restore law and order and for that we are prepared to give every power to the army under the Constitution," Sharif said upon his arrival Saturday in the southern port city of Karachi.

Nearly 40,000 army and paramilitary troops have been deployed in Sindh, where several years of ethnic and political feuding has left thousands of people dead and injured.

On Friday, a bomb exploded in a mosque, injuring 21 people. In another incident, gunmen killed two people.

Kidnappings for ransom are a regular part of life in Sindh, in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, wealthy neighbourhoods are steel-plated doors and barred windows.

Sandbag bunkers decorate

most of the main intersections in Karachi and in Hyderabad, 150 kilometres (90 miles) to the north.

Armoured personnel carriers rumbled through Karachi last week, parking outside university campuses and suspected headquarters of militant political and ethnic groups.

Although the Sindh civilian government is still operating, the army already has the power to arrest and detain without a warrant and without laying charges, at least not immediately.

Pakistan's state-run news agency said the army flushed out bandits on Saturday, killing nine and wounding several more. They were hiding in thick forests in the rugged interior of Sindh, said Associated Press of Pakistan. The army started setting acres of forests ablaze last week to smoke out

bandits.

The main combatants in the ethnic violence are members of the Mohajir Qami Movement (Refugee People's Movement), representing Indian immigrants to Pakistan at partition in 1947 and Sindhi nationalists. They want greater autonomy or outright independence.

In political battles, the main adversaries have been MQM members and supporters of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto's left-leaning party.

Both the army and Sharif has promised that "operation clean-up" will not target any political group. Ms. Bhutto, however, has accused the conservative Sindh government of harassing and intimidating her party workers.

She said at least 2,000 of her party workers were jailed without charges. Her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, has been in jail since October 10, 1990,

charged with extortion, murder and kidnapping for ransom. He professes his innocence.

AFP adds : Pakistan authorities Saturday claimed to have shot and killed nine foreign-trained terrorists and wounded another near Hyderabad, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported.

"Law enforcing agencies on routine patrol in the Ghulam Mohammad barrage area Friday night spotted the group and after two hours of intense firing nine terrorists were killed and one injured," APP said.

The encounter is the first to have involved alleged foreign-trained terrorists since the government launched a six-month long army-led crackdown last month aimed at crushing forces it described as bandits and subversive and anti-social elements in south-

ern Pakistan's Sindh province. APP said that one of the nine, just before he died, "confessed the explosives were from India and he was also trained there to carry out subversion in Pakistan."

"The 20 kilograms (44 pounds) of high explosives recovered from the terrorist proves that India is involved in subversive activities in Pakistan," the agency said.

In the past, Pakistan has blamed India for patronising terrorism.

Law-enforcing agencies also recovered Kalashnikovs of a new model able to fire rockets, the agency said, adding that the authorities believed they had been used during attacks on trains.

The authorities, who did not disclose the identities of the nine men, had earlier described them as bandits.

## Yugoslav army complete withdrawal from Bosnia

BELGRADE, June 7 : The Yugoslav army has completed its withdrawal from Bosnia-Herzegovina, according to a statement issued by the army's general headquarters published by the Tanjug Press Agency, reports AP.

A total 1,230 people — 667 cadets, 195 soldiers, 172 officers, 30 military employees, 101 civilians and 65 family members — who were trapped by the Bosnian forces in the Marshal Tito barracks in central Sarajevo have returned to rump Yugoslavia, the statement said.

The evacuation was "successful," said General Dragoljub Simonovic, who supervised the operation, according to Tanjug.



WARSAW: Polish President Lech Walesa (R) shakes the hand of newly elected Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak (L) as the president received him at his office on Saturday. Pawlak replaces former Prime Minister Jan Olszewski who was voted out by the parliament. —AFP/UNB photo

## DPRK ready to stop producing plutonium

SEOUL, June 7 : North Korea has offered to stop producing plutonium — a key component of a nuclear bomb — if the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) provides it with alternative technology for nuclear power plants, South Korean news reports said today, reports Reuters.

State radio and Yonhap news agency, quoting diplomatic sources in Seoul, said Pyongyang made the proposal when in talks with US officials in Beijing on January 1.

North Korea acknowledged it had produced a tiny amount of plutonium at its Yongbyon

plant but told the US side it would not produce plutonium through its nuclear reprocessing facilities if the IAEA provided technology and enriched uranium, the sources were quoted as saying.

Yonhap quoted a source as saying the North Korean offer is noteworthy but we need to closely watch whether it came from its sincere attitude or from an idea to hide its nuclear arms development programme.

The reports said Pyongyang expressed the same idea to IAEA Director-General Hans

Blix when he visited the North last month to inspect nuclear facilities.

South Korea and the United States fear the isolated, Stalinist North is close to building a nuclear bomb, a charge it denies.

Blix said after his trip that the North had produced plutonium — not enough to make a weapon — at the Yongbyon plant, 90 km (60 miles) north of Pyongyang.

Although the North has allowed IAEA inspections, Seoul says such visits cannot reveal the whole truth about Py-

ongyang's nuclear programme.

The two sides cannot agree on arrangements for mutual inspections of each other's nuclear facilities, an issue blocking moves towards rapprochement.

The official (NOTI) Korean central news agency said an IAEA inspection team left North Korea on Saturday.

The inspectors arrived in Pyongyang on May 25 for a two-week tour of nuclear sites. They will report their findings to the IAEA board of governors' meeting due to begin in Tokyo on June 15.

## Perot leading over Bush, Clinton

NEW YORK, June 7 : Undeclared US presidential candidate Ross Perot has a 13-point lead over both President Bush and Bill Clinton in one poll released on Saturday, but another survey shows him ahead by just two points, reports Reuters.

A Time magazine/CNN survey showed 37 per cent of the respondents supported Perot with 24 per cent each for Bush and Clinton. A Newsweek poll put the race much closer, with Perot supported by 35 per cent, Bush 33 per cent and Clinton 25 per cent.

Both surveys were taken last week following the end of the preliminary elections that looked up the democratic party nomination for Clinton,

the Arkansas governor. Bush sewed up the Republican nomination weeks earlier.

Perot has not yet announced he is running for president but last week hired Democratic campaign expert Hamilton Jordan and Republican organiser Ed Rollins as he moved closer to an official declaration.

The Time/CNN poll showed the largest advantage in any national survey for Perot over the major party contenders, but both showed that the electorate was not sure about its support for the taxes billionaire.

A majority in the Time/CNN poll, 53 per cent, said they knew little or nothing about

Perot and only 57 per cent of those who said they would vote for Perot said they were sure of their support.

Asked the same question of the major party candidates, 72 per cent said they were sure they would vote for Clinton and 65 per cent were sure of Bush.

In the Newsweek poll, more than half of Perot's supporters, 52 per cent, said they backed him because they don't like Bush or Clinton and 67 per cent said Perot must say a lot more about his policies than he has.

A Time/CNN poll last weekend had Perot at 33 per cent, Bush with 28 per cent and Clinton third at 24 per cent.

## Serbs continue shelling Sarajevo

BELGRADE, June 7 : Serb gunners continued shelling Sarajevo with artillery and mortars early today after a night of heavy fighting which left a string of burning buildings in the embattled capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina, reports Reuters.

It was a bad night again, said a reporter at Sarajevo Radio. The shelling eased up a bit in the morning but several big buildings were hit during the night and some are on fire.

He said the 18-storey units building was ablaze and the Hotel Europa, a modern blue-glass building had been hit as well.

## BRIEFLY

**Moscow frees coup plotter:** One of the men accused of plotting the coup against former Soviet President Mikhail S Gorbachev last August was released from prison Saturday after promising to remain at home, a news agency reported, says AP from Moscow.

Prosecutors decided to release Vasily Starodubtsev, leader of the Peasants Union, after he finished reviewing materials relating to his case, Itar-Tass said. The other defendants are still reading their files and remain imprisoned.

Starodubtsev's release does not mean he has been cleared and the charges against him remain in effect, Itar-Tass said. No date has been set for the defendants' trial.

Starodubtsev submitted a written promise to remain at his home in the Tula province, the news agency said.

**Blast rocks London:** An explosion rocked central London early Sunday, causing minor damage but no injuries, reports Reuters from London.

Scotland yard police headquarters could not immediately say if guerrillas of the Irish Republican army were suspected. The blast occurred at 0040 GMT near Charing Cross Bridge, which carries trains and pedestrians over the river Thames. There has been an explosion, believed in the vicinity of the viaduct of the bridge, a police spokeswoman said.

Police cordoned off the area and explosive experts were on the scene.

**Rain claims five in Chile :** Rain, wind and snow in central Chile over the past two days have left five people dead and 8,000 homeless and caused considerable damage, officials said, reports AFP from Santiago.

Santiago Governor Luis Parco said the situation in parts of metropolitan Santiago was critical. The bad weather extended from La Serena to Temuco, towns some 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) apart in central Chile.

The rains eased early Saturday and meteorologists here have predicted the weather would soon improve.

The fatalities included a 13-year-old boy who tried to rescue a dog which had wandered too close to a high-tension wire in conception, 430 kilometers (270 miles) south of the capital.

The other four fatalities were crew members of two boats that went down in high waves off the port of Valparaiso, 100 kilometers (60 miles) west of Santiago.

**New party set up in Russia :** A new political party has been set up based on the three-year-old Afghanistan War Veterans' union, the Itar-Tass News Agency said Saturday, reports AFP from Moscow.

The grouping, called the People's Patriotic Party (PPP), immediately condemned Russian opposition parties in a clear statement of support for President Boris Yeltsin and the reforms being introduced by his government.

In an appeal to political parties, public organisations and movements in Russia, the PPP expressed adherence to "consistency and resoluteness in social and economic reforms."

**Serbians demonstrate in Belgrade :** Several hundred Serbians demonstrated Saturday outside the Russian Embassy in Belgrade to protest at Russia's vote in favour of the United Nations' trade, oil and air embargo against Serbia and Montenegro, the Tanjug News Agency reported, says AFP from Belgrade.

Demonstrators said official Russian policy was "contrary to the wishes of the Russian people." A similar demonstration was held in Novi Sad, 100 kms (60 miles) north of Belgrade, Belgrade Television said.

Demonstrations will be held daily from Monday in front of the Russian Embassy in Belgrade at 3:30 pm (1330 GMT), said one of the organisers, Zoran Kostic, Secretary General of the Russia-Serbia Friendship Association.

# Wives turn campaign for a Delhi seat into star-wars

NEW DELHI, June 7 : Two fading superstars of Indian cinema are locked in a shrill, no-holds-barred campaign for the prestigious Delhi parliamentary seat in one of 21 by-elections to be held across India on Monday, reports AFP.

Rajesh Khanna, the heart-throb of millions in the 1960s and 1970s, an Sahrugan Sinha, a successful villain-turned hero of the same period, have been on a hectic campaign trail for almost a month.

Khanna, 48, is the candidate of the ruling Congress (I) Party. Sinha one year younger, is fighting his maiden election as a nominee of the pro-Hindu, main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), (Indian People's Party).

More than 100 other candidates, most of them independents, are in the fray, but the Khanna-Sinha battle, with the full involvement of their film-gloss wives and scores of enthusiastic supporters, has left the others as also-rans and overshadowed the polls for the one other parliamentary and 19 state assembly seats also to be held Monday.

The Wives — Dimple Khanna is a leading actress while Poonam Sinha is a former Miss India — have turned the campaign into "Star-Wars" as they accompany their husbands out to woo Delhi's nearly 460,000 voters in the city's blistering 43 degree Celsius (110 degree Fahrenheit) mid-summer heat.

The outcome of the polls will not affect the status of India minority government. But with both the Congress and BJP concentrating heavily in the New Delhi constituency, neither can afford to lose.



Sahrugan Sinha

referendum on the 11-month-old government of Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, "the election for New Delhi seat is important," BJP chief Murli Manohar Joshi said Saturday.

Both Khanna and Sinha have braved the heat to address dozens of meetings daily, punctuating their speeches with film dialogue, Hindi couplets and cheap humor.

The middle class and slum crowds love it, and hundreds — women in particular — wait for hours for a glimpse of Khanna and Sinha.

Few bother to listen to what they say —

which in any case is not much — and many of their meetings have ended in Bedlam.

"I am not sad that the times have changed. My life is with you. I hope you will not change," is a typical Khanna statement that draws cheers and applause.

The gruff, full-throated Sinha is not to be outdone.

"Beware," he shouted, referring to the federal government.

Where are the jobs they promised? what happened to all the promises by the Congress. Beware, Nemesis is at hand.

The crowd roars. It is a voice they have heard on the big screen before.

"Vote for Sinha sir," Poonam pleaded with residents of a slum colony here. "You have seen how he acts in films. He will raise his voice in parliament for your cause with more fervour."

Both camps, using previously unknown front groups, have carried vicious smear campaigns. Thousand of posters have sprung up describing Khanna as a "tax thief" and Sinha as a "drunkard."

Two opinions polls published by the times of India give the edge to Khanna, who is May 1991 lost to then BJP President Lal Krishna Advani — now the opposition leader — by only 1,589 votes.

Advani later dropped the seat, now vacant, for another he had also won.

The parties' decision to field film stars has drawn flak from critics, particularly the Centrist Janata Dal (People's Party), whose candidate Jai Bhagwan Jatav is seen as a dark horse.

But supporters of Khanna and Sinha defend



Rajesh Khanna

them. "We did not put up Sahrugan Sinha because he is just in actor or because he has a nice face," BJP spokesman KR Malkani said, "he is very much a political animal."

Campaigning for the by-elections ended Saturday evening. The 10-hour voting will take place Monday in all 21 constituencies beginning at 7:00 am (0130 GMT), with the results expected the next day.

## Off the Record

### Moon Moon adjudged best actress

NEW DELHI : Bengali film actress Moon Moon Sen and noted Telugu actor Nagarwar Rao have been adjudged the best actress and best actor by the All India Critics Association (AICA), reports PTI.

While Moon Moon has been awarded for her performance in 'Thikana' Nagarwar Rao has been adjudged the best actor for his role in the film 'Eetharamayyagar'.

The best dancer award has been bagged by Tilotama Bandopadhyaya of Delhi. A young talent in Bharatanatyam, Tilotama has been giving performance in Delhi and other cities, AICA general secretary, Ramen Ghosh, said here.

The best picture award has gone to Hindi film 'Prahar', directed by Nana Patekar, while Gulzar has been adjudged the best director for his Hindi film 'Lekin'.

While Kewal Kumar of Lucknow has been selected for the best vocalist award, Ishrad Khan of Calcutta has been adjudged the best instrumentalist.

In folk drama section, the best actress award has gone to Kakali Chowdhury of Calcutta's Bhairab Opera for her performance in Boun Tomar Paya Namaskar.



### This is the last night we're together

BELGRADE : The lights dim, the disc jockey puts on a waltz and the graduating class of '92, in strapless party dresses and wide, Giorgio Armani-style jackets, takes stilly to the dance floor at Belgrade's fanciest hotel, reports AP.

The 18-year-old boys, naturally, step on their partners' toes. The girls giggle and roll their eyes. And the inevitable man with the videocamera circles, recording the moment.

At the school prom in what is left of Yugoslavia, the only thing missing is security about the future.

"This is the last night we are together. After this, we go to our homes or university," said Djordje Milutinovic, a graduating senior, settling on a red velvet settee.

"Some will go to the army. Some will die."

If war is raging only 300 kilometers (200 miles) away, it is not immediately apparent at the Belgrade Hyatt Regency. Under giant chandeliers, the Class of '92 has just eaten a roast beef feast served by waiters in black jackets, complete with petit fours and a champagne toast.

### She is depressed since marriage

LONDON : A new book alleges that Britain's Princess Diana made five suicide attempts in stormy early years of her marriage to heir-to-the-throne prince Charles, reports Reuters.

Diana was variously said to have flung herself down some stairs, slashed at her wrist with a razor blade, cut her chest and thighs with a knife and thrown herself at a glass cabinet.

"Another time she cut herself with the serrated edge of a lemon slicer," author Andrew Morton writes in "Diana — her true story."

The Sunday Times started serialising the book this weekend, saying it would raise questions on the future of the 1,000-year-old monarchy.

The rival Sunday Telegraph said nobody knew what the truth really was and urged the royal family to break with tradition and sue for libel if it disputes stories about it.

The royals have stayed aloof from the courts since 1911 when an editor who said King George V was a bigamist was sentenced to a year in jail.

Morton's book quotes friends of Diana, who turns 31 next month, as saying she has been ill with depression throughout her 11-year marriage to Britain's Philosopher King-in-waiting. The "suicide bids" beginning just six months after Diana, then just 20, was married in St Paul's cathedral "were not really serious attempts... they were cries for help."

The book alleges Diana became jealous of an old friendship between Charles, 12 years older than she is, and Camilla Parker-Bowles, whose cavalry officer husband holds the ceremonial office of silver stick in waiting to queen Elizabeth.

### I've to choose between Joan and presidency

NEW YORK : Columbia University president Michael I Sovern announced Saturday he will retire next June because of his wife's battle with cancer, reports AP.

Sovern, 60, has been president for 12 years of the 238-year-old Ivy League school, one of the most respected US universities.

He made his announcement at the regular meeting of the university's trustees. He will step down June 30, 1993, but remain a law school professor.

"I have no choice but to choose — Joan or the presidency, and no one can be in any doubt about the outcome," Sovern said in a letter.

Sovern will step down June 30, 1993, from the \$13,000 dollars a year job and will remain as a law school professor.

Sovern became the youngest full professor in the history of the university in 1957. He received his undergraduate degree from Columbia in 1953, and his law degree two years later.

He became dean of the law school in 1970, executive vice president for academic affairs and university provost in 1979. Sovern is also a member of the Pulitzer Prize Board.

### Priceless art on shoestring budget

NEW YORK : Herbert and Dorothy Vogel built a priceless art collection on his wages as a postal clerk while living on hers as a librarian, reports AP.

The couple was thrust into the limelight when they decided to give their honeymoon collection to the museum where they spent their honeymoon 30 years ago.

Two drawings from the more than 2,500 works that will eventually belong to the National Gallery of Art in Washington went on display May 10 in a larger show — part of a gradual blending of their pieces into the museum's holdings.

"We could have easily become millionaires," Vogel, 69, said recently. "We could have sold things, and lived in Nice and still had some left over. But we weren't concerned about that aspect."

"We always wanted to give it to a museum," added Mrs Vogel, 57. "In return, we're getting enough to continue what we're doing, but not enough to change our standard of living."