

## International

Legislative process begins Sept 30

## Curfew in Karachi: 9 killed

KARACHI, Pakistan, June 20: The death toll has risen to nine in Karachi where authorities have imposed a curfew after clashes between rival groups of a political party representing Indian immigrants, doctors said today, reports Reuter.

More than 40 people were also wounded in street battles between factions of the militant Mohajir National Movement (MQM) on Friday, said doctors in Karachi, Pakistan's main port and financial centre.

Police sources said about 200 people had been arrested and the army was patrolling curfew areas in east Karachi, a stronghold of the MQM, one of the parties in Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's coalition government.

More than 2,000 people have been killed in ethnic, political or criminal violence in southern Pakistan since 1988.

## Czechs, Slovaks agree to split

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia, June 20: Czech and Slovak leaders agreed early Saturday to split Czechoslovakia into two states, ending a 74-year old federation of their two peoples, reports AP.

Emerging from day-long negotiations, Czech leader Vaclav Klaus and Slovak counterpart, his Slovak counterpart, told reporters the regional Czech and Slovak parliaments would decide on how best to divide Czechoslovakia into two states.

The legislative process would begin in both parliaments September 30, they said.

The Slovak side previously said it wanted a referendum on independence early next year, thus postponing the dissolution of the federation until the end of 1993.

Such demands were unacceptable to the wealthier, more numerous Czechs, who fear the crisis could delay integration with the West.

Klaus, victor in June 5-6 elections in the Czech lands told reporters "a referendum is not impossible but also not obligatory" in the envisaged parliamentary process of separation.

After talks Wednesday in Prague, both Klaus and Meciar, who won the elections in Slovakia, acknowledged their failure to reach agreement that could save the federation of 16 million people, founded in

1918 from the ruins of the Austro-Hungarian empire.

"The fact that we have different long-term goals is obvious," Klaus said then.

Experts from both sides spent Thursday working out details for a caretaker federal government to oversee the split.

Klaus said Saturday the federal government would be charged with creating conditions for the transformation of Czechoslovakia into "two sovereign states with international status."

He said the new federal

government that will rule until the split would have 10 members instead of the present 16. The present 13 ministries would be streamlined to only five — defense, finance, exterior, interior and economics, he added.

In de facto acknowledgment of defeat in his bid to save the federation, Klaus on Wednesday accepted the nomination for the post of regional Czech premier. He thus forfeited the opportunity to form a federal government as requested by President Vaclav Havel.

Klaus cited "lack of faith" in the emerging confederative structure for his decision.

Slovakia, the poorer eastern third of the federation, has been hit hardest by ambitious economic reforms, fathomed by Klaus.

The separation is likely to be costly for both sides, but more so for the Slovaks. Slovakia has so far received only a fraction of Western investment in Czechoslovakia since the fall of communism in 1989.

Joblessness, officially at nearly 12 per cent, is almost four times the rate in the Czech lands.

## UN Council to consider Georgia's request

UNITED NATIONS, June 20: The UN Security Council Monday will consider a request from the former Soviet republic of Georgia for UN membership, the UN said Friday, reports AFP.

The Council decides whether to recommend admission, with the final decision up to the UN General Assembly.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali released Friday, the Chairman of Georgia's State Council, former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, asked for membership for his republic.

Georgia "accepts the obligations contained in the charter of the United Nations and solemnly undertakes to carry them out," Shevardnadze said.

Georgia is the only former Soviet republic that is not a UN member.

## Parallel parliament in Iraq soon

VIENNA, June 20: Iraqi opposition activists wound up a four-day conference here Friday with a decision to set up a "national assembly" with the status of a parliament, a spokesman told reporters, says AFP.

Laith Kubba, speaking for the Iraqi National Congress (INC), said delegates had also decided to elect a three-member executive body and to enact a programme aimed at overthrowing President Saddam Hussein and creating a democratic Islamic state in Iraq.

"In a first stage, contacts will be set up with army officers opposed to the Hussein regime," he said.

Kubba added that the 200 delegates who attended the conference had also agreed that a future Iraqi regime should be based on parliamentary democracy, with free multi-party elections.

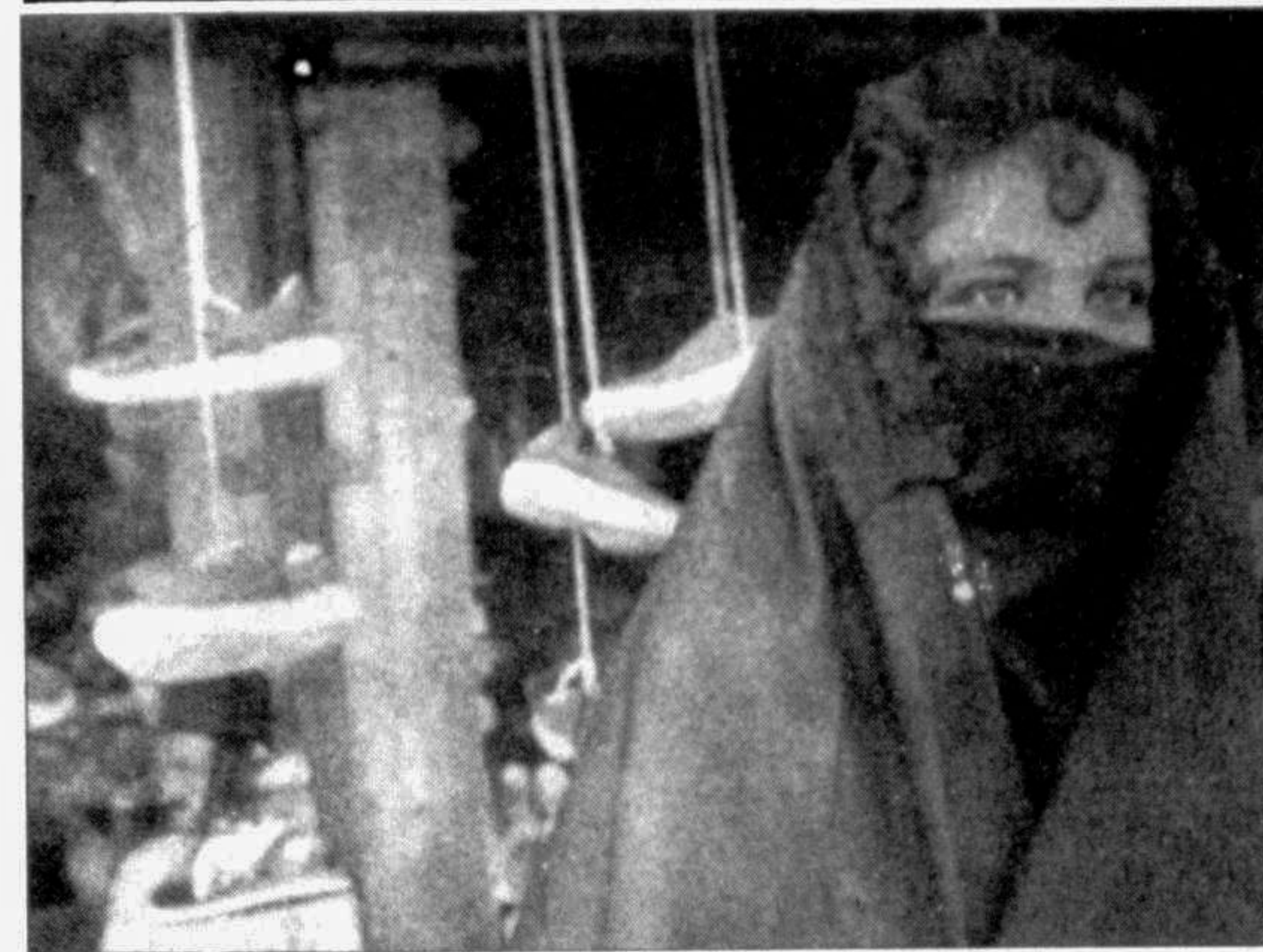
## Clinton to get back in race?

WASHINGTON, June 20: Democrat Bill Clinton, trailing President Bush and independent Ross Perot in presidential polls, is taking risks to get back in the race, including standing up to a key black leader, reports AP.

Clinton irked former presidential candidate Jesse Jackson with an attack on rap singer Sister Souljah, who has supported Jackson's "Rainbow Coalition."

African Americans made up 20 per cent of the Democratic vote in the 1988 election and are one of the party's most faithful voting blocs.

And an editorial in the Wall Street Journal headlined "Comeback Kid," pointed out that Clinton needed to take risks to get out of his third-place spot in the polls. The journal said he cannot win unless he sheds himself of the handicap of his party's special interests.



KABUL: A partially veiled Afghan woman walks through a market Friday as the war-torn country prepares to enter the second phase of its transition from communist to Islamic rule. More and more women are conforming to the strict dress code prescribed by the Islamic caretaker government.

## Iran-Contra scandal

## Weinberger pleads not guilty

WASHINGTON, June 20: Former Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger pleaded not guilty on Friday to a five-count indictment stemming from the Reagan era Iran-Contra scandal, and the judge granted his request for an early trial in November, reports Reuter.

Weinberger, flanked by his defence attorneys, said in a clear voice "not guilty" when asked by the court clerk how he would plead. Those were the only words he said during the 20-minute hearing.

Federal Judge Thomas Hogan set a trial date of November 2 — one day before national elections for president and other offices.

A federal grand jury under the direction of Iran-Contra special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh indicted Weinberger on

Tuesday, accusing him of lying about his knowledge of the scandal and obstructing investigators by withholding extensive personal notes he took.

Weinberger, a close Reagan friend and adviser, became the first member of the cabinet and the highest-ranking official to be charged in Walsh's 5-1/2 year investigation into the worst crisis of Reagan's eight years in office.

Defence Attorney Robert Bennett pressed for a quick trial. "Weinberger is about to be 75 years of age. This investigation has been going on for five and a half years," Bennett said. "This is a tremendous cloud over him."

At the heart of the indictment are allegations that Reagan's top aides covered up his involvement in the covert op-

eration to protect him from politically damaging disclosures.

It specifically charged that Weinberger lied to Congress in 1987 about the shipment of US Hawk missiles to Iran through Israel in November 1985 and about Saudi Arabia's support for the Nicaraguan Contra rebels.

The other part of the operation involved funneling profits from the Iranian arms sales through Swiss bank accounts to the Nicaraguan Contras in violation of a Congressional ban on US military aid to the rebels.

The judge said Weinberger would be allowed to remain free without posting bail and without restrictions on his travel.

## US, Russia will resolve dispute over embassy

WASHINGTON, June 20: The United States and Russia have agreed to resolve their long-standing dispute over their respective embassies in each other's capital, reports Reuter.

As part of a new accord, Russia will be allowed to finally use its new embassy in Washington as soon as possible though it may take more time for the United States to rebuild and use its new facility in Moscow, the State Department said on Friday.

The accord — settling the dispute over the "bugged" US embassy in Moscow — was signed on Monday by Secretary of State James Baker and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev. Details were first reported by Reuters on Thurs-

day. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher confirmed that as part of the accord the United States has agreed to drop claims totalling 30 million dollar against the former Soviet Union for looting its new embassy with electronic listening devices.

In exchange, he said Washington will get more than an acre (0.4 hectares) of land on which it can build a new "secure" embassy building in Moscow and a long-term lease at favourable rates on the existing US embassy for a total value estimated at 45 million dollar.

Under the new accord the Americans have pledged their "best efforts" to get Congress to pass legislation that would allow the Russians access to

their new embassy on Mt Alto in Washington "at an early date".

Also as part of the deal, the Russians will receive about one-third acre of land near where its new embassy built by the former Soviet government has lain vacant for several years in the tit-for-tat dispute with Washington.

Both governments are desperate for new embassies in their respective capitals. The old embassy used by the Americans is badly deteriorated and last year sustained extensive damage in a fire.

In retaliation, the United States barred the Soviets from their brand new facility on Mt Alto in Washington until a secure American facility was available.

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## Off the Record

## President Perot?

TOKYO: Japanese newspapers recently ran a photograph of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa reading at his desk in Parliament. It wasn't a piece of legislation he was pondering, but a magazine article titled "President Perot?" reports AP.

As the unofficial US presidential candidate's campaign has started to soar, so has interest here in the Texas billionaire. His rapid rise is being viewed with both fascination and worry, largely because of tough talk on Japan that has peppered his campaign.

There also is concern here over the dissatisfaction with the US political system that has helped fuel Perot's independent run for the White House. For Japan, it is unnerving to watch its only ally — the nation that provides it with markets and military protection — sail into uncharted political waters.

There are signs of mounting concerns," said Yukio Okamoto, an analyst on US-Japan relations and former Japanese diplomat. Wherever he goes, Okamoto says, people want to know about Perot.

In recent weeks, articles have begun to appear on how a Perot presidency might affect US-Japan relations. One recent headline in the nation's largest newspaper, the Yomiuri, said "Perot's Foreign Policy is Hardline Toward Japan".



Miyazawa

## Churchill forcibly sterilised people?

LONDON: A former civil servant says in a newspaper article that British leader Winston Churchill once wanted more than 100,000 "inferior" people forcibly sterilised or put in labour camps, reports Reuter.

Clive Ponting, who was prosecuted and acquitted in a 1985 secrets case over the Falklands war, made the allegation in today's edition of the Guardian newspaper.

He said secret government papers recently made public showed that Churchill, after being appointed Home Secretary (Interior Minister) in 1910, was worried that "moral degenerates" — a people of low intelligence were having more children than educated classes.

Churchill believed this would lead to the decline of the "British race," according to Ponting.

He pressed for the introduction of a scheme to incarcerate "mental defectives" and force other "feeble-minded" people to the sterilised, Ponting said. But he failed to persuade other officials to agree to the plan.

## Women are made bitches by men

LONDON: Ernest Hemingway, the American writer who liked to be regarded as a tough guy, once told a friend not to worry about women but "just try and be kind" to them, reports AP.

Brief excerpts from letters that Hemingway wrote to Austrian writer Peter Viertel were published Friday in an auction sale catalog.

Hemingway said in one letter: "Never worry about women. Just try and be kind and good and think in their head and make them happy. If they are bitches you can always dump them. Most women aren't bitches except when they are made so by men."

"Man should do his work and love that the most; then his woman and his children, then his friends," Hemingway said. He wrote in the same letter: "You can beat all raps except death. And you can probably beat that if you write well enough."

## Bishops modify scripture to be fairer to women

SOUTH BEND: US Roman Catholic bishops are modifying Scripture readings to be more considerate and inclusive of women, reports AP.

They're also considering ways of raising donations based on churchgoers' ability to pay, replacing the current "head tax" of church members required of each diocese.

The three-day meeting of 250 bishops at the University of Notre Dame concludes late Saturday with a news conference after a closed session.

A ballot vote Friday, with results still to be completed, was expected to approve a new lectionary — the yearly cycle of Scripture readings for worship services. In it, numerous phrases are altered to be more inclusive of women.

## A royal jovial mood

LONDON: Britain's Prince Charles and his wife Diana were in a jovial mood on Friday in separate royal engagements as the state of their marriage finally faded from the front pages, reports Reuter.

The heir to the throne and the glamorous princess showed that a week of crisis coverage about alleged strains in their 11-year-marriage had not destroyed the royal sense of humour.

Prince Charles cracked jokes about his tendency to "talk rubbish" during a speech about waste disposal, while the princess had a fit of giggles after pinning medals on a war veteran the wrong way round.

A week before, Princess Diana had broken down in tears during a visit to a cancer hospital at the height of press speculation that she was trapped in a loveless marriage.

The princess shed tears of laughter on Friday at a Scottish hospital for ex-servicemen when she helped a patient pin on his war medals but got them the wrong way round.

## Sometimes he feels half communist

SANTIAGO: Tibet's spiritual leader, exiled by Chinese Communist in 1959, said on Friday that sometimes he feels half Communist, reports Reuter.

The Dalai Lama, exiled from his native Tibet in 1959 when he was 24, said: "Because of my relationship with the Chinese, I sometimes feel half Communist. But mine is Marxism with a face on it."

However, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, who said on Thursday that he would rather offer his blood to a mosquito than kill it, condemned the violence used by the Chinese during the Cultural Revolution when 4,000 monasteries were demolished and 591,000 monks were either executed, tortured or exiled.

Nevertheless, during a press conference in Santiago, the Dalai Lama said: "I learned Marxism from them, they are my neighbours and we have to live side by side."

## BRIEFLY

**Heat wave claims 6 in Sindh:** A blistering heat wave in Pakistan's arid southern Sindh province has left six people dead the state-run news agency said Saturday, AP reports from Larkana.

Temperatures soared to a sweltering 49 degrees Celsius (120 Fahrenheit) on Friday in the Sindh city of Larkana, about 340 kilometers (204 miles) north of the port city of Karachi.

For the past week, most of Pakistan has been enduring temperatures between 40 and 45 degrees Celsius (105 and 113 Fahrenheit).

Most of the country's 120 million people live well below poverty level, many in sun-baked mud dwellings. Only the wealthy can afford air-conditioning. For the poor, relief comes in giant chunks of ice they buy from the local market.

**Six skiers killed in Australia:** Six skiers on their way to a holiday in Australia's mountains were killed when their aircraft crashed into a hillside, police said Saturday, reports Reuter from Canberra.

The six-seater plane, carrying five men and a woman aged from 22 to 26, disappeared from radar screens at Canberra airport on Friday evening and wreckage was found early Saturday.

It was not immediately known what caused the aircraft to crash into a wooded hillside near the city of Goulburn, about 200 miles (320 km) southwest of Sydney and half way through its flight to the town of Cooma at the foot of the mountains.

**7 killed in US copter crash:** A US Navy helicopter crashed into a river Friday, apparently killing all seven aboard, authorities said, reports AP from Virginia Beach.

The Sikorsky H-53 crashed during a training flight, said Cmdr. Stephen Honda, a spokesman for the Navy's Atlantic fleet air force. "The wreckage is all over the place," said Robert Hellant, a diver who searched for the victims in the Eastern Branch of the Lynnhaven River.

Steven Kennedy, another diver, said the helicopter went down in about nine feet (2.7 meters) of water. The wreckage site is about 250 yards offshore.

Five victims, their bodies in bags or covered in plastic, had been recovered within two hours of the crash.

**Peru to open dialogue:** Peruvian Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente Raygada told DAS secretary General Joao Clemente Beana Soares on Friday that his government plans to open a national dialogue later this month, reports AP from Washington.

The Peruvian plan for the re-establishment of democratic institutional order in the South American country were disclosed during a meeting at the Organization of American States in which Foreign Minister De la Puente said the dialogue would be with the representatives of the political parties beginning on June 30. A more general dialogue would be launched on June 25, with all representative organizations in the country invited to participate.

**US breaks embargo:** The United States broke a five-week self-imposed embargo on comments about the Middle East on Friday to complain about a public meeting between the PLO and Palestinians involved in Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, reports Reuter from Washington.

For approximately five weeks we've purposely avoided commenting on many issues related to the Middle East, including some that are very important," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters.

"While I intend to stick to our position of not getting into a discussion of such issues, I will make one brief comment," he said.

"We've repeatedly stated that the PLO is not part of the peace process that we have helped construct, and we're thus troubled by the meeting and we have conveyed our concerns to the Palestinians."

**Fresh riot in Nigeria:** Security forces quickly intervened to stop a fresh outbreak of fighting between Christians and Muslims in the country's north, police said Friday. At least three people were killed, reports AP from Nigeria.

Fighting last month between the two groups left nearly 300 people dead in Kaduna state in the predominantly Muslim north.

The latest violence also occurred in Kaduna state in the town of Rigasa, sending hundreds of people fleeing as residents carrying bows and arrows and cutlasses went around the town assaulting people.

## US opposes Ghali's proposal for a UN military force

UNITED NATIONS, June 20: A proposal by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on Friday for a UN military force appears to have run into opposition from the United States, though Russia shows signs of supporting the idea, reports Reuter.

While governments have not commented officially on the proposal, a letter to Boutros-Ghali from the US State Department indicates considerable reservations about the permanent stand-by force that would be supplied by member states.

The UN chief's proposal was one of the highlights of a 52-page report on preventive diplomacy, peace-making and peace-keeping requested by world leaders at a British-or-

ganised Security Council summit meeting in January.

In the report Boutros-Ghali draws a distinction between peace-keeping forces, which the United Nations has deployed for decades, usually after a ceasefire and with the consent of pre-empt or halt a conflict.

The ready availability of armed forces could serve as a means of deterring aggression since all states would be aware that the Security Council "had at its disposal a means of response," Boutros-Ghali wrote.

"Such units from member states would be available on call and would consist of troops that have volunteered for such service. They would have to be more heavily armed than peace-keeping forces and

would need to undergo extensive preparatory training within their national forces," he said.

This is provided for under Article 43 of the UN Charter, but has never been involved because of cold war tensions. It would also involve the activation of the UN military staff committee, which has also remained virtually dormant since the United Nations was founded in 1945.

But Boutros-Ghali indicated that such a force could not cope with conflicts among major powers with advanced weaponry.

"Forces under Article 43 may perhaps never be sufficiently large or well enough equipped to deal with a threat from a major army equipped

with sophisticated weapons. They would be useful, however, in meeting any threat posed by a military force of a less order," he wrote.

Before the report was issued, John Bolton, the US Assistant Secretary of State for International Organisations, cautioned against organising military forces under Article 43.

"You are aware of our reservations concerning both activation of the military staff committee and UN secretariat involvement in negotiating agreements providing the Security Council military forces under Article 43 of the charter," he said in an unpublished letter.

In contrast, a letter from Russian Foreign Minister An-

drei Kozyrev said Moscow was considering proposals to create "rapid-response contingents which could be recruited on a contracting basis from within special forces of different countries."

"It could by itself become an important factor of discouraging potential aggressions and other breaching of peace," said Kozyrev.

At the January summit, President Francois Mitterrand had offered French troops immediately on a stand-by basis.

The European Community endorsed this idea but gave no details on the institutional form for such troops.

Other key points made by Boutros-Ghali include: States should consider pay-

ing for peace-keeping forces out of defence rather than foreign affairs budgets. Proposals are already circulating in the US government, which is consistently in arrears, of having the Pentagon rather than the State Department pay. He also suggested interest on unpaid peace-keeping dues and a UN endowment fund with a target of 1 billion US dollars.

States should supply to the United Nations intelligence on conflicts so he could attempt to settle disputes by diplomatic means before war breaks out. But he did not ask for a separate UN intelligence service.

States could consider accepting decisions and binding arbitration by the international court of justice without reservations by the year 2000.

