

Bid to disrupt 'Bloody Sunday' march in London: 300 arrested

LONDON, Jan 31: More than 300 extreme-right wing demonstrators were arrested in London Saturday as a traditional march was held to commemorate the deaths of 13 Catholic civilians in Northern Ireland on "Bloody Sunday", reports AFP.

According to police, the extremists were planning to disrupt the march.

January 30, 1992, was named "Bloody Sunday" after British troops opened fire on unarmed Catholic demonstrators in Londonderry, killing 13 people.

As more than 1,000 people gathered in Hyde Park in central London to begin the march, about 150 right-wing extremists gathered on the route and headed toward the park, police said.

According to police, they refused to move away and acted aggressively and were arrested for attempted breach of the peace.

After the march set off, more than 150 other right-wing extremists were also arrested and held for questioning.

There were scuffles between police and some of those arrested.

Permanent US sanctions on ISRO, Glavkosmos likely
Russia adamant to supply Cryogenic engine to India

WASHINGTON, Jan 31: The US may impose permanent sanctions on the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Russian Space Agency Glavkosmos since President Yeltsin has ruled out a change in its decision to supply cryogenic rocket engines to India, a state department official said yesterday, reports PTT.

The US officials told the New York Times that the US wants to make the two-year sanctions imposed last year against the ISRO and Glavkosmos permanent.

He said the sanctions on the companies involved in both countries would remain "unless the deal is cancelled" the official added that what Yeltsin said on his visit to India was "neither new nor unexpected."

Despite expert opinion, the Bush administration linked the

Cryogenic engines with missiles to knock out Russia as a space competitor and to prevent India from emerging as one.

US officials say that the Cryogenic engine will reveal secrets to India to develop intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The media, if anything, are even wilder than administration officials in seeing a link between Cryogenic engines and the alleged long-term Indian threat from the India space programme to the continental United States.

Yeltsin's strong support for India on the rocket deal, said the New York Times "signalled his opposition to the United States on the issue."

The Cryogenic engines are powered by supercold liquids known as cryogenic fuels which are difficult to master, rather than less efficient room temperature ones," the paper

said.

The Washington Post said Yeltsin's decision to stand by his agreement with India and his other statements in New Delhi as "An effort to appease critics in his own country who accused him of being too pro-American."

Meanwhile, an earlier report adds: President Boris Yeltsin, back from a three-day visit to India, stressed on Friday that Russia must balance both East and West in its foreign policy.

"Now our policy is equally balanced towards both the West and the East," ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted the Kremlin leader as saying.

"Russia is a Euro-Asian country — besides, more of its territory lies in Asia than in Europe. We cannot fail to take account of this factor."

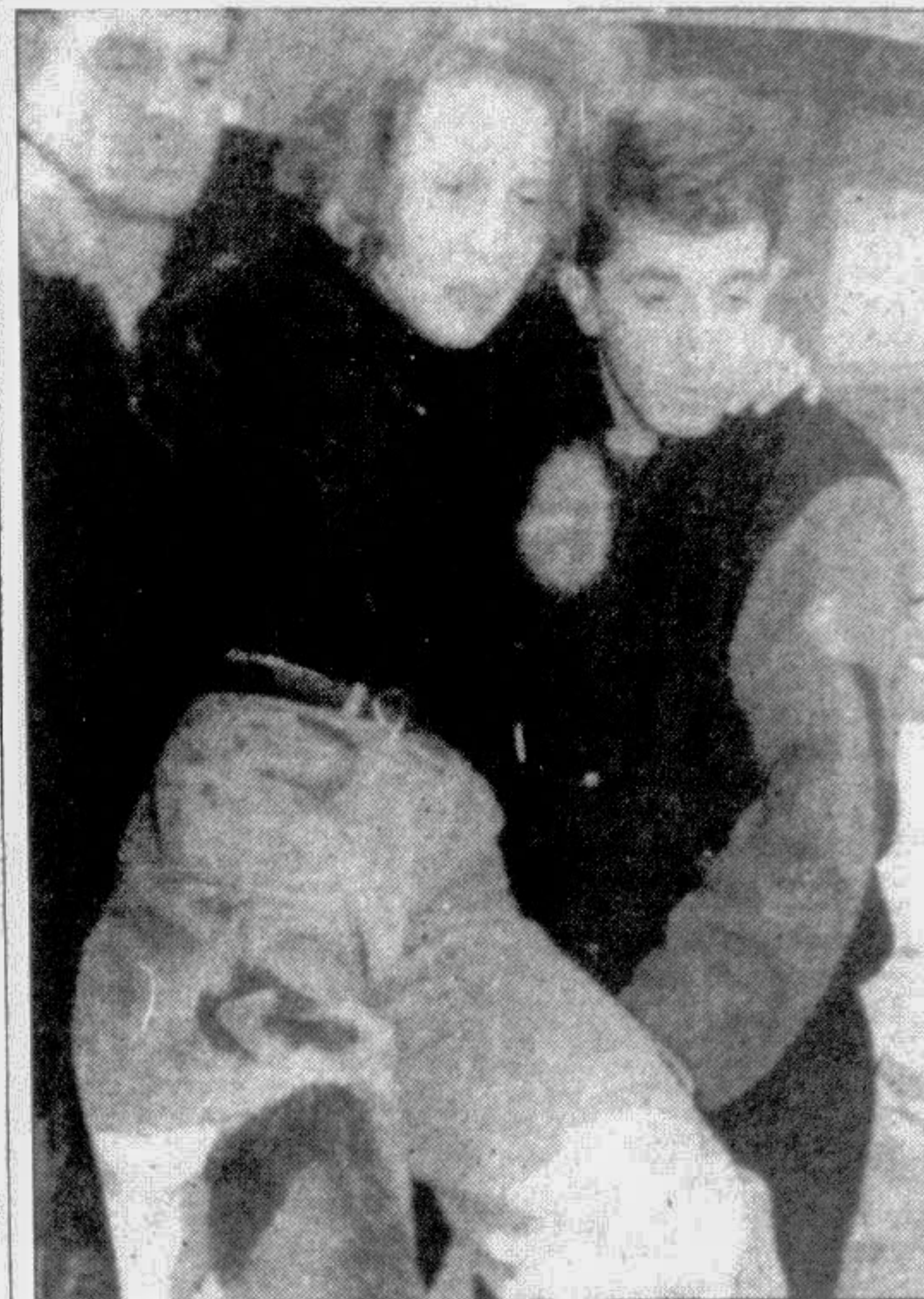
Yeltsin said he was "very highly satisfied" with his visit

to New Delhi, where the two countries resolved a long-running dispute over Indian debt to Moscow. He has visited China and South Korea in recent months.

He said Russia's foreign policy would serve the interests of international security, adding: "No single country can rule the world and influence all processes."

Yeltsin and Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev has taken some trouble in recent days to emphasise the independence of Russia's foreign policy and stress that Moscow is the partner, not the puppet, of the United States.

Before leaving for India, Yeltsin said there had been a tendency for Washington to "dictate conditions" on policy towards Iraq and former Yugoslavia, and he hoped for a more conciliatory line from new President Bill Clinton.



A Bosnian girl is carried away after shells hit the centre of Sarajevo on Saturday. — AFP/UNB photo

Cong (I) MLA kidnapped

VISAKHAPATNAM, Jan 31: The Congress-I MLA from Chintapalli, P Balaraju, the project officer of the ITDA Paderu, D Srinivas, and eight other ITDA officials were kidnapped by the people's war group Naxalites from a village in Koyyuru Mandal in Vizag district in Andhra Pradesh last evening, reports PTT.

Police said the Naxalites were demanding the release of three radicals — Kranti Ramudu, his wife and Ramana — now lodged in Warangal jail as a precondition to free the hostages.

Imelda barred from leaving country

MANILA, Jan 31: The Government Saturday suspended talks with Imelda Marcos on transferring 356 million dollar from Switzerland and barred her from leaving the country, reports AP.

President Fidel Ramos issued the order after Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon claimed Mrs Marcos authorized someone to secretly move money, jewelry and securities from Swiss banks.

16 die as Malaysian plane crashes

JAKARTA, Jan 31: A Malaysian plane carrying Singaporeans hired to salvage oil from a ruptured super-tanker crashed into a mountain in North Sumatra, killing all 16 aboard, officials said Sunday, reports AP.

Lt. Jaka Suprianta, a spokesman for the Search and Rescue Agency, said the aircraft was broken in pieces, and efforts were being made to evacuate the bodies from the site.

The plane, carrying 11 passengers and five crew members, was reported missing shortly after it took off in bad weather Saturday.

Suprianta said the plane crashed into Mount Kapur, about 110 kilometres (70 miles) from the North Sumatra capital of Medan and 1,500 kilometres (940 miles) northwest of Jakarta.

Officials said bad weather and rugged mountain conditions had delayed rescue teams, including soldiers, in reaching the site.

The Skyvan aircraft, belonging to Pan Malaysian Transport Pte Ltd, took off from Medan airport and crashed about 30 minutes later, they said.

The plane was on its way to Banda Aceh, the capital of Aceh province, with the five crew members and 11 passengers, comprised of 10 Singaporeans and one Indian.

The passengers included salvage workers who were to fly on to study the crippled super-tanker Maersk Navigator, adrift in waters off Sumatra, officials said.

The Maersk Navigator was transporting about 1.8 million barrels of oil to Japan when it collided January 21 with a smaller ship, the Sanko Honour, about 130 kilometres (80 miles) from the northern tip of Sumatra near the entrance to the strait of Malacca, which divides Sumatra and Malaysia.

It caught fire and leaked an estimated 25,000 tons of oil. The fire was extinguished after about five days and the leak was repaired last Friday.

Assassination attempt on Yeltsin: One held

MOSCOW, Jan 31: A Russian army officer was charged Saturday with trying to kill President Boris Yeltsin, Russian television announced, reports AP.

The unidentified Major from Khabarovsk, eastern Siberia, was reportedly arrested Wednesday in the attic of a government building in central Moscow when Yeltsin was on an official visit to India.

"I arrived in Moscow on January 1 to kill President Yeltsin," the officer was quoted as saying Saturday on questioning.

He was turned over to the Moscow military commandant's office.

Moscow military prosecutor Leonid Obyektov said the suspect had been charged with planning a murder, committing a terrorist act and being absent from his military unit for over a month. He said the case would soon be handed over to the Security Ministry for further investigation, Itar-Tass reported.



Boris Yeltsin

The Major said he made two bombs in Khabarovsk and asked for Yeltsin's address after he arrived in Moscow but missed the suspicion of a guard.

Itar-Tass said humidity deactivated the hand-made bombs when he slept in the streets.

Itar-Tass said the Major was

prevented by guards from entering the Moscow house in which he believed Yeltsin lived and that he fled.

He then decided to pretend to be a worker or snow-sweeper and kill Yeltsin with a knife as the President got out of his car inside the government complex, and hung around near government buildings on the old square in downtown Moscow. Early Wednesday he climbed some scaffolding and hid in the attic of one of the buildings where he was arrested by a guard without putting up any resistance.

The arrested man said he wanted to kill Yeltsin because, according to him, he had rigged the results of the June 1991 Presidential elections and his policies were aimed against the people.

The man said he saw his plan to kill the President as a "Service and civic duty" and "His contribution to the cause of struggle for socialism."

Angolan talks end without agreement

ADDIS ABABA, Jan 31: Peace talks here between the Angolan government and the UNITA opposition ended here Saturday without agreement, although the two sides said they would meet again on February 10, reports AFP.

In a statement read out at a press conference by UN representative Margaret Anstee, who chaired the talks, UNITA and the Luanda authorities vowed to continue the peace dialogue.

The meeting came as widespread, heavy fighting was continuing in several parts of Angola.

The two sides nevertheless said they were determined to "maintain and reinforce direct political dialogue which would lead one more to the respect of a ceasefire across the whole country, thus permitting the development of democratic institutions," the statement said.

General Eujemo Manuvakola, warned however that his side's agreement to meet for further talks did not mean the fighting in Angola would stop.

Off the Record

Madonna is too old to play

SYDNEY, Australia: Madonna is too old and unsuited to play the title role of a proposed film version of the acclaimed musical Evita, its composer Sir Andrew Lloyd Weber said Thursday, reports AP.

In an interview on Channel Nine television, Lloyd Weber said he does not know who would be cast but was adamant it will not be Madonna. "She made noises that she wants to do it, but I don't think she's right for it," he said.

"Perhaps 10 years ago when she was younger, but I think she's a bit too old for it now, because (the real life) Evita died when she was 33."

He said Madonna's recent Sex book had seriously hurt her image.

"I think it would make it difficult for us to cast her in something like Evita," the composer said.

What will probably hurt her every more is her new movie (Body of Evidence) which is just dreadful.

He had worked with Madonna in the past and "I actually quite like her." But he didn't think he could cope with working with her now.

"I've made a rule that I'm never, ever going to work on any project which I don't think I'm going to enjoy," he said.

Lloyd Weber is in Sydney to see Australian productions of two of his other works, Aspects of Love and Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.



BRIEFLY

Kuwaiti woman to die: A court sentenced a Kuwaiti woman to death Saturday for collaborating with the Iraqis during their seven-month occupation, the Kuwait News Agency said, reports AP from Kuwait.

Siham Ibrahim Hussein was convicted of aiding Iraqi forces and informing them on the whereabouts of hiding Kuwaiti military personnel, some of whom were arrested by Iraqis.

Hussein, believed to be in her 40s, has the right to appeal her sentence.

Only a few death sentences have been given since trials resumed last April in the State Security Court.

In an earlier round of trials shortly after Iraqi troops were driven from the emirate, Kuwait's crown prince commuted all 29 death sentences to life imprisonment.

5 kids burnt to death in Malaysia: Five children were burned to death when fire gutted their wooden hut in Kota Kinabalu, eastern Malaysia, police said today, reports AP.

Neighbours watched helplessly as the blaze swept through the hut in minutes killing the three girls and two boys aged from three to 13 years.

Police said the children were too scared to run from the house after being awakened by the blaze which broke out after midnight Saturday.

The father, Chung Tit Vun, 50 and mother, Lee Fong Yen, 42, were out at the time.

Police said there was nothing the neighbours or firemen, who arrived much later, could do.

Blast kills 16 in Bogota: A powerful car bomb exploded on a commercial district, killing at least 16 people and injuring 33, radio reported, says AP from Bogota.

Police said at least four children were killed when the 220 pound (100-kg) bomb went off in an area crowded with shoppers looking for school supplies. At least 100 buildings were damaged.

RCN radio quoted prosecutors in its report on the casualties. The report could not immediately be confirmed.

Bodies were strewn about in streets covered with debris and broken glass. A police officer told the Caracol radio network that passers-by took off their jackets to cover the dead.

5 more die in S African violence: At least five people died in political violence Saturday, police said, and hundreds of ANC supporters attended the funeral of a black activist shot by police, AP reports from Johannesburg.

Two men died Saturday when they were attacked in their homes in the township of Sharpeville, south of Johannesburg, police Lt. Eugene Henning said. One man died when a petrol bomb was hurled into his home, and an hour later the other died when assassins opened fire on his home, Henning said.

Earlier, battles between rival factions in the township of Shambayi in eastern Natal province left one man shot to death and another stabbed to death. Police Capt. Hamilton Ngidi said soldiers and police were sent into the area to keep order and had not determined what started the fighting.

In the township of Tokoza outside Johannesburg, about 1,000 people gathered to mourn African National Congress activist Lucky Mampuru, who was shot to death by police January 20. Mampuru, 20, was a member of the ANC's Youth League.

Israelis demand return of deportees

JERUSALEM, Jan 31: Hundreds of Israelis marched here Saturday to demand the return of some 400-Palestinians expelled last month to South Lebanon, says AFP.

The demonstrators, members of a committee formed to fight the expulsions, held up torch and sign bearing the name and photograph of those expelled.

The marchers were preceded by a coffin on which the word "Shalom," or peace in

Hebrew, was written to signify the group belief that the expulsions are burying the peace process between Arabs and Israelis.

Several deputies, including Taleb As-Saana of the Arab Democratic Party, members of Arab Municipal Councils and leftist Israeli politicians took part in the march.

Another report says: The door of the Palestine Liberation Organisation is open to Israelis, left-wing Israeli MP

Ya'el Dayan said here Saturday after a meeting with PLO Leader Yasser Arafat.

"I hope that senior Israeli officials will come to Tunis as I have done to understand, learn and listen," she told Israeli military radio from PLO headquarters in Tunis, "the door is open to them."

Dayan, a Labour MP who is the daughter of the late defence minister Moshe Dayan, visited the PLO leader after the Israeli Parliament's January 19

vote lifting ban on contacts with groups classified as "terrorist."

Reuter adds: Palestinian deportees hailed the killing of two Israeli soldiers by Muslim militants on Saturday and said their expulsion would only serve to increase resistance in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Muslim guerrillas shot dead two soldiers and wounded a third in an ambush on an Israeli patrol in Gaza Strip.



Palestinian deportees pray outside their camp in Marj Ez-Zouhour in Lebanon on Saturday. — AFP/UNB photo

Avalanches claim 40 in Georgia

MOSCOW, Jan 31: About 40 people have died in avalanches that crashed down onto a Georgian mountain pass on the border with Russia, an official for Russia's Disaster Services said on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Sergei Shoygu, head of the State Committee for Emergencies, told Moscow channel one television that 17 bodies had so far been recovered from vehicles trapped in the rocky pass.

Shoygu said rescuers were trying to reach a group of 44 people stranded about 25 km (15 miles) away.

Germans rally against neo-Nazism

BERLIN, Jan 31: Hundreds of thousands of Germans took to the streets on Saturday to protest against neo-Nazism on the 60th anniversary of Adolf Hitler's assumption of power, reports Reuter.

About 100,000 people lined the route in Berlin where Nazi storm troopers had held a three-hour torchlight parade through the Brandenburg gate in 1933 to celebrate their takeover.

The anti-racism protest ended with doused candles and the floodlighting being turned off on the gate to emphasise two words written on the ground in candles: "never again."

Police said 120,000 demonstrated in Dueseldorf and 10,000 in Rostock as well as thousands in the cities of Bonn, Bremen, Cologne, Erfurt, Hamburg and Munich.

German President Richard Von Weizsaecker attended the candle-lit protest in the eastern port of Rostock where racist youths last sege to a foreign asylum hostel last August.

Police took days to stamp out the violence and the pogrom-like rioting provoked copy cat attacks all over Germany which seriously tarnished the country's image abroad.

"Candle-lit protests aren't any substitution for political action but they point in the right direction," Weizsaecker told reporters after walking around the city centre.

Weizsaecker, an influential figure despite his largely ceremonial role, has criticised politicians for failing to tackle the huge problems facing reunited Germany.

The mood in Rostock has

improved," said Tha Ming, a 33-year-old Vietnamese who witnessed the violence last year.

"But I'm still afraid," he added.

Hitler came to power through democratic means by being appointed Germany's Chancellor after his Nazi movement became the biggest party in parliament in elections held in 1932.

Hitler won dictatorial powers one month later and crushed his opponents later in a blood-bath that led to the killing of 55 million people in the Holocaust and World War Two.

Warning of a resurgence in Nazism, thousands of leftists had gathered before the candle-lit protest at the former Berlin headquarters of Hitler's and Gestapo where the Nazis tortured opponents and

planned some of their worst crimes.

Many banners in the column circling the rubble-strewn complex warned that Germany was drifting towards Nazism again, "1933-1993" and "stop the pogroms."

Politicians stressed that Germany would never fall victim to the evil of Nazism again however serious its problems were.

"We Germans have learned from history that all democrats have to stand together to crush the first evil signs," said Peter Hinz, General Secretary of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrat (CDU) party.

"This (demonstration) shows everybody that the majority does not approve of neo-Nazis," said Kurt Beck, a 63-year-old architect who attended the Berlin rally.

He follows his mother

SEOUL: A South Korean high school student has leapt to his death from the same apartment from which his mother, a school teacher, killed herself in remorse after she beat an errant student, press reports said Sunday, according to AFP.

"I have made up my mind to follow my mother," Lee Tong Ju, 17, who had been depressed since the October 17 suicide of his mother, wrote in his diary before taking his own life Saturday.

His mother, Chong Yong-Ae, 46, jumped to her death from the seventh floor Seoul apartment to express remorse for hurting the wrist of a 13-year-old student she beat after catching him playing cards.

The boy's parents had strongly protested Chong's harsh punishment of their son. "I apologize to Lee's (the injured student's) parents with my life," she had written in her suicide note.

It will be used only as gift

SEOUL, South Korea: Compact discs of songs composed or sung by President Roh Tae-woo will be issued soon for use as gifts, presidential officials said Thursday, reports AP.

The discs will not be for sale, but will be distributed to commemorate the end of Roh's single five-year term on February 24, the officials added. Roh will be the first South Korean President to issue musical records.

Roh composed four of the 14 songs on the discs, including one for an army regiment he once commanded, the officials said. Roh, 61, retired from the army in 1980 as a full general.

Patty Kim and other top local singers will sing other songs composed by Roh, the officials said.

The officials did not say how many songs Roh himself will sing for the discs, but said one will be his favorite, "Lady," theme song for a popular television soap opera.



She is writing book about sexism in politics

YAKIMA: Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman elected to Congress, says she's writing a book about sexism and racism in politics, reports AP.

"I'm dedicating the book to the American people," Chisholm said Friday. "I want the American people to know the true story of how racism and sexism befuddles even the best of people."

A fiery idealist, Chisholm, 68, launched her political career in New York during the 1950s. She was elected to the US House of Representatives in 1968 and unsuccessfully sought the Democratic presidential nomination in 1972.

Chisholm said the book will be called the "illusion of inclusion." It will take a humorous yet straightforward look at 25 incidents between 1955 and 1985 when colleagues tried to stall her work with political hurdles, she said.

The book should be published in a couple of years, she said. Chisholm is the author of two other books.