HONG KONG, June 12:

Delegates from Asian govern-

ments, insisting they need rice

before rights, are set to tell the

West to mind its own affairs

when the world conference on

human rights opens Monday in

Asia-Pacific nations adopted a

position at a regional conference

two months ago that western

interference in human rights

"Changes to human rights

must emerge primarily from

within and not imposed from

the outside," Thailand's Prime

Minister Chuan Leekpai told the

profile targets of western re-

criminations, has for years de-

clared human rights and inter-

China, one of the most high-

But ever since Beijing sent

tanks and troops in June 1989

to brutally crush pro-democracy

activism, China has intermit-

tently released political dissi-

dents in well-timed goodwill

gestures to assuage critical

western governments, chiefly

Dissident Xu Wenli was re-

leased just weeks before US

President Bill Clinton an-

nounced a one-year renewal of

China's Most Favoured Nation

trade status, with a warning it

would be withdrawn next year if

Little has changed since 49

Vienna, reports AFP.

matters must stop.

conference.

nal matter.

Washington.

World confee on human rights begins tomorrow

### Palestinians, Israel fail to agree on interim solution

AMMAN, June 12: Israel and the Palestinians cannot even agree on an intermediary step toward peace for fear of where it will lead them, the head of the Palestinian negotiating team said Friday, reports AFP.

The Palestinians and Israelis, scheduled to start their 10th round of direct talks on Tuesday, have so far failed to agree on an interim solution and a declaration of principles charting their negotiations.

A five-year interim period of autonomy for the Palestinian state, which Israel opposes, Faisal Husseini said on Jordanian Television.

'The declaration of principles and the start of the interim autonomy period should be the basis for the creation of an independent Palestinian state," he said after arriving here.

The Israelis hope this period is established on a basis which cannot lead in the future to the creation of a Palestinian state. Husseini said, "here lies our disagreement."

The Middle East peace talks - also involving the Syrians, Lebanese and Jordanians which was launched in 199 calls for settling the Palestinian problem in two phases.

Husseini is due to leave for the United States on Saturday.

Beijing did not improve its hu-

man rights record. Today, Chinese delegates to human rights for a have the Beijing's official view that "the right to subsistence" is the most fundamental, and civil liberties are possible only after a nation's

Just over the border in Hong Kong, human rights remain a weighty concern ahead of the British colony's return of



United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali shakes hands with Austrian President Thomas Klestil as they pose for the press prior to their meeting in Vienna on Friday. Boutros Ghali in Austria to attend the upcoming international human rights conference, that is due to start on Monday. - AFP/UNB photo

In the wake of the 1989 crackdown, the British colony enacted a bill of rights in June 1991 to guard freedoms contained in the international covenant on civil and political

The Sino-British joint declaration, a pact signed by the two sides in 1984, sealing Hong Kong's return to China, and the basic law on its political future after 1997, both state that the international covenant with apply to Hong Kong after the han-

However, nearly a year before the Beijing crackdown, the **UN Human Rights Committee** pointed at Hong Kong's own practices, including random police seizure of individual identity cards, existence of the death penalty, and called shameful the treatment of tens of thousands of Vietnamese boat people crammed into barbed-wire encircled camps.

llong Kong has since abolished the death penalty and thousands of the Vietnamese, who failed to qualify as genuine refugées under UN rules, have been forcibly repatriated.

lan Deane, an Assistant Solicitor General in the Hong Kong government's Legal Department, will attend the conference as a member of Britain's delegation.

I will be there to assist if

Asians to insist on rice before rights any Hong Kong-specific issues arise," Deane said. However, he noted the conference aims to discuss UN policy on human

rights rather than focus on issues in particular countries. Hanoi, clearly eager to polish its human-rights image following the arrest of three leading monks in the Vietnamese city of Hue, has appointed Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai, one of the country's most articulate and personable diplomats, to head Vietnam's delegation to

Vietnamese Buddhist exiles are expected to use the conference as a stage for accusing communist Hanoi of religious repression.

The official press has published a series of articles in the past month defending Vietnam's human rights record and warning the West not to impose its standards on Asia's developing countries.

Shri Lanka, where a 1989 anti-government uprising met a bloody suppression, no longer has burning bodies piled by the side of the road and its government in Colombo no longer considers London-based Amnesty International a terrorist group.

Under pressure from donor and creditor nations, Shri Lanka now allows human rights watchdog groups free access.

### ROK cops foil student march toward border

SEOUL, June 12: South Korean riot police today foiled a plan by thousands of students to go to the border with Communist North Korea for a banned meeting with their Northern counterparts, reports Reuter.

Thousands of riot police in full combat gear ringed Scoul's Yonsei University as about 4,000 students started a march to the border for talks with North Korean students, wit-

nesses said. The students returned to the campus after riot police stopped them, no violent clashes were

reported. About 2,000 students later occupied a main road in northern Seoul to protest against the government ban.

Witnesses said about 300 students were rounded up as they refused to disperse, no injuries were reported.

Domestic Yonhap news agency quoted a North Korean Radio as saying 12 North Korean student delegates, accompanied by 200 observers were awaiting South Korean students at the border village of Panmunjom today.

Security has been increased on the road from Seoul to Imjin-Gak, the Northernmost point open to civilian traffic on the way to Panmunjom, the only crossing point on a border that has been tightly sealed since the 1950-53 Korean war.

# 

## Kinkel new FDP Chairman:

Germany's Free Democrats (FDP) cleeted Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel as Chairman on Friday, only two years after he joined the party, Reuter reports from Mucnster.

Kinkel, 56, was unopposed and won 545 out of 622 votes in the race to succeed retiring Chairman Otto Lambsdorff.

Delegates acknowledged the FDP had no choice but to pick Kinkel after his main rival Juergen Moellemann quit as Economics Minister last January over an influence-peddling scandal.

Shaposhnikov to be replaced: The Commander-in-Chief of the CIS armed forces, Marshal

Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, agreed Friday to move to the post of Secretary of President Boris Yeltsin's security council, a CIS military statement carried by Itar-Tass said, AFP reports from

The news agency said Shaposhnikov could be replaced at the head of the Confederation of Independent States military forces by Russian Deputy Defence Minister Boris Gromov, who is a veteran of the war in Afghanistan.

The security council, which advises Yelisin in matters of national security both at home and abroad, has been without a secretary since the dismissal of Yuri Skokov in May.

Skokov joined Vice-President Alexander Rutskot in refusing to back an attempt by Yeltsin in March to introduce direct presidential rule in Russia.

Mosque opens in Venezuela: The Muslim community in Caracas has celebrated opening of a new mosque which is the largest in Latin America built on an area of 5,000 square metres and has a minaret which is 113 meters high, IINA reports from Caracas.

The project included the first Islamic school in Venezuela which consists of classes from the elementary to the secondary states. The total cost of the scheme amounted to 8.5 million US dollars contributed by the Muslim community in Venezuela.

The establishment of an Islamic school within the mosque is a manifestation of the keenness of the Venezuelan Muslims to provide an Islamic education and upbringing for their children. At present there are 10,000 Muslims in Venezuela.

Israeli troops kill 2 in Lebanon: Israeli paratroopers shot dead two armed men in the southern Lebanon 'security zone' at dawn Friday, military sources said, reports AFP from Jerusalem.

A patrol sported the pair and opened fire in the central sector of the zone, Israel-held north of the international border.

A sapper with Israel's proxy militia force in the zone died Thursday night when a roadside bomb he was trying to defuse exploded near the Beit Yahun crossing point at the northern edge of the zone, the sources said.

Zambian students loot market: Thousands of pupils from two secondary schools in Zambezi in Zambia's north-western province looted a market in the town Friday, a report reaching Lusaka said Saturday, according to

Xinhua from Lusaka. The pupils looted the market after they held a demonstration against their teachers who have been on a nation-wide strike for two weeks demanding better salaries and improved working

33 die in Brazil bus-crash: A truck smashed into a bus in Sao Paulo state on Thursday, killing at least 33 people, Brazilian television reported, says Reuter from

Rio De Janeiro. Two ambulances racing to the scene of the accident also crashed, killing one driver.

The bus, carrying 45 passengers, was travelling in rain when a truck coming from the opposite direction lost control, colliding head-on with the bus. The surviving passengers were scriously injured and taken to hospitals.

#### Azerbaijan in deep political crisis widened powers on the lines of Panakh Guseinov to tender his decree by Elchibey last year.

BAKU, June 12: Former Communist Party Chief Geidar Aliyev is seeking to head a newstyle National Security Council and to oust a number of senior officials in return for becoming Azerbaijan's premier, sources, said Friday, reports AFP.

But the diplomatic sources, requesting anonymity, said President Abulfaz Elchibey had so far refused to concede to Aliyev in talks aimed at resolving a political crisis sparked by an armed revolt in the country's second city.

Elchibey offered the premiership to Alivey, a former rival, on Wednesday in the wake of a military revolt in Gyandzha in which nearly 70 people died, prompting Prime Minister

LONDON, June 12: British

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd

late Friday ruled himself out as

a possible challenger for the

Conservative Party leadership,

should Prime Minister John

Major fail to survive the current

crisis of confidence, reports

leadership election, told BBC

Television: "I had my one and

only go and I don't regret that

but I am not going to be in that

On Wednesday Major suf

fered a vicious attack by sacked

who depicted his former boss

and friend as irresolute and in-

ept, a pawn of polls and party

A poll last week also showed

Major to be the least popular

The Foreign Secretary at

tempted to deflect criticism of

the Premier by comparing the

problems in Britain with those

Germany and France, you see

the cold war. People are very

sceptical, not just of their

Governments, but of their whole

news for Major, a poll for

Saturday's Daily Mail showed

many voters would like to see

Trade and Industry Secretary

Michael Heseltine replace the

The ICM random telephone

beleaguered Prime Minister.

Separately, in yet more bad

"What's happening in Italy,

"It's the recession, the end of

in other European countries.

Prime Minister in 50 years.

managers who placed appear

ance before principle.

the same thing."

political system."

Chancellor Norman Lamont,

business again."

Hurd, a candidate in the last

resignation.

Aliyev rejected the offer, sparking charges for Elchibey's Popular Front that he was trying to revive a hardline communist regime in the country. where he was Communist Party first Secretary from 1969 to

Elchibey and Aliyev have been discussing ways out of the crisis for the last two days. The pair were formerly fierce foes: Elchibey spent some months in prison in 1975 during Aliyev's tenure as Communist Party

The diplomatic sources say Aliyev, 70, wants to set up a National Security Council with

Hurd won't challenge Major

for party leadership

poll of 1,028 adult on June 10

showed 66 per cent of all voters

believed Major had lost credibil-

ity as party leader, while only

29 per cent believed the reverse.

per cent believed the Prime

Minister could not remain a

credible leader while 45 per

cent thought he could. A similar

ratio - 49 per cent to 47 per

wanted a leadership elec-

Among Tory supporters, 48

the body created by Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze when he took over from ousted leader Zviad Gamsakhurdia in January 1992.

He also called for the removal of former Premier Gusseimov and the Speaker of the country's National Assembly, Issa Gambarov, who are accused of ordering the troop offensive that led to the Gyandzha killings.

Aliyev, currently parliamentary Speaker in the Azerbaijani autonomous republic of Nakhichevan, has in addition refused to recognize the legitimacy of the Melli Mejlis, the National Assembly set up by

ahead of her rivals, Chancellor

Kenneth Clarke on 20 per cent,

Hurd on 13 per cent, Home

Secretary Michael Howard on

four per cent and Health

Secretary Virginia Bottomley on

voters were: Heseltine - 20 per

cent, Clarke and Thatcher - 18

per cent, Hurd -15 per cent,

Bottomley and Howard - four

Egypt summit on

fundamentalist

terrorism' soon

CAIRO, June 12: The

Egyptian, Tunisian and Algerian

presidents are to hold a summit

here to discuss the fight against

Muslim fundamentalist "Terrori

sm," the official Egyptian News

Agency reported today, says

Egypt, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali

of Tunisia and Ali Kafi of Algeria

will hold their talks ahead of a

summit of the Organisation of

African Unity (OAU), which

Sudan of sponsoring fundamen-

talist unrest. Hundreds of peo-

ple have died in Egypt and

Algeria in the struggle between

the authorities and Muslim

in Egypt for talks with interior

minister Hassan al-Alfi on coor-

dinating efforts to crush the vio-

Algerian security officials are

All three accuse Iran and

opens here on June 28.

militants.

Makeshift shrine on Babri site symbol of turmoils in India

Presidents Hosni Mubarak of

Popularity ratings among all

three per cent.

per cent.

Elchibey has so far rejected the demands, the sources said, adding that the talks between the two men could last several

As well as his meetings with the presidency, Aliyev has also met with US Charge d' Affaires here Robert Finn and French Ambassador Jean Perrian and other figures in order to determine his popularity.

He has also met representatives with US oil company Amaco and British petroleum.

Under the proposals put forward by Aliyev, Elchibey would remain as head of state but with greatly reduced powers, analysts said.

### Thai govt defeats no-confidence motion

BANGKOK, June 12: The government of Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai today defeated a no-confidence motion in the parliament after a threeday debate, reports Reuter.

The government won 204 to 153 in the 360-seat elected House of the Representatives. The non-elected Senate did not join the vote nor the debate.

It was the first no-confidence motion faced by the Chuan Government since it took office last October.

The opposition, which holds only 153 seats in the lower house against 207 by the Government, needed at least 180 votes to topple the govern-

Five Ministers of the Chuan Government, singled out by the opposition, also won separate votes of confidence.

### Keating's advisor made envoy to Washington

SYDNEY, June 12: A senior adviser to Prime Minister Paul Keating has been appointed Australia's next Ambassador to Washington, reports AFP.

The Sydney Morning Herald reported that Don Russell, 44, Keating's main adviser since 1985, will take up the important post next month.

Russel would be replacing career diplomat Michael Cook, appointed to Washington more than four years ago. A spokesman for the

Department of Foreign Affairs was unable today to confirm the report.

## Off the Record

### He is in deep meditation

CALCUTTA: The followers of an Indian Guru who say he is in deep mediation, not dead, vowed Saturday to prevent attempts to cremate him, reports Reuter. Thakur Bala Brahmachari had been lying on slabs of ice in

an air- conditioned room from May 5 until Friday, when the ice was removed, and devotees expect he will rise again. The local authorities have twice issued orders that

Brahmachari be cremated and a local magistrate, who inspected the Guru's room on Thursday, said a medical board should be set up to examine whether he was alive or dead.

Chitta Sidkar, a senior official of an organisation of the Guru's devotees, said he did not believe the authorities would try to carry out their cremation orders. But if they did, any attempt would be resisted, he said.

"Our 1,500 volunteers who are guarding Baba will prevent the authorities from doing any such thing, Sidkar said by telephone from the Guru's Ashram 40 km (25 miles) north of Calcutta. That was why we are keeping so many volunteers here.

The devotees who are coming to see Baba are contributing generously for maintaining the volunteer force, he said. "Trying to take Baba out and cremate him will be like

forcibly burning your sleeping father." Brahmachari, his followers believe, 'is in samadhi', or deep mediation that gives the appearance of death in the absence

of a heart or breathing.

### Let women run TEHRAN: A female Islamic activist called Friday for women

to be allowed to run for president, arguing on election day that Iran's constitution did not reserve the office for men, reports AFP.

The constitution, without reference to women, says "only

prominent men politicians" can run. "That's subject to interpretation. I have talked to several members of the council of experts and they all agree with me on that," Zahra Shojai said on the day President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani sought re-election.

She was referring to an Islamic legal body which has the power to revise the constitution and appoint the spiritual leader of the republic.

Speaking on television, the Director of the Women's Cultural Centre in Tehran said she had also raised the issue with the Parliamentary Speaker, Ali Akbar Nategh Nuri.

The Council of Guardians, which overseas elections and legislation, would have the final say, according to Shojai. On Wednesday, Interior Minister Abdollah Nuri said women

were barred from running for president under the constitu-

### It is recoverable even after many months in comma

LONDON: People with severe brain damage can recover even after many months in a comma, a British doctor reported today, says Reuter. The findings could have implications in many countries

where people are debating how long brain-damaged patients should be left on artificial life-support systems.

In a report in the British medical journal, Keith Andrews of the Royal Hospital and home in London said, "He had studied the cases of 11 patients who had been labelled as being in a 'persistent vegetative state' for more than four months."

He found that eventually all but one of them recovered enough to communicate with doctors and nurses. "Even patients with profound brain damage should be of-

fered .... a specialist rehabilitation programme," Andrews wrote. But in an accompanying discussion, Raanan Gillon, a Professor of Medical Ethics at London's Imperial College, said. The recovered patients may not have a life worth liv-

## 7 killed in Australian. plane crash

conditions.

SYDNEY, June 12: "Seven people were killed when a light aircraft crashed into the side of a hill and exploded in bad weather", aviation authorities said today, reports AFP.

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said, "the twin-engined 10-seater piper Navajo operated by Monarch Airlines crashed an burned as it was making its final approach to Young Airport, 250 kilometers (155 miles) south west of here late Friday.

The two pilots and four of the five passengers were killed in the crash. A 13 year-old-girl who survived the initial accident died early today in the Royal Children's Hospital in

< district.

NEW DELHI, June 12: A make shift shrine built hastily six months ago on the rubble of the Ayodhya mosque has become a symbol of the problems gnawing at the Indian

government and troubling

As one looks back on these six

the population of the subcontinent, reports AFP. For many politicians and analysts, the December 6 sacking of the mosque by hordes of Hindu fanatics and the building of the shrine on the ruins is one of the most significant developments in India since its independence.

troubled months, one has to concede that December 6 has emerged as a distinct watershed in Indian politics. The period that opened up since that date is qualita-All the dead were from the tively different from the pe-

riod preceding it", one politi-

cal commentator said this independence in 1947. week in The Daly Pioneer. On that day it took only a few

hours for several hundred extremists to destroy the mosque built in the 16th century by the Emperor Babar. It was the climax of a campaign

led by the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP Indian People's Party), and other Hindu organisations who hold that the mosque was built by the Mughal invader on the ruins of temple to their god Ram, which legend has it, was born there. Most events that have taken

place in India since then have been directly or indirectly linked to the Ayodhya affair, which opened up the deep Hindu Muslim rifts which have festered since Muslims account for only about

The poll also showed that

most Tory voters would like to

see former Prime Minister

Margaret Thatcher back in

vote, Lady Thatcher was far

With 28 per cent of the Tory

charge of the party.

12 per cent of India's popu lation, the majority of which is Hindu, but there are 100 million of them in this country of 885 million. In the days following the sack-

ing of the mosque, then again in Bombay in January, clashes broke out between Hindus and Muslims which left more than 2,000 dead. On March 12, a rash of bomb explosions in Bombay which let 300 dead were taken as an act of revenge by the city's Muslim Mafia

The government has admitted that the troubles slowed its economic liberalisation drive and thinned the flow of for cign tourists, a vital source of foreign exchange Prime Minister PV Narasimha

ing to take action before December 6 to prevent the attack on the mosque, then again for failing to stop the militants from building a

Rao was reproached for fail-

shrine which has become a new pilgrimage centre and which none dares tear down. After the destruction of the mosque, Rao dissolved the

assemblies and governments of four states ruled by the BJP, including Uttar Pradesh, home to Ayodhya. and outlawed extremist Hindu organisations. Then he promised that both the

mosque and the Ram temple would be rebuilt his initiatives

boomeranged. New elections must take place in the four states, now under direct rule from Delhi, but the central government has postponed them for fear of losing face and a possible new BJP vic-The Supreme Court in Madhya

Pradesh ruled in April that the dismissal of that state government was illegal. Last week, a court lifted the ban on the RSS (Rashtriya Swyamscvak Sangh -- national forum of volunteers), the core grouping of hardline Hindus, and an allied group, ruling them unjustified and the promise to build a new temple and a new mosque have simply become new sources of controversy. The wavering and the failures

have resulted in a revolt against Rao in the past few months, launched by his own Human Resources Minister Arjun Singh, which while not successful has monopolised the attention of

the media, always quick to jump on government weak-Last week Chandraswami, an

influential Guru linked by the press to the international jet set and to a number of scandals, launched a ceremony to Exoreise Ayodhya of is violence. Boycotted by most Hindu holymen, the ceremony was a failure which further tarnished Rao, reputedly a Chandraswami discipline.

These political adventures merely serve to strengthen the sentiment that the ruling party at the center is still grouping in the dark for an effective strategy to halt alienation from every section of opinion", the Times of India said referring o the Chandraswami flop.

### UN spent \$ 3b on peacekeeping last year VIENNA, June 12: The

United Nations spent more than three billion dollars on peacekeeping operations in 1992, more than three times in any other year, UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said here Friday, reports AFP.

The UN Chief, who was ad-dressing an Austrian awards ceremony for human rights, also noted that the international body has started as many new operations in the past four years as in the previous 43 years. He also commented on the

difference between peacekeeping past and present. "Today's operations are not peacekeeping in the traditional sense whereby lightly armed UN forces were interposed between two states to maintain a ceasefire and their presence was with the agreement of all concerned.