

## Kashmiris defy curfew for 6th day

SRINAGAR (India), Aug 6: Angry Kashmiri Muslims defied a curfew for the sixth day today and a general strike called to protest the killing of a family by the Indian security forces crippled the strife-torn northern state, reports AFP.

Three people were slightly injured here this morning when Indian troops used batons to break up a demonstration by several hundred Kashmiri Muslims shouting "we want freedom" and anti-Indian slogans, witnesses said.

Paramilitary forces were out in increased numbers to enforce a curfew imposed on Sunday following the deaths of a 10-year-old Muslim boy and his parents at the hands of Indian border guards.

The curfew will be enforced with strength today," Police Chief Balwinder Singh Bedi told AFP. He said additional

troops had been brought in to ensure that people remained in their homes.

At least seven people have been killed and dozens injured here during the past five days as troops opened fire on stone-throwing crowds.

The Muslim-majority Kashmir valley was paralysed meanwhile following the strike called by the fundamentalist Jamiat-i-Islami (Muslim Brotherhood) separatist group, residents said.

Shops, markets and offices were closed and the roads were empty across the valley, where Muslim rebels have been waging a blood four-year-old campaign to break away from India.

Witnesses said police and troops stormed several mosques here Thursday night to arrest Muslims who had been using loudhailers to make calls for the "spilling of blood for blood."



TOKOZA: South African police load the body of a slain Tokoza resident on Thursday thus bringing the total to 150 victims since Friday in the area during clashes between hostel dwellers and residents. — AFP photo

## Mandela for black unity to end township violence

KATLEHONG, Aug 6: ANC leader Nelson Mandela lashed out at white politicians and police Thursday, and appealed for black unity to end township violence that has killed more than 130 blacks this week, reports AP.

In a speech that was unusually militant, Mandela accused most whites in the government and security forces of caring nothing for blacks.

"It's as if flies have died," he said of the white government's reaction to the deaths of blacks in township unrest.

The speech at Katlehong sports stadium appeared aimed at winning over young township blacks, who have accused the ANC of being too moderate in its negotiations with the government.

But Mandela also accused blacks, including his African National Congress followers, of

killing innocent people. He said Zulus associated with the rival Inkatha Freedom Party could not be blamed for all the township attacks.

"It is true many are taking part in this violence, but let me assure you, there are some who do not want to be associated with violence," he told about 10,000 supporters in this battle-worn township. "It's our task to give them a shoulder on which to lean."

Mandela was introduced to the crowd as "the president of South Africa" after taking a campaign-style stroll around the stadium track.

The ANC is the overwhelming favourite in the country's first multiracial election, planned for April 1994. With the present levels of turmoil, however, it would be impossible to hold free balloting in many black areas.

Mandela raised his complaints about the police Thursday night in a four-hour meeting with President F W de Klerk in Pretoria, the capital.

"It was made clear that the ANC is dissatisfied with the conduct and approach of the South African Police," said a statement by the ANC, which has repeatedly accused police of provoking violence.

The government Thursday responded to the violence by sending more than 1,000 extra soldiers and police into the townships.

Reuters adds: Gunfire echoed through the darkened streets of battle-ravaged Katlehong late on Thursday in the wake of inconclusive government talks with the African National Congress (ANC) about black township violence.

## Protest against Sarovar Dam on Narmada river

### Patkar, 350 others arrested

NEW DELHI, Aug 6: The leader of a movement protesting India's controversial dam projects was arrested Friday as she and 15 other people walked toward a river to drown themselves, reports AP.

Medha Patkar, 37, who has been praised by international environmental groups, recently said she would commit suicide that way and went underground, forcing police to search for her.

Her announcement also motivated hundreds of protesters to enter the area in western India where the Sardar Sarovar dam is being built on the Narmada River. Some of them have been flooded out of their homes in Manibeli village or evicted by authorities.

On Thursday, police from Maharashtra and Gujarat states

reportedly arrested 350 protesters near the river.

For years, Ms Patkar's Save the Narmada Movement has been trying to stop a project to build 30 large dams and 3,000 smaller ones on the 500 mile long Narmada River in west and central India.

Although the project would generate electricity and irrigate farms in many drought-prone areas, it also could dislodge 1 million people from 600 villages, submerge 850,000 acres of forest, and obliterate the cultures of displaced tribespeople.

In February, the World Bank, a big financier of the project, bowed to pressure from environmentalists and said it might cancel loans because the Indian government had not rehabilitated thousands of villagers who had been evicted

from their homes. It also said trees on hundreds of hectares (acres) of land had been cut down and that could lead to environmental problems.

In April, India said it would forgo the remaining World Bank loans and continue with the dam building project itself.

On Friday, police detained Ms Patkar in the village of Dabhot as she was walking toward Manibeli village to drown herself in the Narmada River, two news agencies reported.

Police had cordoned off most of the areas near Manibeli on Thursday to prevent jail samarpan, or suicides in water. Many Indian sages are known to have drowned themselves in rivers as a means of achieving final communion with God.

Ms Patkar and other anti-dam activists say the environ-

ment would be irreversibly damaged by the Sardar Sarovar dam and that up to 240,000 people will be displaced when it is completed.

In April 1992, the San Francisco-based Goldman Environmental Foundation awarded Ms Patkar a 60,000 dollar prize for her fight against the Narmada project, but the Bombay-based activist refused to accept the prize since it was given in her name.

Ms Patkar also has not collected the 274,000 dollar right Livelihood Award, a Swedish honour known as the alternative Nobel Prize. It was conferred on her organization in December 1991.

Three years ago, she went without food for 22 days to focus on the plight of the people.

## Mississippi floods may breach sandbag levees

ST. LOUIS, Aug 6: The flood waters began to take their toll on sandbag levees protecting this historic town as residents rode out yet another crest of the great flood of '93, reports Reuters.

The town — the oldest settlement west of the Mississippi — continued to battle the flood late on Thursday as trouble spots in the sandbag levees continued to develop.

"It's been a rollercoaster the past two days and nerves are starting to get frayed," resident Ed Bauman said.

"Even if we get past the crest, the water won't be going down for some time and those levees are getting tired too," he said. The river was forecast to crest during Thursday night at 49 feet (14.9 metres), one foot (30 cm) below the tops of the levees.

A steady downpour fell across the region on Thursday afternoon, heightening fears that the floods could breach levees along the river.



CHINA: A local resident watching yesterday as firefighters work to extinguish fires which were ignited by a series of explosions at a dangerous goods storage depot a day earlier. The massive chemical blasts left at least 70 dead, according to local hospital doctors. — AFP photo

## Widnall first woman US Secretary of Air Force

WASHINGTON, Aug 6: The Senate approved President Clinton's nomination of Sheila Widnall as secretary of the Air Force, making her the first woman to head a branch of the US armed services, reports AP.

The 55-year-old aeronautical engineer and associate provost at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was confirmed by voice vote Thursday.

Widnall is President Clinton's second service secretary, joining Navy Secretary John Dalton. The administration, which has been faulted for its slow pace in filling top civilian jobs at the Pentagon, still has not nominated an Army secretary.

Widnall, a graduate and former professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), has served on advisory committees to the Military Airlift Command and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Widnall easily dealt with a minor controversy at her con-

firmation hearing July 29.

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Widnall denied allegations that her husband's yacht club discriminates against Jews and other minorities.

Widnall said the Easter Yacht Club in Marblehead, Mass., where her husband, William, has been a full member since 1984, does not have a discriminatory policy.

Members of the Anti-Defamation League in the Boston area have complained that the club does not allow Jews as members.

Widnall said the allegations, coming shortly after her selection for the job she always wanted, were upsetting.

Widnall is familiar with firsts, being the first MIT alumna appointed to the faculty in the School of Engineering and the first woman to serve as chair of the entire MIT faculty. She held that post in 1979-1980.

## Filipino Muslim rebels kidnap 12 Christians

ZAMBOANGA (Philippines), Aug 6: Muslim rebels took 12 Christians in the latest kidnapping the guerrillas have launched in the southern Philippines to stop military operations against them, the police said Friday, reports AP.

Regional police chief Brig. Gen. Job Mayo said the kidnappings took place late Thursday in mountain town of Maluso on Basilan Island, south of this port city and about 895 kilometers (560 miles) south of Manila.

Mayo said one of the victims, all of whom were timber cutters, managed to escape hours after the abduction and reported the incident to the police early Friday.

The incident brought to 26 the number of Christians kidnapped by the Moro National Liberation Front since last week. Some of the victims have either escaped or have been released and only 19 have remained under rebel hands.

## 250 Egyptian extremists go on trial Monday

CAIRO, Aug 6: The first of 250 Islamic militants accused of conspiring to overthrow the government of President Hosni Mubarak will go on trial before a military court here on Monday, the semi-official daily Al-Akhar reported in its Friday edition, says AFP.

The trial will concern 53 of 250 arrested or charged since December and who for the first time include several Egyptian women and 18 Palestinians.

The accused are charged with unlawfully possessing weapons and forming an illegal organisation going under the name of "Tala Al Path" — vanguard of the conquest — with purpose of overthrowing the present regime.

## Off the Record

### Because husband raped her

MANASSAS: A man whose wife cut off his penis in what she said was retaliation for rape was charged Thursday with marital sexual assault, reports AP.

John Wayne Bobbitt, 26, appeared in court a day after his wife, Lorena, had a preliminary hearing on a malicious wounding charge. Both face up to 20 years in prison.

Bobbitt appeared to have no difficulty walking, standing or sitting during his arraignment. His penis was reattached in an operation that lasted more than nine hours. Doctors say his prognosis for full recovery is good.

Mrs. Bobbitt, 24, said her husband came home late from his job as a night club bouncer on June 23 and raped her. After he pushed her away and fell asleep, she said, she cut off his penis. Bobbitt, who refused to comment after appearing in court, pleaded innocent to the charge. He was freed on \$5,000 dollar personal recognizance bond.

His trial was set for September 27. Mrs. Bobbitt's case was set for review by a grand jury September 7.

Both Bobbitts have filed for divorce. The couple had longstanding marital problems and had lived apart for much of their four-year marriage.

### 'Dangerous' starts tour

BANGKOK: Michael Jackson fans will have a second shot at seeing the American pop singer in Bangkok, where he launches his "Dangerous" world tour this month, reports AP.

The concert promoter announced Friday Jackson would perform an extra show at the National Stadium on August 24, in addition to the originally scheduled August 25 concert. Some 40,000 tickets for the August 25 concert sold out in one day.

Cancellation of a Hong Kong tour allowed Jackson to do the second Bangkok show. Tickets range from 500 to 2,500 baht (dhs 20 to 100), expensive by Bangkok standards.

From Bangkok, Jackson goes on to Singapore.

### Homosexuals wed

OSLO: The first homosexual couple to marry under a new Norwegian law tied the knot this week and jumped the gun on a multiple wedding that was supposed to mark the new era, a newspaper reported Thursday, says AP.

A new law allowing gays to enter a partnership pact with all the rights of marriage expect adoption and church weddings went into effect on Sunday. The law made Norway the second country in the world to allow marriages between members of the same sex. Denmark legalized gay marriages in 1989.

The Oslo newspaper Verdens Gang revealed that two men from the south Norway town of Sken were married Tuesday by local judge Anne Grostad. The report did not give their names, and Grostad was not immediately available.

Grostad told the newspaper that the wedding "was nice, because it was clearly a big moment for them after many years of living together."

The Norwegian gay community had planned on two well-known homosexuals — Karen-Christine Friele and former member of Parliament Wenche Low Zow — being the first gays married. They were still expected to be the first of five couples to marry at a ceremony at Oslo's City Hall on Friday.

### Royal magazine

LONDON: Prince Charles plans to launch a monthly magazine on one of his most passionate interests — architecture — and will write regular articles for it, Buckingham Palace officials said Thursday, reports AP.

The magazine, which will appear next March, does not yet have a name.

It will be financed mainly by the Institute of Architecture in London, set up by the prince of Wales last October, and will work toward achieving what the Prince has described as "an architecture of the heart and soul," the publishers, Wordsearch publishing, said.

They said the magazine would help the public to develop a critical understanding of both historic and contemporary architecture.

It will also contain articles on the environment, interior and exterior decorating and gardening.

Prince Charles has been critical of certain aspects of modern architecture, and in 1984 likened a project for an extension to the national gallery in London to a bolt on the face of an old friend.

## Marcos body to be displayed in a glass coffin

MANILA, Aug 6: The body of deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos will be displayed in a glass coffin at a mausoleum in his hometown until Philippine authorities permit his final burial in Manila, an aide said here Friday.

The exiled former president's embalmed remains are scheduled to be flown to the northern province of Ilocos Norte from Honolulu on September 7, and placed in an air-conditioned mausoleum three days later in the town of Batac.

A close aide to his widow Imelda Marcos told AFP that "a completely sealed glass coffin specially manufactured for Marcos" had been delivered to his family home.

## Hiroshima Day observed with a call to eliminate all N-arms

TOKYO, Aug 6: Forty-eight years to the minute after hell rained down from the cool morning skies, Hiroshima, the first city ever to suffer an atomic bombing, fell silent Friday for a moment of prayer and remembrance, reports AP.

Trains came to a halt and 45,000 people gathered at ground zero, now Peace Memorial Park, bowed their heads for one minute in memory of those killed by the bombing at 8.15 am (2315 GMT) on August 6, 1945 that devastated the city and ushered in the age of nuclear weapons.

The 4-ton bomb that exploded over Hiroshima with the power of about 13 kilotons

of TNT was the first atomic weapon used in war. About 140,000 people were killed by the blast, the firestorm of radiation.

A second atomic attack on Nagasaki three days later killed 70,000 people. Japan surrendered unconditionally to the United States on August 15, ending World War II.

"Since the tragedy that befell Hiroshima and Nagasaki, nuclear weapons have not been used, nor have they been exploded accidentally," Hiroshima Mayor Takashi Hiraoka said in a speech after the silence and the tolling of bells.

"Yet there is no guarantee that such things will never hap-

pen in the future," he said from a podium flanked by yellow and white chrysanthemums in honor of the dead. Behind him stood the skeletal dome of a bomb-wrecked building that has been left unreconstructed as a chilling reminder of the destruction.

Hiraoka called on world leaders to eliminate all nuclear weapons by the year 2000. The issuing of strong-worded "peace declarations" has become an annual summer ritual in Hiroshima, a city of 1 million which has risen from the scorched earth of the bombing to once again stand as a bustling commercial centre.

The memorial ceremony is nor-

mally attended by the prime minister and other top government officials. But both Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, whose cabinet resigned Thursday, and Morihiro Hosokawa, expected to take up the prime ministership shortly, were absent.

Hiroshima municipal officials have been accused in the past of glossing over the events that led to the bombing and stressing only the suffering inflicted upon its citizens.

The Korean Resident's Union in Japan on Thursday also criticised the city for not paying enough attention to non-Japanese A-bomb victims. About 20,000 Koreans, most

brought to Japan as forced laborers, were killed in Hiroshima. A memorial to the Korean dead has been erected, but it is located outside of the peace park.

Hiraoka addressed those criticisms in his speech, and urged Japan's government to "improve the way we educated future generations"

about the history of the atomic bombing and the war. "We honestly acknowledge and sincerely regret that our nation in the past, during its colonial rule and in wartime activities, inflicted on people through the Asia-Pacific region severe hardships, the scars of which remain deep in their hearts," he said. After decades of denial, Japan's

central government does appear to be finally addressing more forthrightly its past military exploits.

Hosokawa, whose grand father was a prime minister during the war and who committed suicide before facing a war crimes tribunal, has said he hopes to make clearing the wartime slate a priority issue.

Earlier this week, the government admitted that Japan had forced thousands of Asian European and Japanese women into sexual servitude at front-line brothels during the war.

Until just last year, the government denied any involvement at all. It has still not, however, offered to compensate the women.

## Germany frees Lebanese terrorist

BERLIN, Aug 6: A kidnapper who figured in one of the most spectacular terrorism affairs to hit Germany in years was freed from prison Friday and was to be sent back to Lebanon, reports AP.

Abbas Hamadi left a maximum-security prison in the far western state of Saarland Friday morning in a police convoy state officials said in a statement. He was expected to be taken to Frankfurt airport for a flight to Beirut later in the day.

He was expected to be turned over to Lebanese officials.