

Rao's move politically perverse : Advani

Bill to separate religion from politics uncertain

Salah Jadid dead
AMMAN, Aug 22: Salah Jadid, once one of the most powerful men in Syria, died in Damascus last week after being held prisoner for 23 years by the government of his one-time rival President Hafez Al-Assad, his family said, reports AFP.

NEW DELHI, Aug 22: Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's attempt to clip the wings of Hindu revivalists by arranging a constitutional divorce between God and politics has run into trouble, reports AFP.

god Rama as the mascot of an aggressive Hindu revivalist crusade. Whether the government can muster the two-thirds majority...

Indian People's Party, opposed to it "lock, stock and barrel." Under the amendments candidates for legislative office will be disqualified from contesting polls...

Congress government in office," said Advani, 66, promoted by his party as a future prime minister. "We shall oppose the bills in parliament, and if it manages to scrape through, will oppose it among the people and in the court," he said.

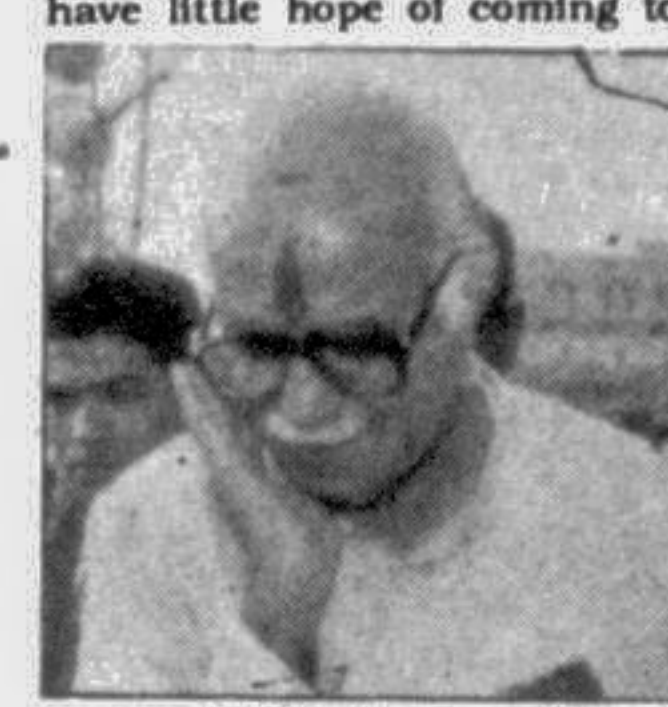
of elections due in November in the four heartland states where his Congress (I) party is seen to have little hope of coming to power. The premier said in a speech Friday the legislation is a "must" to check the volatile mix of religion and politics...

and the only option lies in amending the constitution," he said. The main opposition party BJP which speaks from an unabashedly Hindu plank in the overwhelmingly Hindu-majority nation, says the move amounts to a "crude attempt, bordering on the sinister, to take the soul out of the nation."

Call for early polls to solve Ukraine crisis
KIEV, Aug 22: The chairman of Ukraine's parliament opened celebrations of the second anniversary of independence with a call for early elections to resolve the country's power crisis, reports Reuter.



Narasimha Rao



L K Advani

BRIFFLY

Japanese student killed in US: A Japanese exchange student who was shot in the head and left to die in a San Francisco suburb earlier this week died in hospital on Saturday, police said, Reuter reports from San Francisco.

Masakazu Kuriyama, 25, died at the John Muir Medical Centre in Walnut Creek, near San Francisco, police spokesman Joe Kreins said.

A Filipino governor suspended: A governor has been suspended for 60 days on suspicion of having helped set fire to his provincial capital building to destroy incriminating records, AP reports from Manila.

Diseases take 20 in Sudanese camps: More than 20 people have died of meningitis and measles since an outbreak was reported at Sudanese refugee transit camps in northern Uganda, the official New Vision newspaper reported in Kampala on Saturday, AFP reports from Kampala.

Rains claim 12 in S Korea: Heavy downpours in South Korea have killed at least 12 people, most of whom were washed away by floods, a government official said yesterday, Reuter reports from Seoul.

Blast kills 3 in Philippines: A grenade exploded in front of the main fire station in the southern Philippines city of Zamboanga injuring 15 people, police said Sunday. Muslim extremists were blamed for the attack, AP reports from Philippines.

Carlos may not come back to power
CARACAS (Venezuela), Aug 22: Ninety days after Carlos Andres Perez was suspended from the presidency to face trial on embezzlement charges, the question remains: Can he come back? reports AP.

Ban on foreign satellite dishes in Malaysia
KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 22: The Cabinet has decided to continue to ban the use of satellite dishes to receive television programs in Malaysia, newspapers reported Sunday, says AP.



A Croatian woman (R) hugs her sister (L) after she was released from Serb-occupied Glina in the Croatian Krajina on Friday. Some 50 mostly elderly Croats were released from Majski Bazen near Glina after living two years under Serbian occupation.

French desire to resume N-test threatens lives of islanders

PARIS, Aug 22: The French government's desire to resume nuclear testing in the south Pacific threatens efforts by local islanders to rebuild their lives and reverse the effects of almost 30 years of nuclear experiments in the region, reports IPS.

Azeris recapture Cebayil

MOSCOW, Aug 22: Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry said on Saturday its forces had beaten back Armenian fighters and recaptured the town of Cebayil near the Iranian border, reports Reuter.

Christianity, Buddhism state religions of Kalmykia

RUSSIA, Aug 22: Europe's only Buddhist state is undergoing a religious revival, reports Reuter. Kalmykia, one of Russia's 20 self-governing republics on the steppe, the semi-desert grasslands of the south, made Buddhism and Orthodox Christianity joint state religions this year.

Santiago may run for Senate in '95

MANILA, Aug 22: Miriam Defensor Santiago, runner-up in last year's presidential election, says she may run for the Senate in 1995 if her protest against President Fidel Ramos' victory is not resolved by then, reports AP.

US-ROK talks on N-plan this week likely

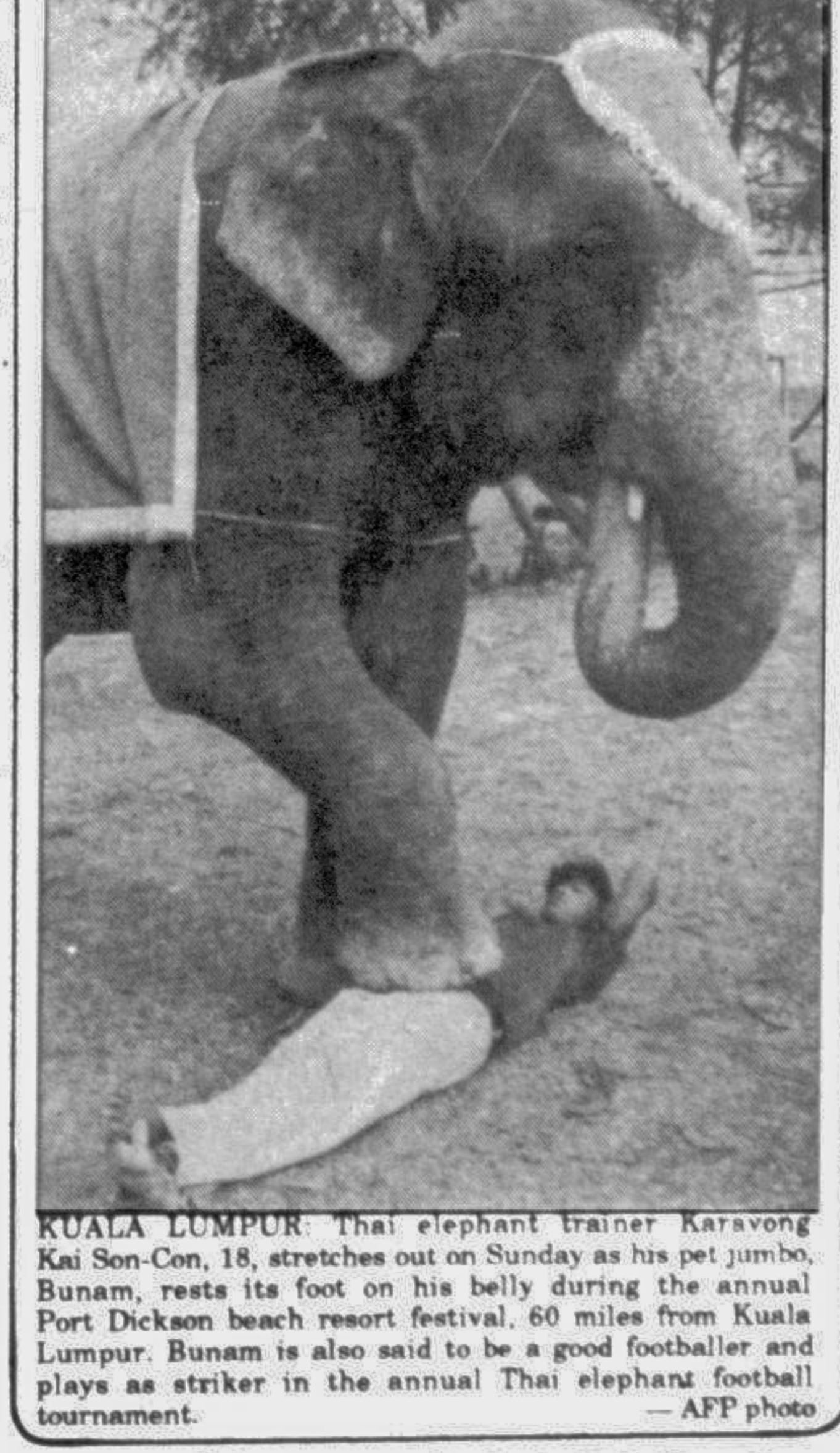
SEOUL, Aug 22: Chief US nuclear negotiator Robert Gallucci is expected to hold talks with South Korea in Seoul this week before his next round of negotiations with North Korea on its nuclear programme, newspaper said today, reports Reuter.

Off the Record

Star-crossed couple
NEW DELHI, Aug 22: A teenage Indian wife killed herself after her frustrated Indian husband feigned suicide following a six-month wait for an auspicious time to consummate their marriage, reports AP.

Indians with bared buttocks

OSLESBY: A post office mural showing Indians with bared buttocks was returned to public view after more than 1,000 people signed petitions saying they wanted it back, reports AP.



KUALA LUMPUR: Thai elephant trainer Katavong Kai Son-Con, 18, stretches out on Sunday as his pet jumbo, Bunam, rests its foot on his belly during the annual Port Dickson beach resort festival, 60 miles from Kuala Lumpur.

Ban on foreign satellite dishes in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 22: The Cabinet has decided to continue to ban the use of satellite dishes to receive television programs in Malaysia, newspapers reported Sunday, says AP.

Deng celebrates 89th birthday with tributes from military

BEIJING, Aug 22: China's reclusive leader Deng Xiaoping celebrated his 89th birthday today with tributes from the military while national newspapers also carried front-page pictures of the man chosen to succeed him, reports Reuter.

US intelligence analysts recently suggested to a major American newspaper that the "chief architect" of reform was "incoherent and stricken with cancer on his deathbed."

held the first known meeting through a direct descendant of Kuomintang generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek and a communist party leader since 1949.

Jiang met Winston Chang, president of Soochow University in Taiwan and a grandson of the generalissimo, on Saturday.

The future leadership is most likely to be decided by the fortunes of the economy, the fastest growing in the world, and by the success of vice premier Zhu Rongji in restoring it to more healthy growth.

booming private, collective and foreign investment sectors and the inefficient and heavily indebted state sector.

South Korean officials were not available for comment.



Deng Xiaoping