

# Naga rebels kill six police in Manipur

**GUWAHATI (India), Oct 12:** Naga separatists in India's northeastern Manipur state killed six policemen in two separate attacks on Monday, police said, reports Reuter. Manipur police official Sam Lengjun said guerrillas of the outlawed National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) ambushed a police convoy on the Tamenglong road, 90 kms (55 miles) from the state capital of Imphal, killing two policemen. "The commandant was severely beaten up and the policemen were forced to give up their arms to the guerrillas," Lengjun contacted on the phone in Imphal, told Reuters.

In the second attack, Lengjun said, 30 NSCN guerrillas fought a 40-minute battle with policemen after attacking their base camp in Litan, 200 kms (120 miles) from Imphal.

He said four policemen were killed in the attack and the survivors fled the camp.

Monday's attacks followed an Indian decision to send more troops into the troubled border state, neighbouring Myanmar.

A running feud between the NSCN and Kuki tribes, heirs of India's most vicious head-hunting tribes, has killed more than 300 people in the region this year.

AFP adds: Naga rebels torched 61 homes of a rival tribe today in an ongoing tribal war in India's far east, in which 600 people have died this year, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Naga rebels belonging to the outlawed National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) attacked Manipur's Zouyangtek village early Tuesday set a blaze the homes of Kuki tribes people and after killing its chief.

Some 600 tribes people have died in the tribal violence this year, and hundreds of Kukis and Naga homes torched.

# UNSC threatens fresh sanctions Army-backed Haitians block US troops from landing

**UNITED NATIONS, Oct 12:** The UN Security Council on Monday threatened to reimpose sanctions against Haiti if armed groups continue threatening American soldiers waiting to land, reports Reuter.

The Council, in a statement, said Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali should report urgently on whether the incidents in Haiti earlier on Monday violated a July accord providing for the restoration of democracy in Haiti.

Meanwhile AP reports from Port-Au-Prince: Army-backed troops blocked American troops from landing and chased away diplomats waiting to meet them, but UN and US officials insisted it would cause only minor delays in a UN peace mission.

Port officials blocked the US Harlan County from landing Monday by putting another vessel in its berth. A band of 25 to 50 men, some of them armed, then beat up merchants in a nearby market and took over state Radio Nationale. No casualties were reported.

On Monday night, about 200 Haitians maintained a peaceful anti-UN vigil along seaside Harry S. Truman Boulevard protected by soldiers.

In Washington, the Clinton administration demanded that the Haitian military explain why the troops were not allowed to land.

The UN Security Council on Monday evening adopted a US statement that said it was

"imperative" that Haiti's armed forces ensure the safe landing of the troops. The statement also warned that sanctions could be imposed if the Haitian military did not comply.

Monday's landing was to begin in earnest the peace mission to restore democracy and rebuild the economy. About 100 other UN personnel—including 25 US troops—are already in the country to do advance work.

After the disturbances, the White House delayed the landing of the nearly 200 American military medics, engineers and civil affairs specialists abroad the Harlan County, an amphibious landing ship anchored 800 yards (Meters) offshore. There was no word on when the troops might land.

After port officials blocked the Harlan County from docking, guards at the dock refused to let Vicki Huddleston, deputy chief of mission at the US Embassy, enter the gate. Police stood by or blocked traffic while a group of shouting Haitians filed off a bus.

"We don't want foreigners coming here and trying to tell us what to do," one man screamed. Another shouted: "We're going to do to them what they did in Somalia."

UN envoy Dante Caputo said the port harassment was only a temporary setback to plans to bring in a 6,600-member UN force of police trainers, medics and other support personnel by month's end.

# Lankan police fire on NA rally: 2 killed

**COLOMBO, Oct 12:** Sri Lanka police fired on a political rally on Tuesday killing two people, in the southern town of Galle after an opposition member was sworn in as regional council chief Minister, witnesses said, reports Reuter.

"There has been a shooting incident but I cannot give you details. There is an investigation going on," a police officer said by telephone from Galle, 120 km (75 miles) from Colombo.

Witnesses said new Chief Minister Amarasinghe Dodangoda of the opposition People's Alliance (PA) had been addressing a crowd of about 20,000 people in the town when stones were thrown at him.

When Dodangoda's supporters retaliated, police used tear gas and then fired their weapons, killing two people, witnesses said.

Earlier Dodangoda was sworn in as Chief Minister of the southern provincial council.

The appeal court on Friday threw out the appointments of United National Party (UNP) members as Chief Ministers to the northwestern and the southern provincial councils, where the UNP won a plurality of votes in May elections, but where the combined opposition PA had more seats.

In the May elections, the five-party opposition PA led by the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) and the Democratic United National Front (DUNF) won a slender majority in these two councils.

Despite that, two UNP members were made Chief Ministers. The opposition PA challenged those appointments, and the court overturned them.

On Saturday G M Premachandra of the opposition Democratic United National Front (DUNF) was sworn in as Chief Minister of the northwestern province.

# BRIEFLY

**US woman gets life term:** A Thai criminal court has sentenced an American woman to life in prison after she was found guilty of trafficking in heroin, a court official said today, Reuter reports from Bangkok.

Janet Leigh Deiter, 29, of Maryland, was sentenced to death on Monday, but the court later followed the usual Thai procedure and commuted her penalty to life imprisonment, the official said.

Deiter was arrested at Bangkok's international airport in February after officials found 7.1 kg of heroin in her luggage as she was about to board a flight to Zurich, Switzerland.

**Road mishap claims 3 in Gaza:** Three people were killed and 42 injured Monday when a bus carrying Palestinian workers collided head-on with an Israeli truck just north of the Gaza Strip, reports said, AP reports from Jerusalem.

The early morning accident blocked the main road linking the occupied strip to Israel for several hours, Israel Radio said. Two died on the spot and one died later of his wounds.

Adina Kanari, a spokeswoman at Barzilai Hospital in Israeli coastal town of Ashkelon, said six of the wounded were in grave condition. All but two, one believed to be the driver of the truck, were identified as Palestinians.

**One dies in Tokyo tremor:** A woman died and two people were injured when a strong earthquake beneath the Pacific Ocean measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale shook Tokyo early Tuesday news reports said, Reuter reports from Tokyo.

The woman, a 64-year-old Tokyo resident with a serious heart condition, collapsed when she tried to leave her house following the quake, NHK television reported. She died in hospital.

**Rao may not attend CHOGM:** Indian Prime Minister, PV Narasimha Rao, is unlikely to attend the Commonwealth summit to be held in Cyprus from October 21 to 25, official sources said Monday, PTI reports from New Delhi.

A formal announcement is expected in a day or two. Rao-will be busy campaigning for his party in the assembly poll to go held in five states and Delhi next month.

Indications are that the Finance Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, will represent India at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

**Police defuses bomb in Thailand:** Police defused a home-made bomb found under rail road tracks in a part of southern Thailand where Muslim separatists have been blamed for several recent attacks, the Bangkok Post reported Tuesday, Reuter says from Bangkok.

Police stopped trains approaching the track between Khok Pho and Na Pra Doo stations in southern Pattani province and defused the bomb, the newspaper reported.

# UK opposes Chinese plan on HK polls

**BEIJING, Oct 12:** Britain's negotiator rejected today a Chinese proposal aimed at breaking the deadlock in talks over political reform in Hong Kong, but said there was "still a great possibility" of reaching agreement, reports AFP.

Foreign Minister Qin Qichen said Monday that China viewed as acceptable a proposal put forward by the Hong Kong Liberal Party to handle elections in 1994 and 1995 separately.

The 13th round of Sino-British talks on arrangements for the elections ended here Tuesday and the British negotiator and ambassador to

China, Robin McLaren, said "I can't say that I'm satisfied with the progress that we've made."

McLaren held out the hope that an agreement could still be reached.

"There are some difficulties you can only manage to solve late in the day," he said. "If we didn't believe there was still a great possibility of reaching agreement, we wouldn't be engaging in these talks."

But responding to Qin's statement, McLaren said the idea of dealing with the two elections individually was unworkable.



Dr Phillip Sharp (R) this year co-winner of the Nobel Prize for Medicine makes a champagne toast with Bob Birgeneau (L), Dean of Science, at a press conference Monday at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he is a professor of biology at the Centre for Cancer Research. — AFP photo

# Sarajevo comes under attack

**SARAJEVO, Oct 12:** The Bosnian capital Sarajevo and towns across central Bosnia came under attack on Monday night and early today, local media reported, reports Reuter.

Sporadic shelling, sniper and machine-gun fire could be heard in the centre of Sarajevo early today.

Muslim-controlled Sarajevo radio said the areas around Maglaj, Tesanj and Dobos were shelled on Monday. The first two, in north-central Bosnia, have been under a combined Croat-Serb siege for three months and the United Nations has been trying to get relief aid through to them.

It said Bosnian Croat forces

shelled Zenica, near the central town of Vitez, killing three people and wounding 15.

Croatian radio also reported three killed in Vitez, but it blamed the fighting on a Muslim offensive. It reported heavy fighting around Novi Fravnik, especially in the village of Zubici.

AP Adds: Serbs failed to give the promised go-ahead for the United Nations to send badly needed aid into two Bosnian Muslim towns and new fighting broke out in central Bosnia.

Serbs in their stronghold of Banja Luka in northwest Bosnia-Herzegovina promised on Sunday to allow 250 tons of food and medicine to reach Maglaj and Tesanj, which aid

workers say are jammed with as many as 150,000 Muslim refugees.

But the convoy, which would be the first aid shipment into the towns since June 1, remained in Banja Luka all day Monday.

"It's clear the Bosnian Serbs have been dragging their feet," said spokesman Peter Kessler for the UN High Commissioner for refugees in Zagreb, the Croatian capital.

Kessler said the convoy had been inspected by the Serbs and he was awaiting approval for the 45-mile (72 km) trip.

In a statement, the Bosnian Serb army accused UNHCR official Larry Hollingsworth of

"Repeatedly planning and sending convoys without any permission or agreement with the Serb authorities."

The statement was faxed to The Associated Press in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, by the Serbs' SRNA news agency.

Maglaj and Tesanj are in a pocket of government-held territory in central Bosnia that has been cut off for months. The last aid convoy to the area, on June 1, was shelled and two Danish aid workers were killed.

Since then, relief officials have warned that the area has become a potential humanitarian disaster, although some aid has been airdropped by Western cargo planes.

# Clinton asks ROK to send more troops to Somalia

**SEOUL, Oct 12:** President Clinton has written to South Korean President Kim Young-sam asking for reinforcement of the 251 Korean peacekeeping troops in Somalia, reports AP.

Government officials said Tuesday that the request was made in a letter Kim received from Clinton on Saturday. The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, declined to disclose details, but the national news agency Yonhap reported that Clinton had asked for "comprehensive" reinforcements of the army engineers stationed in the embattled African country. The US request puts South Korea in a dilemma because of public opposition.

# In search of heaven?

**HANOI, Oct 12:** Fifty-three hill tribe villagers in a remote Vietnamese hamlet committed mass suicide with flintlocks and other primitive weapons in a case of exploitation by a blind local leader, officials disclosed on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

In the incident, 10 days ago, dozens of people were shot or hacked to death in the shared belief they would go to heaven.

Nineteen children were among the 53 black Thai villagers who died in the hamlet of Ta He in Son La province, about 300 km (200 miles) northwest of Hanoi, early on October 20. The mass suicide was inspired by a local man named Ca Van Liem, who had proclaimed himself "King."

"They all thought they were going to heaven," an official of

the people's committee in Son La town, the provincial headquarters, told Reuters by telephone.

He said the villagers — highly superstitious spirit worshippers, like many hill tribe people in the mountains of northern Vietnam and neighbouring Laos — were victims of a scam.

"They were fanatics in religion and wanted to find the way to paradise," the official said.

"In fact, Liem tricked them to make a living."

So he told the villagers of Ta He — a hamlet of 71 people 24 km (15 miles) from the nearest town, Thuan Chau — he could get them to heaven if they paid him money.

# 5 more Islamists sentenced to death in Algeria

**ALGIERS, Oct 12:** An Algiers court has sentenced five more Islamists to death for fundamentalist violence for which 13 were executed this week, newspapers said today, reports Reuter.

Algerian dailies said the sentence, after a trial of 48 men, was pronounced hours before the 13 were executed on Monday. Two of the five were condemned in their absence, the government newspaper El Moudjahid said.

The charges against them included murder, attempted killing, and undermining state security.

Courts have now passed at least 287 death penalties.

# Off the Record

## A few sips not bad before surgery

**WASHINGTON:** Doctors are now saying it's OK for people facing surgery to have a few sips of water — or even a little black coffee before they go to the hospital, reports AP.

Medicinal authorities say solid food particles or stomach acids that back up from the stomach and enter the lungs while a patient is under anesthesia can produce serious, sometimes life-threatening, consequences.

But liquids like water, apple juice and black coffee consumed up until two hours before surgery make little difference, said Dr Robert Stoelting of the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis.

"Many patients are addicted to caffeine. Not having that cup of coffee in the morning will make them extremely nervous before surgery when there is absolutely no risk (if they drink it)," said Dr. Paul White, professor of anesthesiology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

Doctors previously were taught to send patients home without surgery if they had so much as swallowed water while brushing their teeth. Evidence now shows that clear liquids actually help remove other foods from the system, said White.

"It's a message we haven't gotten out very well," said White. The food ban still stands, said Stoelting.

## Touched in a very sensitive way

**ALEXANDRIA:** An FBI agent said Monday she is turning in her badge because she was placed on unpaid leave for telling Congress the bureau ignored her sexual harassment complaint, reports AP.

"This is a very sad day," Suzanne J. Doucette told a news conference. Doucette, 39, said she considers herself as discharged because her status on unpaid leave prevents her from seeking another job.

FBI spokesman Pete Ginieres said "the bureau has taken a position that we will have no comment on that at this time."

"We don't have a comment because it's an ongoing action," he said.

In her committee testimony, Doucette said that in late 1988 an FBI superior, whom she did not identify at the time, placed a choke-hold around her neck and touched her "in ways" that are very sensitive.

Doucette said she suffered harassment and retaliation on the job for complaining to FBI authorities.

Her complaint is the latest in a series of embarrassing episodes involving FBI personnel policies dating back six years. In recent years, the FBI has settled job discrimination complaints by black and Hispanic agents.

Doucette, who has worked on bank robberies, drug cases and kidnappings in her nine years as an FBI agent, said the bureau retaliated against her for complaining publicly about sexual harassment.

"The day I went to talk to the Senate, they opened a criminal investigation of me," she said. Bureau agents told her they were investigating her for "allegations of passing a classified document to an attorney," she said.

## He slips away like an eel

**NEW DELHI:** Like a slippery eel, a man who has burgled hundreds of homes, stolen luxury automobiles and talked his way out of all sorts of trouble, jumped a wall in handcuffs and escaped from police escorts, newspapers reported Tuesday, says AP.

Devender's escape on Saturday night was not surprising. By his own admission, he has committed 300 burglaries sometimes even tiptoeing through bedrooms while people sleep.

On rare occasions, when the robber was stopped on the street by police, he charmed them with fluent English and gentlemanly manners.

His criminal record was unparalleled in the capital's history. Since his arrest September 2, police have flown him around India to identify other homes he had stripped of 5 million rupees (dhs 165,000) worth of dinnerware, jewelry, TV sets, stereos and cars.

On Saturday, as two guards escorting him back from the airport were getting out of a taxi at police station, Devender yanked a chain attached to his handcuffs, shoved the men aside, and fled, several of New Delhi's top newspapers reported.

A building security guard grappled with Devender, who uses only one name, but the super burglar escaped, scaling a wall.

# Mandela rejects idea of referendum

**LONDON, Oct 12:** African National Congress President Nelson Mandela on Tuesday rejected the idea of a referendum to resolve disputes that are hindering talks about a South African constitution, reports AP.

Right-wing white groups and leaders of some black homelands set up under apartheid object to the constitutional talks leading up to South Africa's first multiracial election in April.

Mandela urged them to work within the framework of negotiations between the ANC and the South African government.

"The referendum is no option, because it is quite clear they would never accept this referendum," Mandela said after meeting British business leaders.

Mandela told a news conference he had discussed the matter by telephone Monday night with South African President F W de Klerk.

De Klerk said earlier in the

day the constitutional talks could fail, and a referendum could "establish what people from each region feel about a constitution."

During the phone call, de Klerk "explained that at no time did he make a specific proposal that a referendum should be held," Mandela said. "All he did was explain this is a matter that must be addressed in one way or another and one way might be to have a referendum."

Mandela said he asked de Klerk whether the extremist white and black groups, calling themselves the Freedom Alliance, had agreed to abide by the results of a referendum.

"I got no such assurances from Mr de Klerk," Mandela said.

Mandela said the Freedom Alliance should not be allowed to slow down the transition from white-led rule.

"They do not consider democracy to be in their interests," Mandela told reporters.

# Singapore launches mass campaign on healthy lifestyle

**SINGAPORE, Oct 12:** Singapore is worried because people spend too much time eating and making money and not enough time staying fit. It is launching a campaign urging them to trim the flab through aerobic workouts, reports Reuter.

The government's paternalistic attitude has moved it to launch similar mass campaigns in the past, asking residents to show more courtesy, speak Mandarin, stop spitting and smoking, and cease littering beaches and public places.

Now it is concerned Singaporeans, among the richest people in Asia, are becoming workaholics at the expense of their health — and when they do relax tend to pass the time gorging at buffets or at the island-state's famous food stalls.

The airwaves are inundated with advance plugs for "the great Singapore workout," a campaign that officially starts

on October 3, with the telecast of a 15-minute workout for Singaporeans to practice at homes and work.

Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, a keen tennis player and golfer, will kick it off by leading more than 15,000 people in the exercise routine on the Padang esplanade. They will include cabinet ministers, parliament members, television stars and leading sports figures.

Similar workouts in schools, community centres, clubs and stadiums will continue for the rest of the month.

The workout reflects the government's concern that most Singaporeans are too busy to take part in daily physical exercises," said Ho Ai Phang, Director of Public Affairs at the Ministry of Health.

A 1992 national health survey found only 14 per cent of Singaporeans exercised regularly, she said.

Singapore, which frowns upon state welfare and free health care, is anxious for people to stay healthy in order to help control spending on health care, which rose 12 per cent in the last 10 years.

Last year Goh launched a 10-year healthy lifestyle campaign. It counsels Singaporeans on physical exercise and nutrition through exhibits, talks and television shows.

The government wants to focus on preventive and development services, Goh said.

For the elderly, this means keeping them mentally and physically alert so fewer become frail and sick, he said.

"Through the great Singapore workout" and other similar mass physical activities like cycling and jogging, the ministry wants to ensure at least 40 per cent of Singaporeans exercise regularly by the year 2000," Ho said.

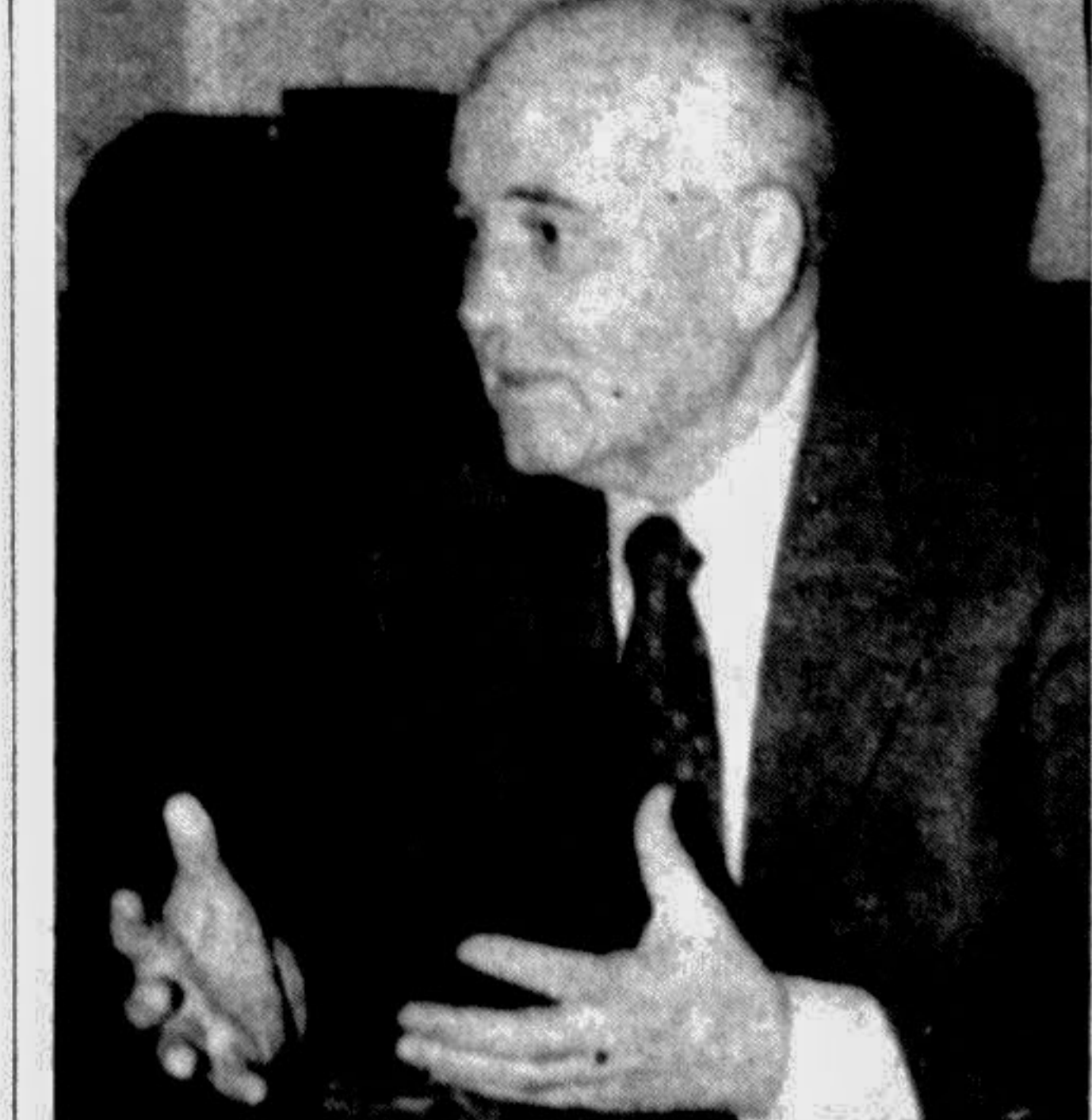
The rhythmic workout, backed by music, will supplement a current anti-obesity drive for school children and military recruits. Singapore has compulsory national service for all Singaporean men above 18.

Between 1980 and 1990, obesity in schools jumped 250 per cent, an education ministry survey showed.

About 15 per cent of school students are obese. The government's campaign, begun last year, hopes to reduce the obesity level to nine per cent by 2000.

Students at more than 300 local schools are encouraged to eat only low-calorie food and drinks from school canteens, jog and do aerobics conducted by "trim and fit" clubs in schools.

Army recruits and reservists found to be losing the battle of the bulge are put through grueling shape-up programmes.



Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev answers a reporter's questions during an exclusive interview for the "Washington Post" in his office at the Gorbachev-Foundation in Moscow on Monday. — AFP photo