

# BRIEFLY

**Blast kills two in China:** A massive explosion at China's Xichang launch facility killing at least two people, injured more than 20 and destroyed 75 million dollars advanced weather satellite. Newsweek Magazine reported Sunday, says Reuter from New York.

It quoted western diplomats as saying the April 9 blast, which was probably caused by a lead in the on-board fuel system of the Fengyun 2 satellite, also leveled a key test lab at the launch facility 1,250 miles (2,000 km) southwest of Beijing.

**Iran to send observers to S Africa:** Iran will send four diplomats as election monitors to South Africa this week upon an invitation by the United Nations, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday. Xinhua reports from Tehran.

Mahmoud Mohammadi said that the elections in South Africa, scheduled for April 26-28, would be held under the supervision of regional non-governmental organisations and a number of other countries.

An independent election commission has been formed in South Africa and international and regional organisations, including the UN Organisation of African Unity and Amnesty International, would monitor the process of the elections, he said.

### Algerian troops kill 4 militants:

Algerian security forces said on Sunday they killed four Islamic militants during a two-day sweep of Muslim fundamentalist strongholds, the official Algerian APS news agency reported. Reuter says from Tunis.

APS received in Tunis, said soldiers also arrested 61 people suspected of belonging to or supporting armed Islamic groups.

Algerian radio said a large cement factory, which was badly damaged by two bombs on Friday, will be out of commission for three months. It said 10 Islamic militants were involved in the attack on the plant at Meftah, 20 km (12 miles) southeast of Algiers.

### Drug seized in Mexico, 20 held:

Police arrested 20 suspected drug smugglers and seized marijuana valued at 15 million dollars in operations carried out in nine different states over the weekend, the Mexican Attorney General's office said. Reuter reports from Mexico City.

### IRA gunmen kill 2 Protestants:

IRA gunmen killed two Protestants as they chatted through the windows of their parked cars in a quiet northern Ireland town late on Sunday, Reuter reports from Londonderry, N Ireland.

Police said up to 30 shots were fired by the attackers whose own car was found later a short distance from Garvagh, a market town 25 miles (40 km) from Londonderry, Northern Ireland's second city.

## Coup bid in Burundi

BUJUMBURA, Apr 25: Burundi authorities foiled a coup attempt by a small group of army soldiers Sunday and arrested six or seven of the plotters, diplomats and military officials said here today, reports AFP.

In Brussels, the Belgian radio RTBF earlier also reported that the Burundi army had regained control the situation in the former Belgian colony overnight and that the plotters, identified as a small group of mainly Tutsi paratroopers, had been arrested.

The officials here said four officers said two or three men were arrested and four other soldiers had managed to escape. The officers were said to be from the higher Institute of military cadres and to be undergoing interrogation.

## Thailand to send back 1000 Cambodians

TAPHRAYA (Thailand), Apr 25: Nearly 1,000 Cambodians who fled into Thailand as Khmer Rouge guerrillas attacked Cambodian forces will be repatriated now that their village is considered safe, authorities said today, reports Reuter.

The 996 refugees at this border town, half of them children, have been living in blue plastic tents and eating rice and canned fish provided by the United Nations since fleeing Boeung Trakuan last Thursday.

They will be repatriated tomorrow morning, Cambodian and Thai officials said.

"We will send all of them back tomorrow because their commanders at Boeung Trakuan say the village is safe now."

### 100 Palestinians get Israeli ID cards in WB

TEL AVIV, Apr 25: Israel has started to grant nationality to 100 Palestinian collaborators and their families ahead of the launch of self-rule in Gaza and Jerico, military officials said today, reports AFP.

About 20 collaborators and their relatives in Fahlman village in the north of the occupied West Bank received Israeli identity cards last week.

Eighty families of collaborators have sought refuge in the village.

Two of the collaborators, interviewed on Israeli television Sunday with their faces concealed, said they would move to Israel proper for fear of PLO reprisals.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, 800 collaborators and their families live in Dehiniyah, a village set up in 1974.

The PLO has rejected Israeli demands for a general amnesty for collaborators.

However, the armed wing of PLO's mainstream Fatah faction, the Hawks, signed a deal Friday with Ezzedin al-Kassam, armed wing of Hamas.

Khmer Rouge soldiers appeared in his home with guns and forced his family out, warning them not to take any of their belongings or they would be killed, he said.

He said he visited his village, which is just over the Thai border, on Sunday and found it burned to the ground.

He said he believed the attack was aimed at frightening the populace, not killing them.

"If they wanted to kill people, all of us, including me, would be dead now," he said.

The Khmer Rouge, responsible for the deaths of one million people during its 1975-78

reign, rejected the UN-supervised peace process that led to May elections, and have kept up attacks on the new coalition government.

The refugees were the first to return to this stretch of the border since the United Nations last year completed a repatriation programme for the hundreds of thousands of Cambodians who had poured into Thailand over years of strife and warfare.

The upper house of Russia's new parliament agreed Monday to sign the political truce, but the lower house was deeply divided over the pro-

posal.

Yeltsin plans to sign the so-called Civic Accord in the ornate St. George's Hall of the Kremlin on Thursday even if

## International

Congressmen for immediate action against Serbs

# US takes wait-and-see attitude toward air strikes

WASHINGTON, Apr 25: The Clinton administration took a wait-and-see attitude toward air strikes as Bosnian Serbs grudgingly began to withdraw from Gorazde, but members of the US Congress urged immediate action to punish the Serbs, reports AP.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher said the Serbs are "trying to comply" with an elapsed deadline for them to pull back from the besieged enclave and it was "prudent ... to give them an opportunity to complete the withdrawal."

Christopher was in London on Monday for talks on Bosnia with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. He also was to meet French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé and in Geneva on Tuesday with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

Christopher said on television Sunday he was encouraged by reports that the Serbs appeared to be withdrawing from a two-mile radius around Gorazde as ordered, although mortar attacks and small arms fire continued. He said that if the fighting there can be ended, "I think there's a chance for a negotiated peace."

Christopher warned, however, that the NATO ultimatum remains in effect and "there will be action taken if there are violations."

The United Nations rejected an initial NATO request for authorization to bomb the Serbs around Gorazde, saying such bombing would endanger UN troops trying to move between the Serbs and Muslims.

Christopher said more than 600 UN forces would be in Gorazde by the end of Sunday.

However, critics said the

failure to strike quickly after the Serbs failed to fully comply with the Saturday night deadline was another sign of weakness on the part of the UN and the United States.

"The facts are the facts and it isn't a rosy scenario. Everybody is standing by waiting for some miracle to kick in," Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole said in an interview.

Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan said NATO air strikes should be carried to Serbia, main supporter of the Bosnian Serb land grab in Bosnia. "I would not have a bridge left on the Danube," Moynihan said, adding that he also would shut down Serbian airports but not bomb Belgrade, the Serbian capital.

Moynihan, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, joined Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn, who last week said Serbia should become a target in an expanded NATO air operation.

Dole also indicated that Serbia should not go unpunished. "The Serbs have to understand what pain is all about. They like to inflict it but they don't like to receive it," he said, adding that any attacks should be directed at the Belgrade government and not the Serbian people.

The administration says it has not ruled out attacks on Serbia, but that the focus now should be forcing the Bosnian Serbs to end their aggression and return to the peace table.

Moynihan and Dole also urged the administration to unilaterally end the UN-imposed arms embargo on Bosnia so the Muslims can better defend themselves.



Nine year-old Mediha Djaranovic, who was injured in the head by a Bosnian Serb gunner, is being carried on a stretcher at Sarajevo's Olympic stadium after her evacuation by UN helicopter from the besieged town of Gorazde April 24.

—AFP photo

### Ex-CM of NWFP to fight against his ouster

ISLAMABAD, Apr 25: Former chief minister of Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP) Sabir Shah has vowed to fight a legal battle against his ouster, reports Xinhua.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday in Peshawar, capital of NWFP, Sabir Shah of the opposition Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz Group) claimed that his government was ousted through "illegal and unconstitutional" means by the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party.

In an assembly session summoned by NWFP Governor Aftab Shehryar, the PPP provincial leader, defeated a resolution of vote of confidence on Sabir Shah by 42 votes in a house of 83, and he was later sworn in as new chief minister.

Sabir Shah and other members of PML (Nawaz Group) along with its coalition Awami National Party (ANP) boycotted Sunday's session, summoned by the governor asking Sabir Shah to seek a vote of confidence.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday in Peshawar, capital of NWFP, Sabir Shah of the opposition Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz Group) claimed that his government was ousted through "illegal and unconstitutional" means by the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party.

In an assembly session summoned by NWFP Governor Aftab Shehryar, the PPP provincial leader, defeated a resolution of vote of confidence on Sabir Shah by 42 votes in a house of 83, and he was later sworn in as new chief minister.

Sabir Shah and other members of PML (Nawaz Group) along with its coalition Awami National Party (ANP) boycotted Sunday's session, summoned by the governor asking Sabir Shah to seek a vote of confidence.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday in Peshawar, capital of NWFP, Sabir Shah of the opposition Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz Group) claimed that his government was ousted through "illegal and unconstitutional" means by the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party.

In an assembly session summoned by NWFP Governor Aftab Shehryar, the PPP provincial leader, defeated a resolution of vote of confidence on Sabir Shah by 42 votes in a house of 83, and he was later sworn in as new chief minister.

Sabir Shah and other members of PML (Nawaz Group) along with its coalition Awami National Party (ANP) boycotted Sunday's session, summoned by the governor asking Sabir Shah to seek a vote of confidence.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday in Peshawar, capital of NWFP, Sabir Shah of the opposition Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz Group) claimed that his government was ousted through "illegal and unconstitutional" means by the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party.

In an assembly session summoned by NWFP Governor Aftab Shehryar, the PPP provincial leader, defeated a resolution of vote of confidence on Sabir Shah by 42 votes in a house of 83, and he was later sworn in as new chief minister.

Sabir Shah and other members of PML (Nawaz Group) along with its coalition Awami National Party (ANP) boycotted Sunday's session, summoned by the governor asking Sabir Shah to seek a vote of confidence.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday in Peshawar, capital of NWFP, Sabir Shah of the opposition Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz Group) claimed that his government was ousted through "illegal and unconstitutional" means by the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party.

In an assembly session summoned by NWFP Governor Aftab Shehryar, the PPP provincial leader, defeated a resolution of vote of confidence on Sabir Shah by 42 votes in a house of 83, and he was later sworn in as new chief minister.

Sabir Shah and other members of PML (Nawaz Group) along with its coalition Awami National Party (ANP) boycotted Sunday's session, summoned by the governor asking Sabir Shah to seek a vote of confidence.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday in Peshawar, capital of NWFP, Sabir Shah of the opposition Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz Group) claimed that his government was ousted through "illegal and unconstitutional" means by the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party.

In an assembly session summoned by NWFP Governor Aftab Shehryar, the PPP provincial leader, defeated a resolution of vote of confidence on Sabir Shah by 42 votes in a house of 83, and he was later sworn in as new chief minister.

Sabir Shah and other members of PML (Nawaz Group) along with its coalition Awami National Party (ANP) boycotted Sunday's session, summoned by the governor asking Sabir Shah to seek a vote of confidence.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday in Peshawar, capital of NWFP, Sabir Shah of the opposition Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz Group) claimed that his government was ousted through "illegal and unconstitutional" means by the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party.

In an assembly session summoned by NWFP Governor Aftab Shehryar, the PPP provincial leader, defeated a resolution of vote of confidence on Sabir Shah by 42 votes in a house of 83, and he was later sworn in as new chief minister.

Sabir Shah and other members of PML (Nawaz Group) along with its coalition Awami National Party (ANP) boycotted Sunday's session, summoned by the governor asking Sabir Shah to seek a vote of confidence.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday in Peshawar, capital of NWFP, Sabir Shah of the opposition Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz Group) claimed that his government was ousted through "illegal and unconstitutional" means by the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party.

In an assembly session summoned by NWFP Governor Aftab Shehryar, the PPP provincial leader, defeated a resolution of vote of confidence on Sabir Shah by 42 votes in a house of 83, and he was later sworn in as new chief minister.

Sabir Shah and other members of PML (Nawaz Group) along with its coalition Awami National Party (ANP) boycotted Sunday's session, summoned by the governor asking Sabir Shah to seek a vote of confidence.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday in Peshawar, capital of NWFP, Sabir Shah of the opposition Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz Group) claimed that his government was ousted through "illegal and unconstitutional" means by the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party.

In an assembly session summoned by NWFP Governor Aftab Shehryar, the PPP provincial leader, defeated a resolution of vote of confidence on Sabir Shah by 42 votes in a house of 83, and he was later sworn in as new chief minister.

Sabir Shah and other members of PML (Nawaz Group) along with its coalition Awami National Party (ANP) boycotted Sunday's session, summoned by the governor asking Sabir Shah to seek a vote of confidence.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday in Peshawar, capital of NWFP, Sabir Shah of the opposition Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz Group) claimed that his government was ousted through "illegal and unconstitutional" means by the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party.

In an assembly session summoned by NWFP Governor Aftab Shehryar, the PPP provincial leader, defeated a resolution of vote of confidence on Sabir Shah by 42 votes in a house of 83, and he was later sworn in as new chief minister.

Sabir Shah and other members of PML (Nawaz Group) along with its coalition Awami National Party (ANP) boycotted Sunday's session, summoned by the governor asking Sabir Shah to seek a vote of confidence.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday in Peshawar, capital of NWFP, Sabir Shah of the opposition Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz Group) claimed that his government was ousted through "illegal and unconstitutional" means by the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party.

In an assembly session summoned by NWFP Governor Aftab Shehryar, the PPP provincial leader, defeated a resolution of vote of confidence on Sabir Shah by 42 votes in a house of 83, and he was later sworn in as new chief minister.

Sabir Shah and other members of PML (Nawaz Group) along with its coalition Awami National Party (ANP) boycotted Sunday's session, summoned by the governor asking Sabir Shah to seek a vote of confidence.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday in Peshawar, capital of NWFP, Sabir Shah of the opposition Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz Group) claimed that his government was ousted through "illegal and unconstitutional" means by the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party.

In an assembly session summoned by NWFP Governor Aftab Shehryar, the PPP provincial leader, defeated a resolution of vote of confidence on Sabir Shah by 42 votes in a house of 83, and he was later sworn in as new chief minister.

Sabir Shah and other members of PML (Nawaz Group) along with its coalition Awami National Party (ANP) boycotted Sunday's session, summoned by the governor asking Sabir Shah to seek a vote of confidence.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday in Peshawar, capital of NWFP, Sabir Shah of the opposition Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz Group) claimed that his government was ousted through "illegal and unconstitutional" means by the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party.

In an assembly session summoned by NWFP Governor Aftab Shehryar, the PPP provincial leader, defeated a resolution of vote of confidence on Sabir Shah by 42 votes in a house of 83, and he was later sworn in as new chief minister.

Sabir Shah and other members of PML (Nawaz Group) along with its coalition Awami National Party (ANP) boycotted Sunday's session, summoned by the governor asking Sabir Shah to seek a vote of confidence.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday in Peshawar, capital of NWFP, Sabir Shah of the opposition Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz Group) claimed that his government was ousted through "illegal and unconstitutional" means by the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party.

In an assembly session summoned by NWFP Governor Aftab Shehryar,