

**BRIEFLY**

**Rao goes to Moscow June 14:** Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao will visit Moscow June 14-15. The Interfax news agency said Tuesday. AFP reports from Moscow.

It quoted Russian diplomatic sources as saying Rao would meet with President Boris Yeltsin for talks on trade and military cooperation.

Yeltsin made an official visit to India in January 1993.

**China denounces BBC report:** China on Wednesday denounced as "sheer fabrication" British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reports on prison labour, the second time in six months it has responded furiously to a BBC programme. AP reports from Beijing.

China was incensed in December when BBC television aired a documentary that portrayed revolutionary leader Mao Tse-tung as paranoid and fond of young girls.

**German tourist slain in US:** They were German tourists taking in one of California's prettiest features. Then they encountered one of its ugliest. Now she is dead and he was fighting for his life Tuesday. AP reports from Idyllwild, California.

Detectives searched for clues to identify whoever killed the woman, wounded her husband and apparently took their wallets at a panoramic turnout on a highway winding through towering pines in the San Jacinto Mountains.

The 64-year-old woman died despite desperate efforts by her 62-year-old husband to save her. After surgery on shoulder and mouth wounds, he was in extremely critical condition and on life support at Desert Hospital.

**500 Lankans stranded in Yemen:** Over 500 Sri Lankans stranded in war-torn Yemen are expected to arrive in Bombay at the end of this week, Foreign Ministry sources said yesterday. Xinhua reports from Colombo.

A survey conducted by the Foreign Ministry following the war between North and South Yemeni forces revealed that there are over 500 Lankan national stranded in Sanaa, the capital of Yemen.

The Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry which sought the help of the Indian government to bring back the Sri Lankan received a favourable response from New Delhi, according to the sources.

**UN soldier killed in Gorazde:** A Ukrainian soldier guarding a United Nations post was shot dead on Tuesday night near the eastern Bosnian town Gorazde, a UN military spokesman said. Reuter reports from Sarajevo.

The Ukrainian was shot by an unknown intruder, south of Gorazde town, spokesman Eric Chairperson said.

**Blast at IBM HQ in Athens:** A bomb blast damaged the headquarters of the US computer firm IBM in central Athens early yesterday but no one was hurt, police said. Reuter reports from Athens.

They said the bomb went off in the third floor of the IBM building, smashing windows in nearby houses and panicking residents.

The company's offices were closed at the time of the explosion.

**Sino-Hungary ties to improve:** Hungary is willing to expand cooperation with China in economy and military projects. Hungarian President Arpad Goncz told Zhang Wannian, Chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, on Tuesday. Xinhua reports from Budapest.

During a meeting with General Zhang, Goncz said Hungary is ready to deepen its cooperation with China, which has witnessed phenomenal economic growth in recent years.



Bakili Muluzi, president of Malawi's United Democratic Front party votes Tuesday in Ntaja, his home village 180 km northeast of Blantyre, in Malawi's general election that could bring the end of President Bandar's 30 year autocratic rule. Muluzi is tipped to become the next president.

— AFP photo

## Russian Pacific Fleet C-in-C dismissed

**MOSCOW.** May 18: The Commander-in-Chief of Russia's Pacific Fleet was dismissed Tuesday for "serious deficiencies" in his management of the fleet following an explosion at a military depot in the far east, the Russian Defence Ministry said, reports AFP.

Admiral Georgy Gurinov's removal followed an explosion Saturday of a bomb depot in the region of the far eastern port of Vladivostok, which left no casualties but caused considerable damage.

"The only thing that has gone is the smell of people being

**International**

# US to press Rao for a cap on N-arms production

WASHINGTON. May 18: US officials plan to use the first visit of an Indian prime minister in seven years to press for a cap on nuclear weapons production in South Asia, reports AP.

The government of Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao and the Pakistani government have resisted the Clinton administration's initiatives, which would require a new trust between the two long-time foes.

Nuclear weaponry is only one item on the agenda for what US officials are billing as a chance to build a new, positive relationship with India.

Frank Wisner, President Clinton's designated ambassador to India, told a Senate committee Tuesday that "a new Indo-US partnership" is in the offing.

Rao, the first Indian prime minister to visit Washington since Rajiv Gandhi in 1987, on Wednesday was to address a

joint meeting of the US Congress, as did Gandhi.

He will meet with Clinton on Thursday, with both sides hoping to improve political ties that have been tenuous for several years.

The address to Congress, the first by a foreign leader during the Clinton presidency, also underscores congressional desires to patch up relations with the world's most populous democracy.

Administration officials have highlighted the nuclear issue as critical for international security, stating concerns that tensions between India and neighbouring Pakistan could erupt into war with the prospect of a nuclear exchange.

Both states have active nuclear weapons programmes and could, the State Department says, assemble a limited number of nuclear bombs in a short time.

Administration officials say

they have had trouble interesting either nation in limiting their nuclear programmes, despite the offer of US incentives.

India worries about letting down its own nuclear guard because of potential threats from China.

But Rao did not want his trip to center on proliferation talks, and US officials said trade and economic ties also will be highlighted.

Wisner on Tuesday told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee there is a "virtual explosion in US business interest in India," and said he expects Rao and Clinton to build a "new Indo-US partnership."

Wisner made the comments as the Senate committee began the long-awaited confirmation hearings on his nomination to be ambassador to India. The 16-month vacancy has increased tensions between the United States and India.



Narasimha Rao

## Police deployed around Saudi embassy in Iran

TEHRAN. May 18: More than 50 armed riot police were deployed around the Saudi embassy in Tehran today amid a row between the two countries over a ban on an anti-US rally in Makkah, an AFP correspondent reported.

A police officer at the scene told AFP that the move was taken at the request of Saudi authorities to protect the embassy amid mounting tension between the two countries.

The police took up positions around the embassy and set up road blocks on streets leading to the building.

Iran called off an anti-US and anti-Israel demonstration, planned to be held by Iranian pilgrims in Makkah on Tuesday, under the threat of force from the Saudis.

The police took up positions around the embassy and set up road blocks on streets leading to the building.

COLOMBO. May 18: Sri Lanka is likely to set up a special commission to probe the murder of former President Ranasinghe Premadasa, who was killed a year ago in a bomb blast, a ruling United National Party (UNP) official said, reports Reuter.

UNP General Secretary Dr Gamini Wijeyesekera said President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga was in favour of the commission, sought by Premadasa's widow Hema.

Premadasa and several others died at the UNP's May 1, 1993, rally in central Colombo in an explosion blamed on Tamil rebels fighting for independence in the country's north and the east.

## Solzhenitsyn returns home by monthend

MOSCOW. May 18: Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the celebrated Russian dissident writer expelled by the old Soviet regime, will return home by the end of the month after 20 years in exile, his wife said in an interview published Wednesday, reports AFP.

"We have always known that we would come back one day or another. The fate of Alexander Solzhenitsyn must end on Russian soil," his wife Natalya Svetlova told the Russian paper *Izvestia*.

She refused to state the exact day, saying her husband wanted to avoid journalists and return quietly.

Solzhenitsyn, 75, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1970, was stripped of his Soviet nationality and expelled from Russia on February 13, 1974, handcuffed and surrounded by KGB agents.

He will return from his home in exile in Vermont in the United States with a Russian passport and settle in a big home in the Moscow suburbs.

Bakili Muluzi, president of Malawi's United Democratic Front party votes Tuesday in Ntaja, his home village 180 km northeast of Blantyre, in Malawi's general election that could bring the end of President Bandar's 30 year autocratic rule. Muluzi is tipped to become the next president.

— AFP photo

tortured, it was terrible, unbearable," said Najm, resting his head in his hands.

Several former inmates, who bumped into each other in the corridors on a tour, remarked that the Israeli army had white-washed the walls before pulling out.

Before, the walls were black or stained with blood, they said, showing white splatters of paint on the floor to prove that the painting was a rushed job.

The walls that used to divide the cells have also been removed, and their base filled

with cement. "We could barely sit," Najm recalled.

Tashin Taleb, a 30-year-old student, followed the foot steps he took on his arrest three years ago.

Whenever he came across another former inmate, they congratulated each other with a tap on the shoulder, a laugh, or a firm handshake.

"On the first floor, the waiting room, a masked man would pretend to strangle you, another would punch you in the stomach and let you collapse on the floor," he said.

And then, the corridor, where

he had been forced to stay on his feet for 10 long days, and then crouching down for another 17 days, between two interrogation sessions.

The interrogation rooms are now empty, neon lights left drooping the tables and closets gone with only their marks left behind on the floor.

Next, "the refrigerator room," where cold air came in from holes in the ceiling, and then the "butcher's room," where prisoners would be hung from their arms like meat.

On another floor, cells with iron beds had drawings or inscription on the walls, one showed a mosque. Another names of the prisoners who passed through.

"Today, May 5, 1994, those who support the peace process have been freed, but we are simply moving to another jail inside Israel. It's a disgrace," wrote a member of the Islamic Jihad, which opposes the PLO-Israeli autonomy deal.

"It should be turned into a museum for the entire world to know how Israel violated human rights."

**Off the Record**

## Prostate operation may cause impotence

DALLAS: Men who have their prostate gland taken out because of early signs of cancer run a much higher than expected risk of losing both urinary control and their ability to have sex, a study concludes, reports AP.

The study, conducted at Harvard-affiliated hospitals, found that the side effects of this common operation are much more frequent than surgeons usually acknowledge.

The report is the latest contribution to the controversy over how — and even if — prostate cancer should be diagnosed and treated.

The PSA blood test — short for prostate-specific antigen — allows doctors to find cancer at its very early stages. An estimated 200,000 cases, 80 per cent of them at early stages, will be diagnosed this year in the United States.

Urologists, who are surgical specialists, often recommend that the cancerous gland be removed. This operation will be performed on 80,000 to 90,000 men this year. However, critics of the procedure contend there is no clear evidence that the surgery actually prolongs lives.

The reason is that prostate tumours grow slowly. Even though such tumours kill thousands of men annually, many more die of other causes before the cancer ever causes a problem.

The potential benefits of prostate removal, if any, are likely to be years in the future. But the side effects are immediate. They are typically loss of bladder control and inability to get an erection.

## Lingerie thief caught

RIO DE JANEIRO: Police arrested a hospital janitor in northeastern Brazil and charged him with theft after discovering 44 pairs of women's panties in his locker, the Agencia Estado news agency reported Tuesday, says Reuter.

Cesar De Jesus Oliveira, 20, told police in the city of Salvador that he was attracted to women's lingerie, which he stole from doctors, nurses and other hospital workers.

He said he hid under a bed in the hospital staff room while female employees changed their clothes and swiped the underwear when they were not looking.

The employees began reporting the missing panties and Oliveira was caught in the act Monday.

Police chief Manoel Amado Bahia said Oliveira did not appear to be dangerous. "It's more a case for the doctors than for the police," he said.

## Man clammers jet to evade police

MANILA: A man believed to be mentally deranged passed by tight security at Manila Airport before dawn Wednesday and clambered on top of a parked passenger jet. Philippine aviation officials said, reports AFP.

Airport police gave chase after they spotted Nestor Escaran, 20, on the ramp area of the domestic airport. Then he ran up the rear stairway of a parked Philippine air-lines airbus and managed to climb atop the plane, they said.

He was finally convinced to climb down after five minutes, and is now under police custody, airport officials said no flights were disrupted as a result of the stunt.

## Groom smarts under fat bill for royal grooming

LONDON: A disgruntled Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, has been landed with a 160,000 pounds (240,000 dollars) annual bill for his estranged wife Diana's "Grooming," the Daily Mail said Wednesday, reports AFP.

The 3,000 pounds a week account is believed to cover some of Princess Diana's clothing, casual wear for her sons, her alternative therapy treatments, make-up, hair-dressing and some gifts.

Costs of her private holiday travel arrangements are also included.

A Kensington Palace source told the Mail: "She has made it pretty clear around here that it will never be allowed to get that high again. Staff have been urged to advise on areas where cuts can be made, and they are already in place."



## Egyptian lawyers' rally teargassed

CARIO. May 18: Egyptian riot police Tuesday fired tear gas at thousands of lawyers protesting the death of a colleague in police detention, wounding two people and making 39 arrests, the Interior Ministry said, reports AFP.

About 6,000 people were gathered at the Bar Association's headquarters in central Cairo when baton-wielding riot police intervened with tear gas as the demonstrators neared the gates to march on the presidential palace.

Leghari will be in Washington a week after Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, who is to meet President Bill Clinton on Thursday.

The Pakistani President's US visit is "strictly private," and is essentially to attend his son Arsalan's graduation from the University of Rochester, New York, at the weekend. A Pakistani embassy spokesman said Tuesday.

Leghari is expected to meet with US officials during his stay in Washington May 23 to 25.

Leghari will be in Washington a week after Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, who is to meet President Bill Clinton on Thursday.

The demonstration would be peaceful.

But the Interior Ministry said the association was backed by extremists out to stir trouble in the streets and had stoned the police and shouted slogans against government.

Two people were slightly wounded and 39 others arrested, 27 of them lawyers.

Most of Egypt's 180,000 lawyers went out on protest strike Sunday against Madani's death on April 27, a day after he was detained on charges of acting as a go-between for jailed Muslim extremists and contacts abroad.

He was a defence lawyer for Muslim fundamentalists spiritual leader Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman and other members of Islamic groups.

## French FM defends issuing visa to Libya FM

PARIS. May 18: French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe defended Tuesday the controversial issuing of a transit visa to his Libyan counterpart, as the Libyan embassy said that Minister Omar Edd Muntasser had passed through Paris twice, reports AFP.

Speaking on RTL radio Tuesday, Juppe said that Muntasser was the Foreign Minister of a country with which France has not broken off diplomatic relations.