

# Killing of Hindu leader triggers riots in Kashmir

JAMMU, June 7: Hindu nationalists attacked government buildings and set fire to a Muslim's house in a town in Jammu-Kashmir state on Tuesday after militants assassinated the second Hindu politician there in one week, reports AP.

Police have blamed both shootings on Muslim militants fighting for independence in Jammu-Kashmir, the only state in India with a Muslim majority, but no one has claimed responsibility.

Hours after the early-morning killing of Ruchir Kumar, a local right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party politician in Bhaderwah town, members of the party stoned and ransacked government buildings and set fire to at least one home owned by a Muslim.

## SAfrican govt announces plans for amnesty

CAPE TOWN, June 7: President Nelson Mandela's new government announced plans Tuesday to grant amnesty for political crimes, but only with a full confession, reports AP.

The proposals would fulfill a campaign promise by Mandela to confront murder, torture, terrorist bombings and other crimes from the apartheid era in a bid for racial reconciliation.

Justice Minister Dullah Omar told reporters the purpose was to make a "clean break" with the past and create "a culture of human rights."

He refused to discuss specific cases but said the cut off date for political crimes eligible for amnesty would be Dec. 6, 1993.

That means the killers of top African National Congress and Communist Party leader

Chris Hani and American scholar Amy Biehl could be eligible, while white extremists accused of bombings that killed 21 people this year in a bid to derail April's all-race election, the nation's first, would be ineligible.

But Omar said Mandela, as president, retains the power to deal with individual cases as he sees fit. That would permit him to grant amnesty to the white extremists, as demanded by pro-apartheid whites negotiating with the government on creating a white-dominated territory.

Mandela's ANC won the April vote, making him the nation's first black president. He repeatedly has said an amnesty for political crimes would promote reconciliation in the racially divided country, but also had demanded full disclosure of such crimes.

## BRIEFLY

### Quake kills 2 in Colombia:

Strong earthquake shock central and southwestern Colombia Monday, killing at least two people, injuring at least 30 others and leaving dozens more homeless, Reuter reports from Bogota.

The government's geological institute in Geolinas said the quake registered 6.0 on the Richter scale and was centred in the small town of Toribio in the southwestern province of Cauca, more than 125 miles (200 km) southwest of Bogota.

### Pakistan appoints 2 women judges:

For the first time in the history of Pakistan, two women judges, Ms Majida Rizvi and Ms Khalida Rashid, have been appointed judges of the Sindh and Peshawar High Courts respectively.

### 75 MIA rebels held in Algeria:

Algerian security forces said Monday they had arrested 75 suspected members of an underground armed fundamentalist group, the Armed Islamic Movement (MIA), Reuter reports from Tunis.

The 75 men are suspected of having shot dead 27 members of the security forces in various attacks carried out since March 1993 in Algiers, the official Algerian news agency APS said. The agency was reporting an official security statement.

APS, monitored in Tunis, said some of those arrested had smuggled arms from abroad with the help of two unnamed foreign nationals.

### 3 hurt in Iranian market blast:

A bomb blast in a market in the southeastern Iranian town of Zahedan injured three people and shattered nearby windows on Monday Iran's official IRNA news agency said. Reuter reports from Nicosia.

IRNA said a relatively powerful sound bomb went off in the town's central market and local officials were investigating.

In March two bombs went off in Zahedan, near the Pakistani border, and an Iranian newspaper said they were set off by a Pakistan-based Sunni Muslim militant group.

### Fire kills 5 in California:

Four young brothers and an uncle baby-sitting them were killed in a blaze that the boys may have started while playing with fire in a bedroom closet, AP reports from Oceanside, California.

Their father, Marine Lance Corporal Jesse Arriola, 23, had to be restrained by police when he and his wife, Angela, returned to the apartment complex from an early morning trip to Camp Pendleton on Monday.

The fire began shortly after 8 a.m. and investigators suspect the children started it, said fire spokesman Ted Wackerman.

Killed were Joshua, 4, Jesse, 3, Joseph, 2, Jeremiah, 6 months, and their uncle, Joseph Arriola, 21.

### Panama pardons Noriega's officials

PANAMA CITY, June 6: Panamanian President Guillermo Endara pardoned hundreds of former dictator Manuel Noriega's officials Monday, including the country's vice president-elect and a former president, reports AFP.

Endara won a 1989 presidential election in Panama but was not able to take office until after Noriega was removed from power by a US invasion in December of that year.

Endara's pardon by decree means that vice president-elect Tomas Gabriel Altimirano will no longer face charges arising from the alleged persecution of Mayta Correa, a journalist who regularly attacked Noriega's government.

Altimirano Duque was managing editor of La Estrella De Panama and vice president of the Democratic Revolutionary Party.

# Israel threatens to close PLO offices in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, June 7: Foreign Minister Shimon Peres warned today that the offices which operate as an effective PLO headquarters in Jerusalem will be closed if the Palestinians try to run autonomy from there, reports AFP.

"If the Palestinians manage autonomy from Orient House, we will shut it," Peres said.

Ever since Muslim militants began fighting for independence in Jammu-Kashmir four years ago, most Muslims have remained in Kashmir Valley and most Hindus in Jammu, the state's winter capital. Bhaderwah is 80 kilometers (50 miles) northwest of Jammu.

One week ago, militants shot and killed Swami Raj Katal, a Bharatiya Janata Party member, as he returned home from work. On Tuesday, Kumar was shot as he left his home early in the morning.

It also pledges "not to ham-

per their activity.... this important mission is to be encouraged."

Former Palestinian spokeswoman Hannan Ashrawi criticized the government saying

The government has previously stated that Palestinian

Palestinian TV goes on air

JERICHO, West Bank, June 7: Palestinian TV went on the air for the first time on Monday, broadcasting a test card from a converted hotel in the self-rule enclave of Jericho, reports AFP.

The Palestinian Radio and Television Broadcasting Corporation's circular logo, bearing the letters PBC in English, followed by the name in Arabic and the Palestinian flag on the side, appeared on television screens in Jericho.

The test card was to be beamed for 24 hours, officials said. After the launch last

"Israeli officials persist in a policy of undermining Palestinian presence and rights in Jerusalem."

The government has previously stated that Palestinian

institutions which were in Jerusalem before the signing of the autonomy agreement last September can remain.

Orient House, the official headquarters of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, falls in that category.

Peres stressed that the new Palestinian self-rule authority would have to set up all its bodies in the autonomous areas of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

"Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. It will not be Berlin and will not be cut in two. It will remain united under Israeli sovereignty."

"Jerusalem is politically closed but religiously open."

He has tried to play down the importance of the letter saying it had "been blown out of proportion." He previously denied its existence, as did Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

## Hezbollah rocket Israeli base in Lebanon

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon, June 7: Guerrillas fired Katyusha rockets into Israel's occupation zone in south Lebanon and attacked its militia allies with mortar bombs today, security sources said, reports Reuter.

They said at least 10 Katyushas slammed around the town of Marjayoun, where the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia keeps its headquarters. Guerrillas also lobbed mortar bombs at an SLA post just inside the zone's midline sector.

No casualties were reported in either attack.

Israeli and SLA artillery gunners retaliated by firing heavy shells onto guerrilla-held hills to the north.

The pro-Iranian Hezbollah said its fighters clashed with a joint Israeli and SLA patrol on the edge of the eastern sector of the strip.

## Lankan troops kill 40 Tigers

COLOMBO, June 7: Government troops killed about 40 Tamil guerrillas in two separate attacks in northern Sri Lanka, hours after a powerful rebel mine rocked a key naval base in the region, the military claimed today, reports AFP.

Troops Monday attacked dozens of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas at Madagal in the northern Jaffna peninsula "inflicting heavy casualties," a military spokesman said.

Troops have killed about 20 to 30 Tigers... more could have died," the spokesman said. No government soldiers were hurt.

Security forces then engaged a group of Tiger guerrillas in the Madagal area, killing another 10 militants, the spokesman said.

## Tidal waves death toll rises to 211 in Indonesia

JAKARTA, June 7: The death toll from tidal waves that engulfed the southern coast of East Java following an earthquake Friday rose to 211, it was announced today, reports AFP.

Latest reports... show there were 211 deaths with 19 people still unaccounted for," the East Java spokesman's office said by telephone.

Friday's pre-dawn earthquake, measuring 5.9 on the open-ended Richter scale, spawned waves of up to six metres (19.08 feet) that swept 500 metres inshore.

Relief and search efforts continued in Banyuwangi, the hardest hit district where most victims were found, the office said.

Aftershocks continued Tuesday, but were becoming weaker, the meteorological and geophysics office in Jakarta said.

They also agreed that Japan should strengthen diplomatic efforts, including approaches to China, for a peaceful solution to the North Korean nuclear issue, government sources were quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, Reuter adds: Japanese Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa said Tuesday he may visit Beijing soon for talks with Chinese leaders over the crisis brought on by North Korea's refusal to allow full nuclear inspections.

It is important to coordinate with China on this issue," Kakizawa told a news conference. "We must send a clear message to North Korea."

## Off the Record

### Jackpot indeed!

Buenos Aires: An Argentine civil servant hit a 14 million dollars jackpot with a 3 dollars bet placed by his teenage son, reports Reuter.

Alberto Renan, 53, told reporters Monday that he had won a government-run Lotto game with six numbers picked by his 14-year-old son.

Renan, who said he had never played the Lotto before, added that he was quitting his dollar 400-a-month job at the Economy Ministry of the province of Buenos Aires.

A spokesman for the national lotteries and casinos administration said that Renan's minimal bet had beaten elaborate "combined bets" worth up to 400,000 dollars.

### Model sues game show host for sexual harassment

Los Angeles: A former TV game show model is suing host Bob Barker, alleging he forced her to have sex while she worked on the show, reports AP.

Dian Parkinson's lawsuit, filed Monday in Superior Court, accuses the 70-year-old Barker of sexual harassment and seeks unspecified damages.

Barker had no immediate comment, but at a news conference on May 26, he denied he threatened to fire the former Playboy magazine model if she didn't have sex with him.

Barker, a widower since 1981, said that he was involved with Parkinson from 1989 to 1991 and that she had initiated the "little hanky-panky." He said he was going public because she had threatened to sue unless she got 8-million dollars.

In her lawsuit, she said Barker required her to have oral sex with him in his dressing room about twice a week for 1/2 years, first by using force and later by other means of coercion.

Parkinson also said she had intercourse with Barker six or eight times out of fear that she would be fired if she refused.

Parkinson, who worked for the show for 18 years, quit in 1993.

The producer of "The Price Is Right," Jonathan Goodson, has said Parkinson quit because of tension between herself and other models and because she was suffering from a bleeding ulcer.

Parkinson said that her ulcer was due in part to Barker's alleged sexual demands and that she has received 1,000 dollars a week to keep quiet. Goodson said the money actually was severance pay.

### Binge drinking epidemic

Washington: America's college campuses are inundated with an epidemic of binge drinking, fuelled in part by growing numbers of women just as eager as men to get drunk, a private commission said Tuesday, reports AP.

The panel urged colleges to stop accepting binge drinking as "a harmless rite of passage" and attack it as a problem causing most of the violent crime on campuses and many academic woes as well.

The problem is no longer restricted to Saturday nights, said the Reverend Edward A. Malloy, president of the University of Notre Dame and chairman of the Commission on Substance Abuse at Colleges and Universities.

Many students are "drinking every day or three or four times a week instead of just on the weekends," said Malloy.

He said the problem is acute in fraternities and sororities, where students down three times as much beer and booze as their peers.

The panel cited this "startling" statistic: the percentage of college women who drink to get drunk has more than tripled in the past 15 years, from 10 per cent to 35 per cent.

### Teen sex not as widespread as adults think

New York: American boys and girls are staying virgins longer than most adults think, according to a new report, says AP.

The Alan Guttmacher Institute said Monday that 62 per cent of adults assume the average teen has sex before turning 16. But 70 per cent of all boys and girls are still virgins when they reach 16, and 18 per cent abstain until at least their 20th birthday, the institute said.

Among girls who do have sex before age 15, 60 per cent said they were raped or coerced in some unspecified manner, the institute said, quoting a 1987 study.

Teen sex "is not as widespread, and does not begin as early, as most adults believe," the report said.

The institute, which studies reproductive issues and is affiliated with Planned Parenthood, based its report on research it primarily conducted in the 1990s and the research of others.

## Japan will support UNSC resolution against DPRK

TOKYO, June 7: Japan will support a UN Security Council resolution against North Korea over its nuclear programme under a four-point policy decided at a ministerial meeting Monday, news reports said, says AFP.

The three agreed that Japan should study necessary measures if the UN Security Council adopted a resolution against North Korea, Jiji Press and Kyodo News Service quoted official sources as saying.

They also agreed that Japan should strengthen diplomatic efforts, including approaches to China, for a peaceful solution to the North Korean nuclear issue, government sources were quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, Reuter adds: Japanese Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa said Tuesday he may visit Beijing soon for talks with Chinese leaders over the crisis brought on by North Korea's refusal to allow full nuclear inspections.

It is important to coordinate with China on this issue," Kakizawa told a news conference. "We must send a clear message to North Korea."

Kuwait commutes death sentences of 10 Palestinians

KUWAIT CITY, June 7: A Kuwaiti Appeals Court on Monday commuted the death sentences of 10 Palestinians convicted of collaborating with the Iraqis during the 1990-1991 occupation, reports AFP.

Court sources said one of the 10, Imadeddin Adib, was to serve life in jail and the other nine had their sentences reduced to 10 years' imprisonment.

The Palestinians, all Jordanian passport holders, were sentenced to death in June 1993 for collaborating with the occupation forces and membership of the Palestine Liberation Front, a group based in Baghdad.

Several international Human Rights groups appealed against the sentence of Kuwait's State Security Court.

# 'Sonia still an important player in Indian politics'

NEW DELHI, June 7: The Italian-born widow of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi shuns politics and the media, but she is probably the country's most high-profile woman today, reports IPS.

Indeed, every visiting head of state or foreign dignitary makes time to call on Sonia Gandhi at her well fortified home in Delhi.

The importance of being Sonia Gandhi was only reinforced when she was included in the official Indian