

## BRIEFLY

## Sino-Indian confce June 27-28:

A Sino-Indian conference on the five principles of peaceful coexistence will be held on June 27 to 28, Xinhua reports from New Delhi.

The five principles of peaceful coexistence in the contemporary world first formulated by China and India in 1954 would be the main theme of the conference, officials said today.

It is learned that Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao would inaugurate the conference and eminent academics, diplomats and intellectuals from the two countries would attend the conference.

**Quake jolts New Zealand:** A heavy earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale rocked New Zealand's South Island, and part of North Island, yesterday, AFP reports from Wellington.

A civil defence spokesman said there were no immediate reports of injuries or serious damage.

A police spokesman in Christchurch said buildings there seemed to "move around a lot and there were some cracks in the police headquarters building. The quake struck about 3.15 PM (0315 GMT) and was centred on the Porters Pass area of Canterbury.

## 7 die in Chinese factory collapse:

At least seven people died and 20 were still missing after a large, joint-venture textile factory collapsed in the southern Chinese special economic zone of Zhuhai, local government officials said yesterday, AFP reports from Beijing.

A local reporter contacted by telephone said a further four bodies had been pulled from the wrecked building this morning.

A large portion of the six-storey Yu Xin printing and dyeing factory — a Sino-Hong Kong joint venture — collapsed at 2.10 PM (0610 GMT) Friday, trapping more than 200 workers clearing up after a fire that had gutted the factory the night before.

## Ex-AP newsman Rizkallah dies:

Sami Rizkallah, who retired last year after 25 years as an Associated Press newsman covering the turbulent Middle East, died early Saturday after emergency surgery. He was 66, AP reports from Cairo.

Family members said Rizkallah had been in failing health since suffering liver failure two months ago. He was stricken in the port city of Alexandria and died after emergency surgery to staunch internal bleeding.

Rizkallah joined the AP in 1966 after 13 years with United Press International.

## Sanctions against DPRK will be counter-productive: Carter

SEOUL, June 18: Former US President Jimmy Carter said after returning from his peace mission to North Korea today that international sanctions against Pyongyang would be counter-productive and an insult that it could not accept, reports Reuters.

North Korea has warned that if it suffers sanctions over its nuclear dispute with the United States and its allies, it would mean renewed war on the Korean peninsula.

Carter told a news conference in Seoul after returning from Pyongyang and lengthy meetings with President Kim Il-Sung that he did not think sanctions would be effective against the isolated Stalinist state because for years it had followed a policy of self-reliance.

"The pursuit of sanctions is counter-productive in this particular and unique society," he said.

"However, a declaration of sanctions would be considered an insult to their nation, branding it an outlaw country and a personal insult to their so-called 'great leader' (Kim Il-Sung) by branding him a liar and a coward," he said.

"This is something that, in my opinion, would be impossible for them to accept," Carter said.

He said he had thought this before his three-day trip to Pyongyang, which ended today and added: "Now after observing their psyche and the social structure and the reverence with which they look upon

their leader, I am even more convinced that what I have just said is true."

The former president, who was on a private peace mission to Pyongyang, fell foul of Washington after telling Kim Il-Sung on Friday that the United States had halted its effort to impose sanctions in response to conciliatory gestures from Kim Il-Sung on the nuclear issue.

Carter blamed a translation problem for the misunderstanding with the Clinton administration saying he had made clear that such a move by the United States carried certain conditions.

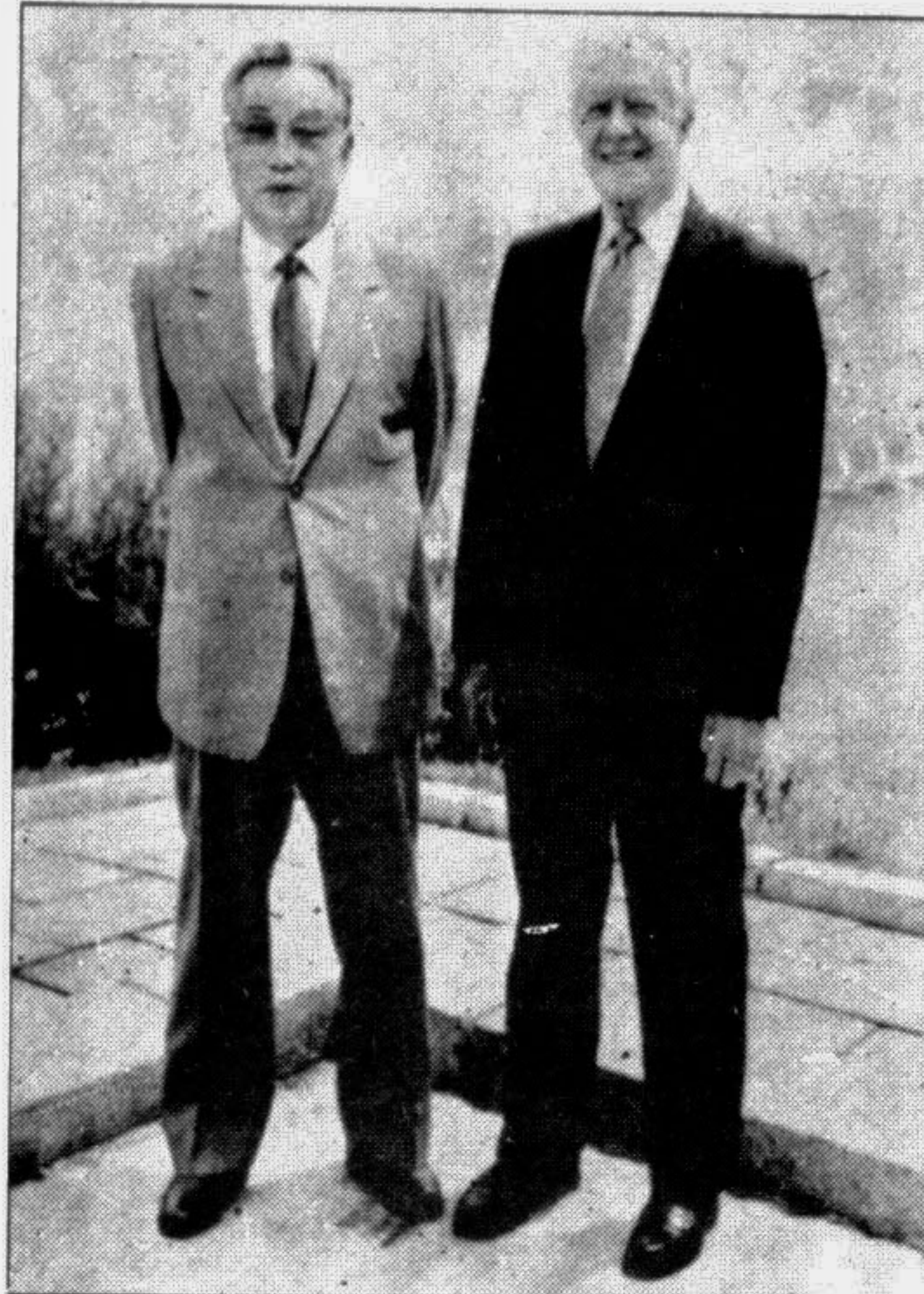
Meanwhile, US Defence Department officials estimate at least 50 per cent of North Korea's Scud missiles could elude US defences and strike South Korea, Aviation Week and Space Technology reported.

The magazine said in its June 20 edition that the accuracy of the missiles would likely be poor.

Pyongyang has both Scuds and advanced Scud-derived missiles in its arsenal.

The same Pentagon officials, the magazine says, are divided over how to bolster US aircraft-based defences to increase the ratio of ballistic missile kills.

"If there is a shootout with North Korea in the next two years, South Korea will just have to absorb the damage," the magazine quotes on Defence Department official as saying.



Former US President Jimmy Carter (R) and North Korean President Kim Il-Sung (L) pose for a picture during their visit to the West Sea Barrage, a lock built on the Tae Dong River at Nampo, 50 km Southwest of Pyongyang, on Friday. — AFP photo

## 80 countries approve N-safety convention

VIENNA, June 18: Over 80 countries on Friday approved a nuclear safety convention which, they said, could force unsafe reactors such as Chernobyl to shut down, reports Reuter.

But critics said the document was toothless and could not be enforced.

The nuclear safety convention was initiated after a three-day conference organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"The signatories...will be required to ensure the safety of their existing reactors and if need be, close them down," conference president Walter Hohlfelder told a news conference.

Among them is Ukraine, whose Chernobyl plant caused the world's worst nuclear accident in 1986.

Environmental pressure group Greenpeace said, however, the convention would not lead to the closure of unsafe or obsolete reactors.

The treaty is a feeble document, obviously written to let the nuclear industry off the hook on safety standards," Greenpeace Austria said in a statement on Friday.

The convention avoided mention of nuclear waste storage, plutonium and uranium manufacture, nuclear transport and nuclear weapons, it added.

Hohlfelder said that while the convention did not obligate operators of unsafe reactors to close them down, it did provide for other countries to demand detailed information on these installations and to build up enough international

pressure to force their closure.

Under the terms of the convention, states are bound to adopt internationally-approved safety measures for reactors still in operation.

"If such upgrading cannot be achieved, plans should be implemented to shut down the installation as soon as practically possible," the convention says.

"The timing of the shut-down may take into account the energy context and possible alternatives, as well as the social, environmental and economic impact," it adds.

Hohlfelder said nuclear waste storage and transport would be the subject of a future meeting.

The safety convention will be laid open for signature at the IAEA's annual general conference in September and will come into force once it had been ratified by at least 22 countries, 17 of which must have operating commercial nuclear plants.

Of the 30 countries in the world with commercial plants, only Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Taiwan and Armenia did not attend.

Work on the convention began in 1991 after the fall of the iron curtain made the former communist bloc's ageing and technically-backward nuclear power plans more accessible to scrutiny by the West, already shaken by the Chernobyl disaster.

A total 485 nuclear power plants were operating or being built in 1993, according to statistics.

Southern leaders seek UN meeting  
N Yemeni troops shell  
Aden: 60 killed

ADEN, June 18: Northern Yemeni forces shelled Aden today, pursuing a bombardment in which at least 60 people have been killed. Southern officials said their breakaway state would not attend peace talks until attacks stopped, reports Reuter.

"Indiscriminate shelling of the city and its surroundings continued for the last 24 hours... Aden's position is that there are no talks until fighting stops," a southern official said.

He told Reuters many people had been killed or wounded by shells and rockets fired by northern Yemeni forces close to Aden's outskirts.

No exact casualty figures were available yet, the official said, adding: "We're counting the bodies as they come in."

He said more northern attempts to advance had been repulsed today, but it was not immediately clear if these were large operations or small probing attacks.

## Heavy artillery duels resume in Kigali

KIGALI, June 18: Heavy artillery duels resumed in the Rwanda capital Kigali today as preparations were underway for the evacuation later in the day of civilians still trapped in the war-torn capital, reports AFP.

A spokesman for the UN assistance mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) Pierre Mehru, also announced that Kigali airport would be reopened Monday for humanitarian flights. The airport was closed down two weeks ago because of shelling.

Meanwhile, a ceasefire was to come into effect this afternoon to allow civilians to be evacuated from the Mille Collines hotel, located in a section of the city held by government troops, and the King Faisal hospital, in a rebel-held area. Hutu militiamen stormed the Mille Collines hotel Friday

## 50 Tajik rebels arrested

DUSHANBE, June 18: Around 50 Muslim opposition guerrillas have been arrested in a sweep by security forces following the assassination earlier this week of a top Tajikistan defence official, an army general said today, reports AFP.

General Alexander Chubarov, who is also a Deputy Defence Minister, said that the operation had left several dead and injured in the army and rebel ranks, but refused to give any figures and emphasised that there were no civilian casualties.

The operation centred on the mountainous Garm region, 150 kilometres (90 miles) east of the capital Dushanbe, where Deputy Defence Minister Ramazan Rajabov and six of his bodyguards were killed in an ambush on Wednesday.

Around 600 men supported by tanks and helicopters took part in the operation launched the following day.

## ROK students clash with police: 50 held

SEOUL, June 18: Hundreds of students wielding iron pipes threw petrol bombs and stones at riot police, who countered with volleys of tear gas, during an anti-US and anti-government protest at a Seoul campus today, reports Reuter.

Witnesses said dozens of students and riot police were injured during the violence at Hongik University in western Seoul involving about 500 students.

The domestic Yonhap news agency said about 100 students were detained by police.

It was the first time students have used fire bombs during demonstrations in Seoul this year.

The violence occurred when some 2,500 riot police, firing volleys of tear gas forced their way into the university to rescue about 50 colleagues dragged by students into the Hongik campus during an earlier clash on a nearby street.

Earlier on Saturday the student protesters, mostly from the southern city of Kwangju,

## 1300 Palestinian prisoners to remain in Israeli jails

JERUSALEM, June 18: Israel said on Friday some 1300 Palestinian prisoners would remain in Israeli jails because they refused to sign a pledge to give up violence, reports Reuter.

The Israeli army said it had released about 3,400 Palestinian prisoners under the state's agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation in Cairo on May 4.

"About 1300 additional prisoners refused to sign the declaration that they would refrain in the future from undertaking terrorist actions," an army spokesman said.

"Therefore, they were not released. Their remaining is of their own violation. Were they to have signed the declaration, most would have been released to their homes," he added.

Under the Cairo Agreement which launched limited Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank enclave of Jericho and Gaza Strip, Israel agreed to free or turn over to the Palestinian authority, within

five weeks, 5,000 of the 9,600 prisoners it was holding.

The army spokesman said 100 Palestinian "criminals" chose to stay in Israeli prisons rather than be moved to Gaza jails.

He said of the 320 prisoners freed on Thursday, 229 "without Jewish blood on their

## Georgian refugees returning home

ZUGDID, Georgia, June 18: Some of the quarter million Georgian refugees who fled fighting in the breakaway republic of Abkhazia last year began to return to their homes this week, reports AFP.

But the journey back is clouded by uncertainty which the imminent deployment of Russian peacekeeping troops has done little to alleviate.

Addressing a crowded public meeting in the town Cinema of Zugdidi Thursday, Georgian warlord Djaba Loselliani said that "within a year, all the refugees will have returned to Abkhazia."

hands" were released to their homes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and 91 criminals were transferred to the Palestinian authority to be increased in Gaza prison.

A PLO official accused Israel on Friday of violating human rights conventions and the PLO-Israel peace deal by confining released detainees to the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho.

"Forcing freed prisoners to remain in self-rule areas and depriving them of their right to return to their homes is a violation of the Geneva Convention and the Cairo agreement," Saeb Erekat, who holds the local government portfolio in the Palestinian authority, told a news conference in Jericho.

Erekat said the Geneva Convention stated that it was the right of any prisoner in the world to return to his place of residency after his release.

The Israeli army said it had not response to Erekat's charges. It said there was no prisoner released on Friday.

## Khmer Rouge officials asked to leave Phnom Penh soon

PHNOM PENH, June 18: Members of the Khmer Rouge guerrilla group were hurriedly attempting to obtain visas and airline tickets Saturday after being ordered out of the capital by the government, an official of the group said, reports AP.

The Interior Ministry sent the guerrilla group a letter Friday ordering the seven people living in their Phnom Penh compound out immediately, said one of them, Meas Chanthha. He said the government had earlier cut utility lines and telephone links into the compound adjacent to the Royal Palace.

King Norodom Sihanouk had given the Khmer Rouge permission to live in the compound.



UN Ghanaian doctors squat next to dead Uruguayan UN peacekeeper, Major Juan Saul Machado on Friday in Kigali. Machado was killed and another peacekeeper, from Bangladesh, wounded when a group of UN military observers came under fire on a road north of the Rwandan capital. — AFP photo

## Leghari for scrutinising assets of top Pak officials

ISLAMABAD, June 18: Pakistani President Farooq Leghari said on Friday he would recommend Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto scrutinise the assets of all who have held high office amid a widening corruption scandal, reports Reuter.

"I think the nation does require accountability," Leghari said in a rare interview at the presidential palace.

"Frankly, I would like that we should scrutinise anyone who has held office, who has been in power, even bureaucrats."

The government earlier announced a judicial inquiry into reports that top executive of the private Mehran Bank handed out embezzled funds to senior government officials and politicians, and to military intelligence to rig the 1990 elections.

In a written confession, Mehran's former chief operat-

ing officer Yunus Habib, charged with misappropriating \$6.7 million dollar has given details of fake loans, kickbacks and illegal transactions.

Diplomats say the case threatens to unravel a network of corruption and political horse-trading that could taint politicians of all parties.

Outlining his reasons for recommending that Benazir Bhutto and provincial chief ministers launch an accountability process, Leghari said: "The people should know."

"If the president of Pakistan is guilty of such things, he has no right to be in the presidency, if a judge does such things he has no right to remain as a judge, if a newspaper owner does it, he has no right to run a newspaper," he said.

Leghari himself is at the centre of a controversy in which opposition leader and ex-premier Nawaz Sharif has accused him of misconduct in

the sale late last year of ancestral farmland to associates of Habib. Leghari, has denied the charge.

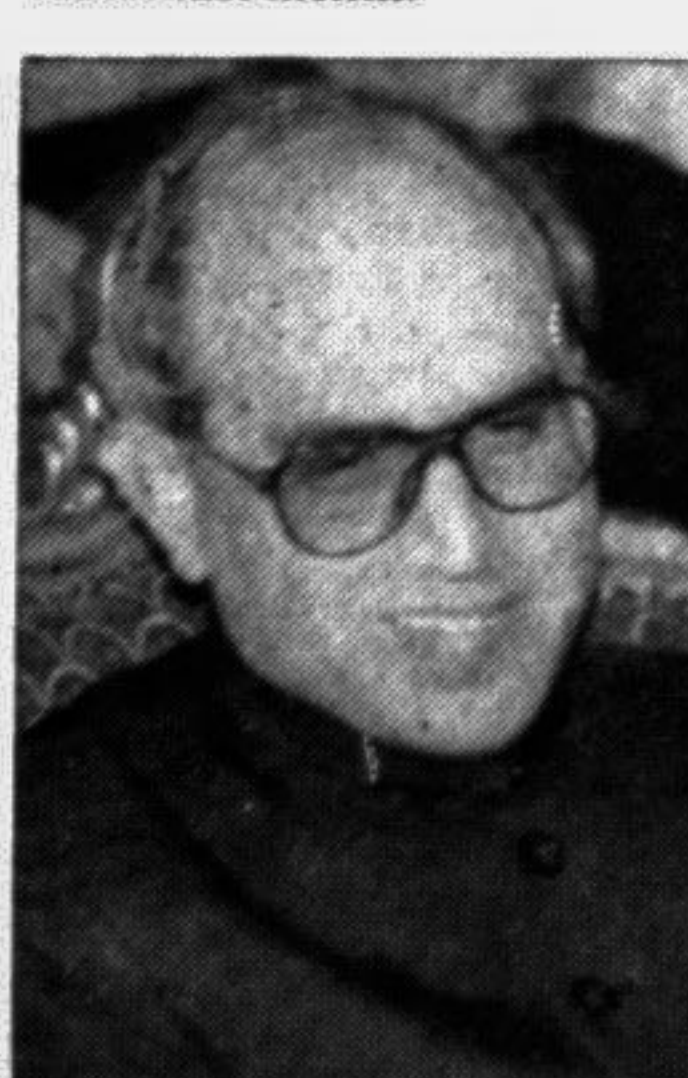
"As leader of the opposition he is levelling charges of moral turpitude against the president," said Leghari, a senior leader of the ruling Pakistan's People's Party until his election last November. That he persists in that is what is shocking to me."

Leghari said he would not sue Sharif over his allegations but would await the results of the judicial inquiry.

"Sitting her in the presidency my hands are tied and my lips are sealed," said the former politician, who won the highest number of votes for a single candidate in last October's general elections.

"I long for the days when I could stand up in the National Assembly and reply, he said. 'I have been tried in the courts of newspapers.'"

He accused the government of being slow to respond to Sharif's charges, levelled while Leghari was visiting the United States last month.



Farooq Leghari

Leghari has long had a reputation for probity in a country where few politicians try to publicly refute allegations of corruption published against them regularly in the press.

"It is important to scrutinise in detail how people have earned wealth, how people with a salary of 10,000 rupees a month can build houses worth tens of millions of rupees," he said.

Leghari, who is also supreme commander of the armed forces, said the military fully backed the inquiry to investigate reports that in 1990 Habib allegedly misappropriated 140 million rupees (4 million) in funds from his then employer state-run Habib Bank Ltd. and gave them to military intelligence.

"The army is fully cooperating — cooperating 1,000 per cent," he said. "They also want to clear their name."

## Off the Record

## Nude photos of Dewi Sukarno now available on floppy disk

JAKARTA: Nude photographs of the Japan-born widow of Indonesia's first president are being circulated in the country through computer diskettes, beating a government ban, the Jakarta Post said yesterday, reports Reuter.

Photographs of Dewi Sukarno, 53, widow of President Sukarno, that are making the rounds came from a computer programme created by a US company.

The programme has apparently been copied locally, the newspaper said.

Dewi Sukarno, who became an international jet-setter after Sukarno died in 1970, sparked a public outcry last year when a book of nude photographs of her was published in Japan.

Mainly Muslim Indonesia banned the 140-page book, saying it could cause unrest and defame the name of the late president.

Dewi Sukarno was the youngest of the president's nine wives.



## Hata's house haunted!

TOKYO: Japan's Prime Minister has discovered his official residence is haunted but he was yet to encounter the phantom, reports Reuter.

Tsutomu Hata said Friday he shared his official residence — a brown, three-storey house built in 1929 across the street from parliament — with a ghost.

"I've heard people feel something eerie when it comes along," he told reporters. But the genial Hata said he had not yet made the spirit's acquaintance.

"I haven't felt anything like that. But if I meet it I'd try to make friends," he said.

## Pet python held for killing boy

DENVER: An 11-1/2 foot (3-1/2 metre) python that was a family pet was being held by police on Wednesday after it apparently killed a 15-year-old boy, police said, reports Reuter.

The boy, Derek Romero, was found on a bedroom floor with the Myanmar Python nearby in the family's home in the Denver suburb of Commerce City on Tuesday evening.

The 8-year-old snake, which belonged to the victim's Elder brother, had no history of attacking people, police said.

"We are going to make sure that we know exactly what happened on the surface, it appears the snake killed the child," said police Captain Michael Maudlin.

Myanmar Pythons killed by constriction, which involves winding themselves around the prey's body and tightening each time the victim breathes.

Reporters viewed the snake at police headquarters in Commerce City the snake was docile although police said the serpent was agitated when police arrived at the victim's home.

## Rains kill 25 in Gujarat

NEW DELHI, June 18: Torrential monsoon rains have killed 25 people, washed away homes and caused widespread destruction in the western Indian state of Gujarat, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported today, says AFP.

The downpour, which began five days ago, had also cut off road and telecommunication links in many parts of the coastal state, which shares a long border with Pakistan, the news agency said.

Nineteen deaths were reported in the Bulsar and Surat districts, PTI quoted officials in the state capital Gandhinagar as saying, without specifying how the victims died.

Authorities shifted hundreds of villagers to safer places after their thatched huts were destroyed. Highways in the worst-hit areas were under a sheet of water and one bridge was washed away, cutting rail links.