

BRIEFLY

18 die in Algerian violence: Algeria said on Monday 18 people — 16 Muslims militants, one policeman and a clergyman, were killed in the past four days. Reuter reports from Tunis.

The official Algerian news agency APS said the dead militants included two suspected killers of a leading playwright, Abdelkader Aloula, last March. On the day they died the two men had killed a policeman near the main soccer stadium in the western town of Oran, APS added. A clergyman, aged 51 and the father of nine children, was killed inside his mosque last Friday in El Qalb village, 65 km (43 miles) south of Algiers.

Gunmen kill 6 cops in Karachi: Gunmen ambushed a police patrol in the southern Pakistani city of Karachi, spraying them with bullets from a speeding car and killing six, police said, reports Reuter.

The attack occurred in Karachi's central district, a spokesman said. Police had launched a manhunt for the gunmen.

Rabin, Peres to meet Arafat: Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will meet PLO chairman Yasser Arafat in Paris next week, an Israeli cabinet minister said Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said the meeting would help clarify when Arafat would make his first trip to Gaza and Jericho, areas Israel turned over to Palestinian self-rule in May.

"The chairman is going to meet our prime minister and our foreign minister in Paris at the beginning of next month and I believe that after the meeting, the date of his arrival will be much clearer," Sarid said.

20 hurt in Seoul stampede: About 20 people were injured in Seoul Tuesday when hundreds of rush-hour passengers tried to catch subway trains delayed by a prolonged strike, AP reports from Seoul.

It was the first such incident in the six-day-old strike by thousands of subway and above-ground railway workers that has virtually paralysed South Korea's transportation system.

At Shindorim station in southern Seoul, hundreds of people stampeded to get on a delayed train, injuring about 20, who were taken to nearby hospitals. Some angry passengers stoned the station building, destroying windows.

Koreas to hold first summit in Pyongyang July 25

PANMUNJOM, Korea, June 28: North and South Korean officials compromised after hours of haggling Tuesday and agreed to hold the first summit between their nations in North Korea's capital next month, reports AP.

Koreans have hoped a summit could help reduce a half-century of enmity and settle tensions over the North's suspected development of nuclear weapons.

Negotiators from the two sides agreed to hold a first summit in Pyongyang, July 25-27 followed by a second meeting in Seoul at a later date to be decided during the Pyongyang summit, officials said.

South Korean Unification Ministry spokesman Kim Hyong-Ki said the two sides were expected to sign a formal agreement on the summit arrangements later Tuesday.

The agreement followed

eight hours of negotiations behind closed doors at the border village of Panmunjom, inside the demilitarized zone that separates the two Koreas.

North Korea insisted initially that the summit be held in its capital in mid-August. That is unacceptable to Seoul because the North also plans a massive reunification rally then that Seoul officials consider anti-South Korean.

South Korea's delegation

then proposed two summit meetings, with the first in North Korea on July 25 and a second at a later time in the South. But the northern delegates refused to set a date for the second session, South Korean officials said.

Kim said officials from the two countries would meet July 1 to arrange the summit's agenda.

South Korean officials have said they hope North Korea's nuclear programme will be at the top of the agenda.

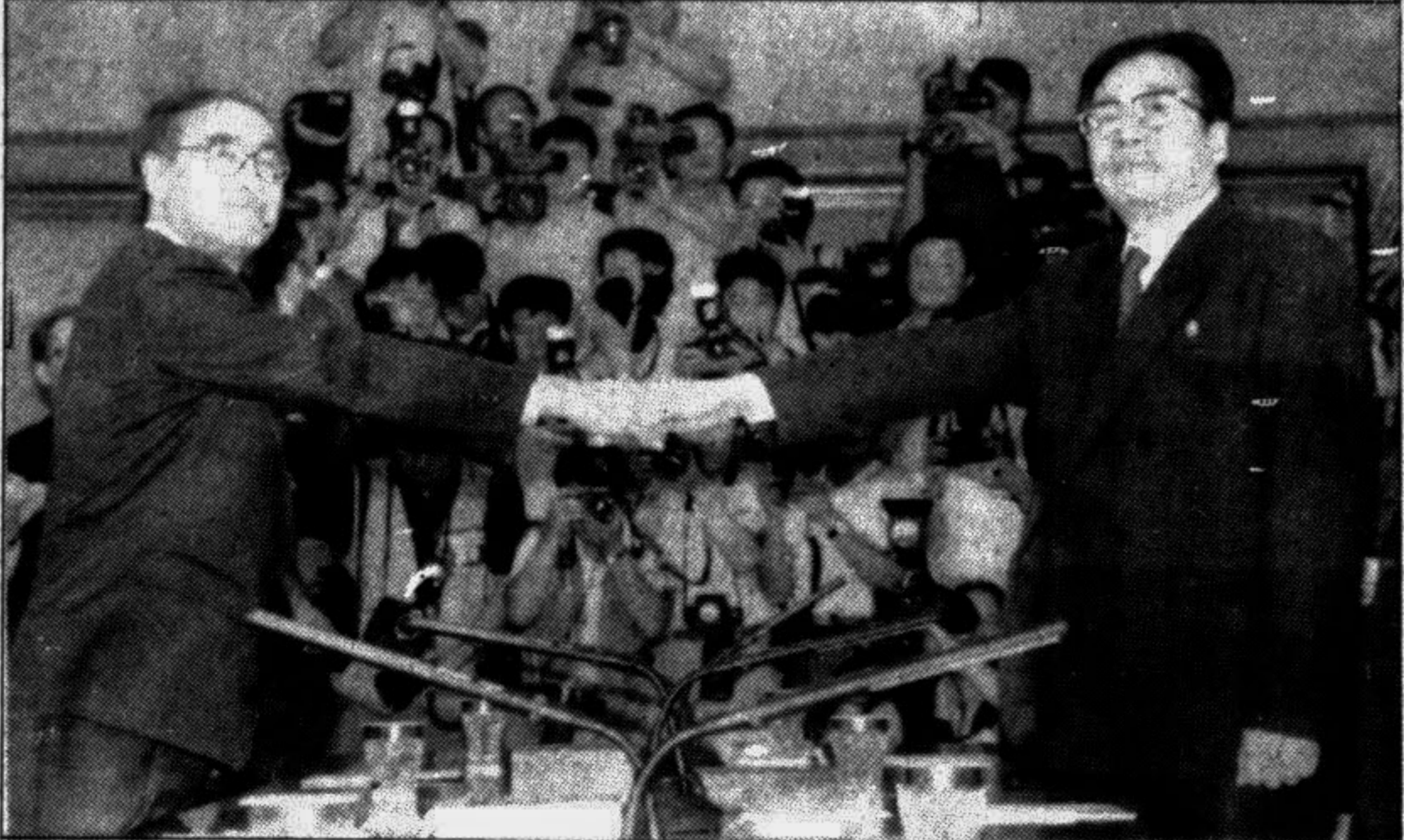
But it is unclear whether North Korea would agree. It has insisted that the nuclear issue can only be resolved in direct talks between it and the United States, which are due to restart in Geneva July 8.

The presidents of the two Koreas have never met since the division of the peninsula into the Communist North and the capitalist South in 1945.

The Koreans are still technically at war since no peace treaty was signed at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. Their border is the world's most heavily guarded.

The Korea summit and the reopening of US North Korea talks, suspended since last year, were brokered by former US President Jimmy Carter during a visit to the two Koreas earlier this month.

White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers said Monday the upcoming US-North Korea talks "will continue as long as they're productive."



South Korean Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hong-Koo (L) shakes hands with Kim Yong-Sun (R), North Korean Chairman of the Reunification Policy Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly at the DMZ village of Panmunjom, Korea on Tuesday. — AFP photo

UK, China settle dispute over military bases in HK

HONG KONG, June 28: Britain and China have made a breakthrough in a seven-year dispute over the future of military sites in Hong Kong, the colony's government radio station reported today, says Reuter.

RTHK quoted sources close to the negotiations as saying differences over a naval base, which the colonial government will build for China's People's Liberation Army, have been settled. China resumes control over the colony in 1997.

British officials refused to comment on the report but Hong Kong government sources indicated that it was correct.

The Sino-British Joint Liaison Group (JLG) adjourned negotiations for the second time on Monday after it failed to complete a deal on the sites, some of which the colonial government wants to sell for commercial development.

The JLG, which is charged with arranging the 1997 handover, will meet again on Thursday. But informal contacts at expert level are continuing in the hope that a formal agreement could be drawn up by then, the report said.

Any deal would be the first significant agreement by the JLG in three years, during which Britain and China have almost constantly bickered over the colony.

Some pro-democracy legislators fear China has deliberately dragged out the issue to encourage legislators to water down Governor Chris Patten's democratic reform bill, which faces its final vote on

Wednesday. The English language Eastern Express newspaper reported today that Britain had agreed to China's demand for larger naval facilities costing more than HK dollar 1 billion (128m US dollars) to be built by 1997.

In return, China dropped its demand for more residential military blocks, it said. The article said the text of a draft accord had been sent to Beijing for final approval.

The latest round of talks began last week amid hopes after China said the row over Patten's reforms to widen the electoral franchise was finished and non-political cooperation should resume.

US withdrawing more diplomats from Mogadishu

WASHINGTON, June 28: The United States Monday said it was withdrawing more American diplomats from Mogadishu because of clan fighting in the Somali capital, reports Reuter.

"Because of the security considerations in Mogadishu, we are temporarily moving some of the staff at our US Liaison Office to Nairobi," State Department spokesman Mike McCurry told reporters.

The liaison office is protected but over the weekend we determined it would be advisable to do an ordered departure of some of those non-essential (civilian) personnel," he said.

Gen Dostam's jets bomb Kabul: 12 killed

KABUL, June 28: Kabul was targeted by the jets of ex-communist Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostam for the second successive day today, when 12 people were killed in a bombing run over the capital's centre, security troops reported, says AFP.

"It is hard to estimate the exact number of killed because so many of the bodies were torn apart in the explosion," explained one security guard whose hands were caked in dry blood.

Shortly after 8:00 am a Russian-made Sukhoi Su-22 jet-bomber swept over Kabul and dropped four bombs, one of which exploded in the main street outside the central post office, killing at least 12 people and wounding several others.

A doctor working for the French-based aid organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) which supports the downtown Jamhuriat hospital said only five victims — with light injuries — were treated after this jet attack.

"No operations were necessary, all the patients were stabilised and transferred to other hospitals for further treatment, the expatriate doctor told AFP.

Not far from the Copo, a second bomb ripped through the ferro-concrete roof of the state gynecological hospital

which was deserted except for eight security guards, all of whom miraculously escaped unhurt.

These guards pointed out a hole at the entrance to the neighbouring institute of stomatology where they said a third bomb was buried unexploded.

Local witnesses reported seeing a fourth — unconfirmed — explosion further east towards Bala Hissar fortress.

Bala Hissar was captured from the coalition forces of Dostam and his ally Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar Saturday by troops loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

In addition, Rabbani's rivals have lost the strategic Maranj hill opposite Bala Hissar, and Darulaman palace in South Kabul, prompting retaliatory air strikes by Dostam jets.

Hekmatyar, who threatened severe military consequences for Rabbani if he did not resign the presidency Tuesday, has himself suffered a massive military defeat with the loss of Bala Hissar and Maranj.

Observers said although the current frontlines reflect recent gains by pro-Rabbani forces, they are in fact only a return to the respective positions held by these rivals during their first major battle in August 1992.

UN to reestablish political presence in Afghanistan

UNITED NATIONS, June 28: Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to reestablish a UN political presence in war-torn Afghanistan, provisionally in Jalalabad, until security conditions permit a permanent return to Kabul, a UN spokesman said Monday, reports Reuter.

The UN moved out of the capital Kabul in August 1992. During an earlier bout of intense fighting among Afghan factions, the Secretary-General's personal representative, Sotirios Mousouris, has been operating mainly from Islamabad, Pakistan.

Fierce new battles erupted in Kabul over the weekend between the forces of Afghan President Burhanuddin

Rabbani and those of Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, more than 2,500 people have been killed since the latest struggle for supremacy between the rival leaders began January 1.

Boutros-Ghali, who has just received a report from a special mission to Afghanistan headed by former Tunisian foreign minister Mahmoud Mestiri was "impressed by the unanimous desire for peace expressed by the Afghan people," the UN spokesman said in a statement.

The Secretary General is also impressed by the nearly universal request from Afghans that the United Nations should not abandon them but should play an important role in help-

ing to establish a representative political process.

Boutros-Ghali, who believed the UN effort to address the conflict should continue, "has decided to reestablish a political presence of the United Nations in Afghanistan. This will be provisionally located in Jalalabad, (near the border with Pakistan) until security conditions permit a permanent return to Kabul," the UN spokesman said.

Boutros-Ghali is planning additional steps, including a further visit to Afghanistan in the near future by the special mission, to pursue consultations with Afghan leaders on the establishment of a broadly-based political process, the spokesman added.

1000 orphans evacuated from Rwanda

GENEVA, June 28: One thousand Rwandan orphans were evacuated from the village of Nyanza to the Burundi border after renewed fighting in the region, a spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Monday, reports AFP.

The orphans who were taken by the ICRC to the border village of Rilima had been tended by Belgian and Italian nuns.

ICRC spokesman Paul-Henri Morard said most children were ethnic Tutsis.

Trucks which made the Nyanza trip also carried 250 patients from a Nyanza hospital and 250 ICRC staff and local workers.

Since the weekend the ICRC has also evacuated 105 patients from its overcrowded hospital in a government-controlled area of the capital to the King Faisal Hospital in a district held by the rebels, ac-

ording to Morard.

Five hundred wounded are still in the ICRC hospital. French General Raymond Germanos meanwhile said in Paris French troops would evacuate 40 nuns from the west Rwandan village of Kibuye to the headquarters of the French intervention force in Goma, Zaire, today.

The nuns from Canada, Rwanda, the United States and other countries were "highly afraid" after threats, he said.



A French soldier taking part in Operation Turquoise shakes hands with Hutu children at village Murutu in Rwanda on Monday. Some 1,200 French troops have been deployed in the area to protect civilians. — AFP photo

Rao leaves for Moscow today

NEW DELHI, June 28: The Prime Minister, PV Narasimha Rao, leaves for Moscow tomorrow on a four-day visit expected to add a new dimension and content to Indo-Russian political, defence and economic cooperation, reports PTI.

The positive tone for the visit has already been set with India giving a favourable response to the latest Russian trade proposal for setting up joint ventures from out of rupee funds of Rs 3,000 crore, accruing every year out of repayment of rouble debt by it.

A possible irritant in bilateral trade ties on the eve of Rao's visit has been removed with official sources here declaring that Indian authorities are anxious that the huge corpus of rupee funds should move. Neither India nor Russia would benefit in any way if the rupee funds lie unutilised, the sources said.

Rao will be accompanied by the highest ever delegation taken by an Indian premier in recent years. The team comprises the Commerce Minister, Pranab Mukherjee, the Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad, the Minister of State for External Affairs, R L Bhatia, the Minister of State in the PMO, Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi, the Foreign Secretary, K Srinivasan and the Defence Secretary, KA Nambiar.

Arafat won't visit Gaza, Jericho until security issue is solved

EREZ, Gaza Strip, June 28: PLO chief Yasser Arafat will not arrive in the autonomous areas until security questions and the financial crisis facing the new authority is sorted out, according to new Palestinian "ministers," reports AFP.

"The visit will not take place until the security and economic problems are solved," PLO chief negotiator Nabil Shaath told reporters today as autonomy talks resumed at the Erez crossing into the Gaza Strip.

He did not elaborate but has complained about the Israeli army after having been held up for hours at roadblocks around Jericho and warned that Arafat cannot risk such humiliation.

UNITA won't succumb to threat of sanctions

LUSAKA, June 28: The Angolan rebel movement UNITA said Monday it will not succumb to any threat of UN sanctions as a way of forcing it quickly to sign a peace agreement with the government at peace talks here.

A visibly annoyed UNITA spokesman, Jorce Valentim, told AFP the rebel movement, negotiations at Lusaka have been very upset since the call for sanctions was made last Friday.

"UNITA here is very upset with this sanctions situation and we are fed up with these threats and I think this is not very good for the negotiations," said Valentim.

United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali last week threatened to impose new international sanctions against UNITA if it did

not accept all UN proposals for a peace accord.

The seven-month-old talks here between the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) government have recorded positive developments, but these have been overshadowed by the escalating fighting inside the country.

Valentim added: "We have been discussing very seriously for the past seven months and I do not think peace can now be achieved because the UN is wielding a stick and threatening. This threat will not help at all."

What is required at the Lusaka talks is an intelligent and pragmatic solution, he said.

Kuwait claims \$94b in war damages

KUWAIT CITY, June 28: Kuwait claimed on Monday 94 billion dollars in war damages incurred during the seven month Iraqi occupation making an official request to the UN Compensation Commission, the agency Kuna said, reports AFP.

The request was made to the UN Commission in Geneva by a Kuwaiti delegation from the office set up to evaluate Iraqi reparations after the end of the Gulf War in February 1991.

N Yemen accuses South of provoking foreign intervention

SANAA, Yemen, June 28: Northern Yemen accused the secessionist south Tuesday of cynically breaching ceasefires to provoke international intervention in the civil war, reports AP.

The South, which declared independence on May 21, wants foreign observers to monitor any ceasefires. The north fears that would serve to bolster the South's claim to statehood.

No foreign nation has recognized the breakaway government led by former Yemen Vice-President Ali Salem Al-Baidh. However, the South is

believed to have the tacit support of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states.

The Gulf bloc has pushed for United Nations involvement in the crisis. The UN Security Council began deliberations late Monday on a possible resolution involving observers for future ceasefires and resumption on political dialogue.

UN peace efforts led by former Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi, who brokered an end to Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war, collapsed last week.

Conservative North Yemen and socialist South Yemen merged into a single state in

May 1990. The union was popular but beset by cultural and ideological differences, and war broke out May 4 after months of escalating political conflict.

Beidh announced the south's independence on May 21, seeking to break up the impoverished nation of 14 million into two states once again.

Government-run Sanaa Radio quoted an official source accusing the South of violating the latest ceasefire Saturday as well five previous ones. None lasted more than a few hours.

The rebels used naval units and bombed the positions of the forces of unity and con-

stitutional legitimacy from the land and sea," the unidentified source said.

The official source alleged that southern forces attacked civilians in the secessionist capital of Aden to make the ceasefire violations appear the work of the North.

Claims made by both sides in the conflict have been difficult to verify. No further details on the fighting were given in the report, which was monitored by the British Broadcasting Corp.

On Monday, the northern government headed by Lt. Gen. Ali Abdullah Saleh offer to let civilians flee Aden. Northern

forces have besieged the city with rocket and artillery barrages that reportedly have killed hundreds.

The offer was made after the southern-run Aden News Agency reported that 366 people had been killed and 849 wounded in the latest week of the siege.

Aden, the nation's largest port and economic capital, has been the target of some of the heaviest artillery bombardment. The North appears to be trying to wear the southerners down despite warnings from the United States and Gulf nations not to attack the city of 350,000 residents and an

Scoop from wastepaper basket

BOMBAY: The carbon paper played a vital role in publicising the correspondence between two national leaders, Mahatma Gandhi and Jinnah on partitioning India, veteran journalist, M V Kamath, said Tuesday, reports PTI.

Speaking at valedictory function of the diamond jubilee celebrations of leading Gujarathi evening paper Janmabhoomi, he said it was a scoop in pre-independence days that two national leaders were corresponding on possibilities of partition of India to secure her liberty from British rule.

Kamath, who is a former editor of The Illustrated Weekly of India, said one unknown person having links with "Janmabhoomi" and an access to the steno of Jinnah would lift the carbon paper dropped in the wastepaper basket after typing a letter on the subject by Jinnah to Gandhi. The carbon paper thus brought formed the basis for the news item.

Jinnah was annoyed as the correspondence was getting published in the daily and suspected that Gandhiji must have given it to the reporters. The "Janmabhoomi" once published a letter from Jinnah to Gandhi, even before it reached the hands of Mahatmaji, Kamthia added.

1000 flee Haiti by sea

MIAMI, June 28: More than 1,000 Haitians took to the sea in small boats Monday to flee political uncertainty and economic chaos days after most air links to Haiti were cut in a bid to pressure the Caribbean nation's military rulers, reports Reuter.

The US coastguard said it had intercepted 1,139 Haitians at sea Monday, following the interdiction of 786 Haitians Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

"Things have picked up in the last four or five days," a coastguard spokesman said.