

## Bush criticises Clinton's foreign, domestic policies

CHICAGO, Aug 16: Former President George Bush sniped at President Clinton's foreign and domestic policies Monday, urging him not to invade Haiti and accusing him of "vandalizing" on issues, reports Reuters.

In a paid address to the National Hardware Association's annual show, Bush repeatedly criticised Clinton

for having an uncertain foreign policy and pushing government deeper into Americans' lives at home.

"With the Soviet Union gone, we must continue to lead. And we can't neglect our overseas obligations. And we can't forego our leadership role," Bush said. "You have to stick to a plan, you can't vacillate, whether it's Haiti or Korea."

The current administration's biggest problem is that it doesn't seem to have a plan," he added.

Bush said Clinton ought not to use troops in Haiti because there is no foreseeable plan for their withdrawal, and because it would "reawaken fears of gunboat diplomacy" among American allies in South and Central America.

And Bush said the US should not return to power Haiti's democratically elected President, Jean Bertrand Aristide, who was ousted in a military coup.

## Tigers blow up navy ship as Lankans go to polls

COLOMBO, Aug 16: Tamil rebels blew up a navy ship in Sri Lanka on Tuesday as tens of thousands of voters lined up at polling stations across the nation to elect a new parliament, reports AP.

Naval officials said guerrilla divers probably placed mines under the 4,000-ton surveillance vessel berthed in Kankesanthurai harbour in northern Sri Lanka. The ship and a nearby tug boat sank.

Two sailors were missing, and others swam to safety after the explosion at dawn, a navy official said on condition of anonymity.

The harbour is controlled by the government, but located in the rebel-held Jaffna Peninsula, and few people will be voting there.

The guerrillas oppose the election, and they have told

the nation's Tamil minority to stay away from the polls.

In Colombo, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe said he was not surprised by the attack because the government had intercepted guerrilla walkie-talkie messages about a major attack Tuesday.

His United National Party, which has been in power for 17 years, is expected to face a tough challenge in the vote from a five-party opposition coalition, the Socialist Peoples' Alliance.

If the coalition wins, it has promised to choose its leader, Chandrika Kumaratunga, as prime minister, restructure the government to make her the president, the most powerful official, and hold unconditional talks with the rebels, who have been fighting for a Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka for 11 years.

The centrist United National Party controls the powerful presidency, and it has refused to negotiate with the rebels. So it could struggle with the opposition if it wins the election.

Tension between the governing party and the Peoples' Alliance was high throughout the month-long election campaign, and about 3,400 clashes and 20 killings were reported.

More than 40,000 policemen and thousands of gun-toting soldiers patrolled the streets Tuesday to prevent more violence.

Four hours after the polls opened, 35 per cent of the estimated 11 million voters had cast ballots in 10,000 polling stations, said AD de Silva, the deputy election commissioner. Forty-five international

election observers from countries such as the United States, Britain, France and India are monitoring the polls in 22 districts.

Despite the clashes during the campaign, and the fact that past ballots have been marked by fraud and voter intimidation, many people lined up outside polling stations in schools and government offices at dawn Tuesday to cast their ballots.

"I came here early because I didn't want someone else to cast my vote. ... It happened last time," said Nainer Mohammad Ghani in Colombo. Like all voters, Ghani walked out with his left little finger covered in indelible violet ink to prevent him from voting again.

No clashes or complaints about electoral fraud were immediately reported.

## Off the Record



Berlin's youth senator Thomas Krueger of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) presents his campaign poster on Monday for this year's general elections to be held on October 16. One thousand of these posters will be posted in two districts of East Berlin bearing the writing "An honest skin (means: an honest soul) — Thomas Krueger: One for all." — AFP photo

### Sexist, misleading ads anger feminists

HONG KONG: At first glance it looks like a poster of a pretty woman promoting safe sex: "Before you go all the way, take precautions," reports AP.

In fact, it's a government ad for industrial safety, and women's groups are in uproar, calling it sexist and misleading.

And now, just as the feminists thought they were starting to get their message across, comes another poster, this time from the construction industry, using a cartoon of a busty, scantily clad woman to persuade workers to take care on the job.

"Women are insulted by these sexually suggestive posters," said Linda To, coordinator of the Hong Kong Women Workers Association. "Clearly, male workers are the target audience and women are used to attract their attention."

The women say that the Labour Department posters, in English and Cantonese, are sexist because they feature women in alluring poses, and misleading because the women are shown as welders and construction workers, clad in hardhats and overalls.

"We have few women working on construction sites," said Tsang Gar-yin of the Association for the Advancement of Feminism.

### Man haunted by memory of murder confesses

ADELAIDE, Australia: A man confessed to the rape and murder of a woman 16 years ago because he was haunted by the memory of the crime, reports AP.

The South Australian state Supreme Court sentenced Gordon Walker to life in prisons Tuesday after he pleaded guilty.

Prosecutors said Walker, who was 16 at the time, held a knife to the throat of the 20-year-old victim while his older brother drove to a secluded spot where they raped her and shot her dead.

Walker last year confessed to a priest that he had been haunted ever since. He then surrendered to police who had been baffled by the 1978 crime.

His brother committed suicide several years ago.

### Actor Mickey Rourke charged with spousal battery

LOS ANGELES: Actor Mickey Rourke was charged Monday with misdemeanor spousal battery for allegedly slapping his wife, knocking her down and kicking her last month at Hollywood office, reports AP.

Rourke was charged with beating Carrie Otis, an actress who appeared with him in the movie "Wild Orchid," a city attorney spokesman said.

If convicted, the actor could be sentenced to one year in jail.

The volatile Rourke was arrested in January outside his nightclub in Miami Beach, Florida and charged with verbally abusing police. The charges were dropped after the actor agreed to hold a boxing clinic for poor children.

## BRIEFLY

### Ghali welcomes US-DPRK accord:

Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali Monday welcomed a weekend accord between the United States and North Korea on nuclear issues and said he looked forward to further progress when talks resume next month, Reuters reports from United Nations.

**Benazir in Qatar:** Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived Monday on a three-day visit for talks with the Qatari leadership on bilateral ties and regional issues, AP reports from Doha.

The official Qatar News Agency said Crown Prince and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani was on hand at the airport to accord the visiting Pakistani premier a ceremonious reception.

### Hezbollah kills 3 in S Lebanon:

Three pro-Israeli militiamen were killed by guerrillas Tuesday in attacks on two outposts in Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in south Lebanon, security sources reported, says AP from Marjayoun.

The radical Shiite Muslim group Hezbollah claimed responsibility for the raids.

### 100 Buddhists held in Vietnam:

Vietnamese police arrested more than 100 Buddhist dissidents protesting for religious freedom in the former South Vietnamese capital of Saigon, a Buddhist human rights group said on Tuesday, AP reports from Hanoi.

The protesters were holding a spontaneous hunger strike in front of the former city hall, now the headquarters of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee.

**Blast kills Thai army officer:** A Thai army sergeant was killed and his wife injured when a bomb exploded in their garage, police said yesterday, Reuters reports from Bangkok.

The explosion, in the Kengkyo district of Sareburi Province about 120 km (74 miles) north of Bangkok on Monday, killed Sergeant Thongpon Nuanchan, police said.

### Syrian special forces chief fired:

Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad has sacked the head of his elite special forces, General Ali Haidar, informed sources said on Monday, AFP reports from Nicosia.

Assad replaced him with General Ali Habib, who headed Syrian units which fought in the US international force which rejected Iraq from Kuwait in the Gulf War of 1991, the sources said.

### 6 slain in Frankfurt brothel:

Police on Monday discovered the bodies of five prostitutes and the brothel operator inside their building in a fashionable Frankfurt neighbourhood. All six were apparently strangled, AP reports from Frankfurt.

The body of the slain man and two of the women were found in the basement. Two other bodies on the first floor. The sixth body was on the top floor of the three-story building that had been a high-class brothel for about 10 years, police said.

### Bolivian truck mishap kills 16:

Sixteen people were killed and four seriously injured when a truck plunged off the road between the Andean cities of Oruro and Cochabamba, police said on Monday, AFP reports from Oruro, Bolivia.

### Blasts damage bldgs in Chechnya:

Three explosions damaged government buildings early Monday in the breakaway southern republic of Chechnya and officials immediately blamed the main opposition group, AP reports from Moscow.

The blasts, apparently caused by mines, rocked the civil defence headquarters, the prosecutor general's office and a drama theater at around 4 am in the Chechen capital of Grozny. Chechnya's Interior Minister Ayub Satuyev told the ITAR-Tass news agency.

## 50,000 Filipinos infected with AIDS virus

MANILA, Aug 16: An estimated 50,000 Filipinos are infected with the virus that causes AIDS, but an epidemic is still preventable if the authorities act immediately, Health Secretary Juan Flavio said here today, reports AP.

"This is the very time when we still have a fighting chance to prevent it," Flavio said, adding that the government had budgeted 40 million pesos

(1.5 million dollars) for its anti-AIDS campaign.

The drive was also receiving financial assistance from the United States and Australia, while the authorities were negotiating for similar assistance from Japan, he said.

He noted that about 92 per cent of the population was aware of AIDS, up from 12 per cent in 1992, but that most people still did not know how the disease was spread, which indicated a need for a broader information campaign, he said.

Flavio said that so far, only 531 people in the Philippines had tested positive for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the precursor to AIDS, of whom 150 had actually developed AIDS, and 86 had died.

But he said they believed that for every one person they found, as many as 100 went undetected.

Flavio, who has come under fire from the Roman Catholic Church leadership in recent months for his population control programme and the promotion of anti-AIDS measures, said the health authorities were focusing their attention on five "high-risk groups."

### Kukis storm police station, kill 2

NEW DELHI, Aug 16: Outlawed tribal guerrillas stormed a police station overnight and killed two policemen in the far-eastern Indian state of Manipur, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said on Tuesday, reports AP.

Twenty tribal gunmen staged the attack on the complex in Manipur's Chandel district, bordering Myanmar, and killed the two personnel and injured three others, PTI said.

The raiders from Manipur's dominant Kuki tribe also stole three light machine-guns and a large quantity of ammunition.

### Govt firm to root out campus radicalism

## 1200 ROK students arrested

SEOUL, South Korea, Aug 16: The government is determined to root out campus radicalism "at whatever cost," a top government official said Tuesday, reports AP.

Home Minister Choi Hyong-woo made the declaration after discussing with senior law enforcement officials weekend clashes between radical students and police, in which about 200 people were injured.

"The government will never tolerate violence challenging law and order and root it out at any cost," Choi said.

More than 1,200 students were arrested in connection with the weekend violence in Seoul. The mass arrests reflected a toughening government position on increasingly violent campus activism.

Police officials said more students may be arrested. Chief presidential spokesman Choo Don-shik said Tuesday that the government would deal strictly with any students involved in the weekend violence.

"It is President Kim Young-Sam's firm belief that there should be no forgiveness concerning violence, in any form, that destroys democracy," Choo told reporters.

On Sunday night, fierce fighting erupted at a Seoul uni-

versity as police, firing tear gas, marched on about 40,000 students trying to hold a pro-North Korean rally.

Students, wielding steel pipes and hurling rocks, fought back, starting four hours of clashes with police through the night at Seoul National University.

The government immediately issued an order to arrest students leaders who were re-

### 8 North Koreans defect to South

SEOUL, Aug 16: Eight North Koreans who escaped Siberian logging camps arrived Tuesday in Seoul as defectors to South Korea, reports AP.

The eight brought to 39 the total number of North Koreans to defect to South Korea this year. Recent Northern defectors include a family of three who arrived Saturday through China. The defectors looked tired when they arrived at Seoul's Kimpo International Airport. They were immediately taken away by intelligence officials.

Government officials said the eight lumberjacks are among about 170 North Koreans who have escaped their logging camps in Siberia.

turning to their home cities throughout the country after attending the three-day Seoul rally, which ended Monday.

Police were posted at train stations and bus terminals in major cities to arrest students arriving from Seoul. As of Tuesday morning, 1,232 had been arrested, police said.

Those arrested would be questioned for their roles in the Seoul rally, outlawed by the government as pro-North Korean, police said. They would either be set free or face summary courts for detention of up to 30 days, police said.

All similar rallies have been marked by violent clashes with police. This year's rally, echoing a North Korean demand, called for an end to the US military presence in South Korea.

Students say the stationing of 36,000 US troops in South Korea under a mutual defence treaty increases tensions on the peninsula, thus blocking unification of North and South Korea.

The rival Koreas have been bitter rivals since the division of their peninsula into the communist North and the capitalist South in 1945. They are still technically at war, with no peace treaty signed at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

## Assam will hire Muslim cops to check riots

GUWAHATI, Aug 16: The Indian state of Assam, reviving an old British colonial practice, has decided to hire more Muslim policemen to check rising violence against the minority group, officials said today, reports Reuters.

Authorities said the north-eastern state's government had issued a circular increasing Muslim representation in the state's police force.

Before granting India independence in 1947, Britain promoted the hiring of Muslims to avert possible discrimination by majority Hindus.

Assam Chief Minister Hiteswar Saikia told Reuters the government would now raise the proportion of Muslims in the police force by requiring one in three new recruits, and on of two top officers, to be from the religious minority.

## Iran recalls its envoy from Argentina

NICOSIA, Aug 16: Iran says it has recalled its ambassador in Buenos Aires for consultations in a swelling diplomatic dispute over Argentina's allegations that Tehran was behind a bombing that killed 95 people and wounded more than 200, reports AP.

Tehran Radio Monday night quoted an informed source at the Iranian Foreign Ministry as saying the recall of Ambassador Hadi Soleiman Pour "follows the spread of certain baseless allegations and propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran and our country's officials and diplomats by some of Argentine media and organizations."

Tehran's move cranked up the dispute over the July 18 bombing of a Jewish centre in the Argentine capital.

Argentina withdrew its ambassador in Tehran Mario Quadri del Castillo, for consultations July 28.

Argentine Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano has ordered four Iranians, all working at the Iranian embassy, held for questioning in the bombing and named three others as suspects.

US and Israeli officials have blamed the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, or Party of God, of Lebanon for the attack.

## Raunchy films revolt Indian movie buffs

BOMBAY, Aug 16: A wave of revulsion has gripped India where millions of film buffs have overdone on graphic sex and violence and have demanded the country's censors stop stalling and start chopping, reports AP.

Films featuring raunchy songs, child abuse, morbid murders and sexist overtones will come under closer inspection from a national censor board which has been pressured into enforcing certification rules more stringently, say officials.

Recent Hindi-language releases from Bombay or "Bollywood" as India's film capital is known, have taken vulgarity and sado-masochism to new heights considering the generally tame contents Indian audiences are accustomed to.

The top money-earner was a recent film titled "Khalnayak," or "villain," which critics decried as containing too much gore for children.

Other flicks flirt with soft porn, featuring racy, chart-topping tunes as "What is behind the blouse?" Earlier this year, censors banned a foot-tapping dance number titled "Sexy Sexy Sexy"

in the film "Dulara" (Darling) which inspired other raucous and so-called obscene songs in other Bollywood productions.

India produced 812 films in 1993 of which 427 were cleared by the censor board without any deletions. Some 13,000 movie theatres cater to an estimated 20 million filmgoers every day.

Several recent court cases and public complaints have spurred Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's government to remove some of the pink from the silver screen.

"We have been receiving a lot of complaints about recent films," censor board chairman and veteran film producer Shakti Samanta said.

"We are not putting in place new guidelines but have decided to implement earlier ones more strictly. We will be more careful," added Samanta who has had several box-office hits.

But the new breed of directors say the planned crackdown is an infringement of artistic freedom and their attempts to portray India's corruption-ridden, violent society.



Undated recent file photo of Indian actors Sheeba (top) and Sunjoy Mukherjee performing in a sexually explicit song sequence from the recently released Hindi movie "Hum Hain Kamal Ke." — AFP photo

## Dushanbe urged to help UN peace process

ISLAMABAD, Aug 16: Turkmenistan and Pakistan Monday jointly urged Dushanbe to help the United Nations peace process in Tajikistan, reports AP.

The call was made in a joint communique at the end of Turkmenistan President Saparmurat Niyazov's three-day official visit to Pakistan.

Niyazov and his host, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, agreed that "recent measures" announced in Dushanbe could "jeopardize" the UN peace process and other efforts for peace in Tajikistan.

The communique, which did not detail the measures, said political differences could only be resolved through negotiations between the Tajik government and opposition.

On Afghanistan, the two countries warned that the continuing fratricidal conflict there would have "serious consequences" for the peace and security of neighbouring states.

They called for a just and equitable political settlement in Afghanistan in line with the aspirations of its people. Turkmenistan agreed to work with Pakistan to achieve national reconciliation in the war-torn country.