## Allegations of bribery Federal police files case against Rao

NEW DELHI, June 12 India's federal police registered a case today linking former prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to allegations a regional party received money to help him defeat a no confidence motion in 1993 United News of India (UNI) said, reports Reuter:

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) filed the case after the Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld a lower court order directing the agency to register a fresh probe into the allegations.

At issue were allegations that Surai Mandal, chief of the Regional Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) Party, received

three million rupees (100.000 dollar to oppose the no confidence motion.

Rao, who stepped down as prime minister last month after Congress was beaten in general elections, narrowly defeated the motion Rao has denied any involvement.

A complaint field in February by an anti-corruption citizens group alleged Rao and members of his Congress government bribed Mandal to manipulate the no confidence motion in its favour. UNI said the report filed by the CBI on Wednesday named seven other people, including four former ministers who had served in Rao's council of ministers.



Calm prevails in Yangon: Despite prodding from the United States, Myanmar neighbours proved reluctant Tuesday to get involved in the tense confrontation between pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and the military regime, AP reports from Yangon.

Two US envoys visiting the region to find a common response to the recent crackdown on Myanmar opposition found President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines unwilling to take a stand on what was characterised as a Myanmar "internal affair." Meanwhile, officials in Indonesia denied reports that Foreign Minister Ali Alatas would express concerns to the Burmese regime on behalf of the seven-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Peres, King Hussein awarded: Outgoing Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and King Hussein of Jordan were named on Tuesday as joint winners of the 1996 Philadelphia Liberty Medal for forging a peace treaty that normalised relations between their two countries. Reuter reports from Philadelphia.

The 100,000 dollar award, now in its eight year, is given annually by a private, non profit, non political organisation with corporate funding in recognition for contribution's to the principles of American democracy. King Hussein and Prime Minister Peres have played extraordinary roles, over many years in pursuing peace and liberty in the Middle East, Martin Meyerson, chairman of the media's selection commission and retired university of Pennsylvania president, said in the award announcement.

IA flight halted abruptly: A scheduled flight of the state-run Indian Airlines between New Delhi and the western city of Bombay was abruptly halted Tuesday after the plane's wheels came off before take-off, officials said, AFP reports from New Delhi

Officials said the plane "suddenly skidded, went for some distance on its belley and came to a halt" as it was preparing to leave for Bombay from a stopover in the western city of Aurangabad.

The 86 passengers on board were taken by bus to Bombay, they said. There were no further details.

Chinese minister meets Mubarak: Chinese Defence Minister Chi Haotian met President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo yesterday to discuss military cooperation with Egypt, officials said, AFP reports from Cairo.

We had an exchange of views on military cooperation between our two countries," Chi told journalists. Beijing supporters the peace process in the Middle East and wants to see Arab solidarity restored," he added, referring to an Arab summit which Cairo is host on June 21-23.

109 executed in China since April: Some 109 executions were reported by Chinese newspapers received in Beijing, yesterday bringing to around 500 the number of people known to have been executed since an anticrime campaign started at the end of April, AFP reports from Beijing.

Twenty-six people charged with looting, left and rape were sentenced to death June 7 at Kunming in the southwestern province of Yunnan and 23 others were given the same sentence June 9 at Anshan in the northeastern province of Liaoning after being convicted on the same charges.

Juppe's 3 day visit to Canada begins:
French Prime Minister Alain Juppe capped a three-day visit in Canada late Tuesday with an appeal to rich countries to continue helping those less fortunate, particularly in Africa, AFP reports from Montreal.

Juppe, whose trip was focused on strengthening bilateral economic ties, said at a news conference here that French President Jacques Chirac will make aid to developing countries a central theme of the next meeting of the group of seven industrialized nations, to be held in Lyon France. Everyone must understand, in particular the major rich nations, that it is in our interest and it is our duty simultaneously a moral obligation and political-economic one - to not slacken our efforts in giving aid to developing countries, especially to Africa.

Blast kills 4 in Russia: A bomb blast has killed four people and injured 12 in the underground of the Russian capital in what the Mayor said was a terrorist attempt to disrupt presidential and mayoral elections taking place on Sunday, Reuter reports from Moscow.

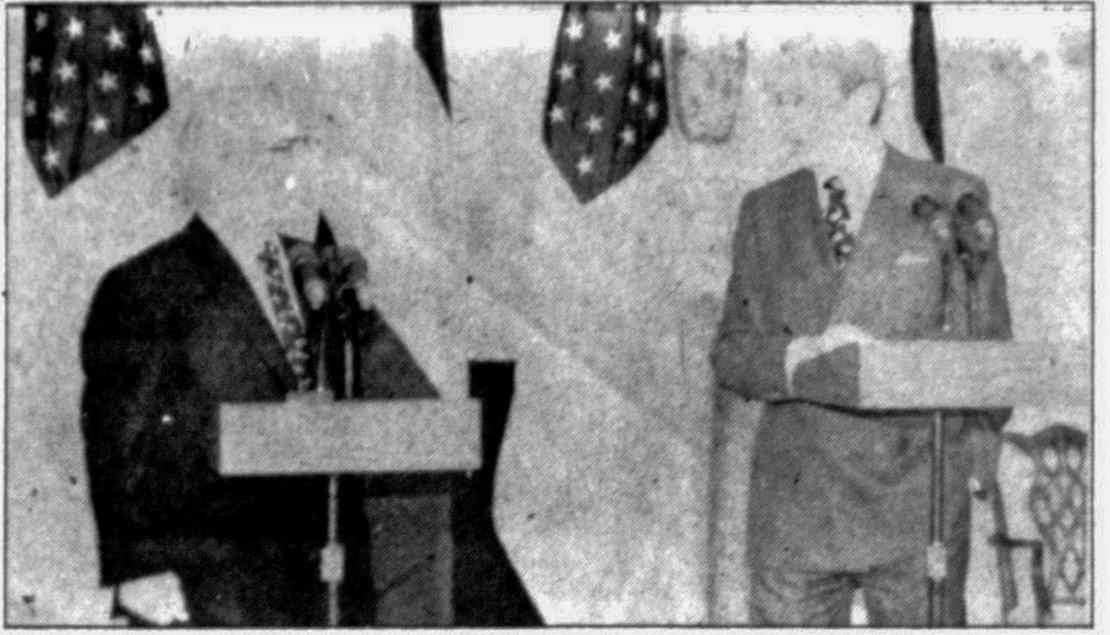
This terrorist act is part of a chain of measures to create chaos in the run up to the elections on June 16, Yuri Luzkov said after emerging from the metro station near where the bomb went off late on Tuesday. I am sure it was done to stop the elections going ahead normally. It is directed against the President and against me he told reporters.

Hashimoto to visit S Korea: Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto will visit South Korea on June 22-23 for talks with President Kim Young-sam, Kyodo News agency reported yesterday, Reuter reports from Tokyo.

Hashimoto and Kim would discuss their countries' plans to co-host the 2002 World Cup soccer finals and coordinate food aid policy for North Korea, it said. On Tuesday, South Korea and Japan announced they would donate 3 million dollar and 6 million dollar respectively, to North Korea in response to the UN appeal for 43.6 million dollar to cope with food shortages caused by devastating floods last year.

Gunman holds 7 hostages in Australia: A gunman has taken seven people hostage in an office block in a Melbourne suburb police said Wednesday, AP reports from Melbourne.

Police said they are negotiating by telephone with the man who has locked himself and the hostages in a lawyer's office. No shots have been fired and no one is has been reported injured.



US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, right, and Jordan's King Hussein, answer reporters' questions during a press briefing at the State Department in Washington, DC on Tuesday. Hussein will be meeting with President Clinton today. — AFP/UNB photo

### Palestinian official worried about ME peace

## US defends Israel's right to delay redeploying troops from Hebron

WASHINGTON June 12 The United States on Tuesday strongly defended Israel's right to delay redeploying troops from Hebron under a peace deal signed with the Palestinians, reports Reuter.

"We've all got to live in the real world ... the real world is there has been a democratic election in Israel ... It is rational and reasonable to give the new prime minister, an elected prime minister some time to form a government. And we're not going to try to hasten that pace. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters.

Under the peace accord signed with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) last September, Israel was to redeploy its troops from Hebron, the last of severe West Bank cities affected by June

After his recent election defeat by hardliner Benjamin Netanyahu, prime minister Shimon Peres said he would leave the task to the new Israeli leader Netanyahu is yet to from his government. At a news briefing Burns deflected questions about the impact and precedent set by discarding deadlines in the peace agreement. Even if Netanyahu took the full 45 days allotted to form a government, Burns said, "We're not going to be critical. We ought to all just site back be

Palestinians have said that an uprising could resume if Netanyahu failed to carry out the Hebron redeployment. Hebron, home to more than 100,000 Palestinians and about 400 Jewish settlers, is a flash

patient, think about other

things and we'll get back to

this when the government's

point of Arab-Jewish violence. AP adds the top Palestinian official in Jerusalem told foreign diplomats Tuesday that he was concerned about the future of the peace process under hardline Israeli Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Net anyahu.

"We are worried about the situation in Jerusalem and other issues." Faisal Husseini said after meeting with diplomats from the US, several European nations and Turkey

at the Orient House, the PLO's headquarters in the city.

The meeting, the first between Palestinian and Likud officials since the May 29 elections, was held in Milo's Tel Aviv office. Husseini told Israel Television he wanted to make contact with the new Israeli government, and said he hoped such meetings would

Netanyahu says he will continue the peace process. But the Liktid Party head rules out he PLO a key goal of an independent state with east Jerusalem as its capital.

Key Likud figures like Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert have called for shutting down the Orient House, claiming the Palestinians are using it as a de facto foreign ministry. According to the Israel-PLO autonomy agreements, the Palestinians are to hold all diplomatic activity in autonomous areas.

The Orient House is the headquarters for the Palestinian peace delegation, Husseini said. "It is a symbol for peace. Closing the Orient House would be closing the road to peace.



Rescue workers remove an injured child from the remains of the food court at the Osasco. Brazil shopping centre outside Sao Paulo on Tuesday. Police, firefighters, rescue personnel and civilian volunteers are continuing their searches after a gas explosion collapsed the roof of the court killing. - AFP/UNB photo

### China orders Greenpeace ship to leave

BEIJING, June 12: Port authorities in Shanghai today ordered the MV Greenpeace vessel to leave Chinese waters immediately, the Xinhua News Agency said, reports Reuter.

"A ship belonging to the Greenpeace organisation has been ordered by Shanghai's port and frontier offices to leave Chinese territorial waters immediately," Xinhua said.

It gave no more details. Chinese officials said privately that Beijing did not want confrontation with the environmental activists protesting against Chinas' nuclear testing.

Reports from aboard the vessel said Chinese officials had boarded the boat after intercepting it just outside Shanghai and ordering it to leave Chinese waters.

### Blast at shopping mall in Brazil kills 44 SAO PAULO, Brazil, June

12: An explosion ripped through a shopping mall on the outskirts of Sao Paulo at lunchtime Tuesday, blasting hotels in concrete walls and killing 44 people. More than 100 others were injured, re-

Twenty-seven bodies were pulled from the rubble, and 17 others died at or en route to the hospital, said Sao Paulo State police Col. Isaias Mascarenhas, who headed the rescue operation.

By Tuesday evening, spotlights were erected around the mall as rescue workers used tractors, trucks and bulldozers to clear debris.

The army and police combed rubble using lanterns. sensors and dogs, but state police Maj. Ademir Crivelaro, the

Francisco State University an-

rescue operation subcommander, said late Tuesday "it's very unlikely that we'll find survivors or more bodies." City officials planned a col-

lective funeral Wednesday morning at a high school gym nasium near the mall. The Plaza Shopping Center

in the suburb of Osasco, about 10 miles (16 kms) west of Sao Paulo, was built barely a year ago, but Mascarenhas said there was no suspicion of faulty workmanship.

Authorities said the cause of the explosion was unknown. Wednesday is a Brazilian holiday and many stores were busy with people shopping for

gifts. As many as 2,000 shoppers were believed to be in the center, which has 200 stores and three movie theaters.

### Soviet the old communist era parliament reinstated last year by Moscow. China builds

new seismic

relief system

BEIJING, June 12: China has built a new seismic relief system, aiming at diminishing losses caused by disastrous earthquakes, reports Xinhua.

The system is based on the into seismology, engineering, economy and seismic sociology, said seismologist Chen Yong, academician of the Engineering Academy of China. Earthquake relief work is

not only a form of scientific action, but also one of social action, Chen said. China is a developing country and it is not wealthy enough to build seismatic, or

earthquake proof "buildings of high standards" Chen said. Therefore, China has devoted its efforts in the past years to improving its capability to predict earthquakes, and

and reconstruction.

to strengthening relief work Serhiev said the United

# Off the Record

19 killed as

bldg collapses

in Hyderabad

more than a dozen injured when a dilapidated three storey

building collapsed in southern

Pakistan's Hyderabad city to-

day, police and ambulance

lances have rushed to the area

The building was located in

the centre of Hyderabad City,

160 kilometers (100 miles)

ing women and children had

been recovered so far rescue

workers said, adding that

some of the bodies were be-

jured, and four were in critical

condition, rescue workers said

a search for more bodies

feared trapped under the de-

families lived in the building,

which contained small apart

ments. A witness told AFP by

telephone that the scene looks

as if the structure has been

US to supply F-16

jets to Jordan

Tuesday it had formally told

Congress it intended to supply

F-16 warplances to Jordan and

officials said the long dis-

cussed deal was expected to go

US officials have made clear

through by the end of July, re-

the move stems from Amman's

decision to sign a peace treaty

with Israel in 1994 and is lar

gely aimed at upgrading Jor

dan's defences against neigh-

bouring Iraq. Secretary of State

Warren Christopher, standing

alongside Jordan's King Hu-

ssein, told reporters 'I'm glad

to say in the presence of the

King that we have sent the

notification with respect to the

with the king, who is on an of-

ficial visit to Washington

Christopher said "That's a very

important step in the process

and we intend to proceed with

man Nicholas Burns said the

notification was made on June

"We would expect this would

go through and that the F-16s

US to renew

to waste in unsettled Bosnia

months of conflict in the

Polling begins in

Chechnya Friday

den-tial and legislative elec-

tions in Chechnya are to take place over three days begin-

ning on Friday, Russian televi-

sion quo-ted the republic's pro

The statement by local gov-

Russian leader as saying Tues-

ernment chief Doku Zavgayeve

appeared to fly in the face of a

ceasefire agreement signed

Monday by Russia and Chechen

separatist leaders which re-

quired the elections to be

vision. Zevgayev said the elec-

tions would go ahead all the sa

me but it was unclear whether

or not be had the support of

Viktor Chernomyrdin-said only

that the decision to cancel or

hold the elections was a mat-

ter for the Chechen supreme

Russian Prime Minister

Speaking on Chechen tele-

day night, reports AFP.

called off.

Moscow.

MOSCOW, June 12: Presi-

former Yugoslav republic.

State Department spokes-

that in the customary way.

the end of July, he said.

ports Reuter.

Speaking before a lunch

F-16s to capitol Hill.

The US government said on

Residents said around 10

bris was still going on.

Around 20 people were in-

Bodies of 19 People includ-

Rescue workers and ambu

sources said, reports AFP.

north of here.

yond recognition.

bulldozed

ports Reuter

KARACHI, June 12: At least 19 people were killed and

Other side of Prince Philip

WINDSOR, England: As husband to Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip is one of the most photographed men in the world. But outside his role as consort to the monarch, he has led as private a life as possible, reports AP.

On Monday, his 75th birthday, the prince toured an exhibition at Windsor, west of London, that recaps both sides of his life, from his childhood to his days as a naval officer and his 1947 marriage to the then Princess Elizabeth and beyond. The couple have four children.

Bandsmen played "Happy Birthday" as the prince, accompanied by the queen, walked through the town to the exhibition at the 17th century Guildhall, greeting onlookers as they

The exhibition includes photographs, souvenir biscuit tins, books and newspaper cuttings.

The prince's final school report, dated 1938, form Scottland's rather austere Gordonstoun school, identifies him as someone with "unusual courage and endurance."

"He gives painstaking and careful attention to details relevant to the main purpose of his enterprises and does not know what boredom is when intent on discharging his duties," read the assessment

"He has the courage of his tastes and his convictions. The lure of the moment remains his danger.

As the royal couple left the Guildhall, a large crowed sang "Happy Birthday To You" and a local supermarket manager handed the prince a bottle of whisky

Born on the Greek island of Corfu in 1921, the prince, who also has the title Duke of Edinburgh, chose to spend the rest of his birthday privately. He was attending a working dinner Monday evening.

### Exhibition of art under Europe's dictators of the '30s

BERLIN: An exhibition of art and architecture created under Europe's 20th century dictators opened Monday in Berlin, putting the spotlight squarely on nationalistic images the city has tried to forget, reports AP.

The curators of the exhibit, which opened in London last year, said it is important to examine how politicians can use art to influence the public, especially during a time of resurgent nationalism in Europe "This is the first exhibition that really examines how art is

related to changing ideas of political power," said David Elliott, director of the Museum of Modern Art at Oxford, and one of the curators on hand for the official opening by Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The exhibition, running through August 20 at the German

Historical Museum, includes 600 paintings, sculptures and architectural models produced under the totalitarian regimes of Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini and Franco. Fifty years after the end of World War II, the exhibition is

intended to raise questions, about nationalism, said Henry Meyric Hughes of London's Hayward Gallery. Leni Fischer, president of the Parliament of the Council of Europe, the body which organised the exhibition, said it was important to remember how art was manipulated in the

1930s and 40s, especially "in a time where we are again seeing strong nationalistic tendencies in individual countries." The works on display illustrate the desire of some artists to embrace the Communist or Fascist ideals of their dictators

and the unwillingness of others of to the party line. This results in "extreme examples of modernism and classical art," according to Professor Dawn Ades, co-curator of the



Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda emerges from his limousine upon his arrival at parliament on Tuesday in New Delhi. Gowda vowed to complete his five-year tenure as the head of a centre-left government, saying the world's largest democracy had entered an era of coalition. - AFP/UNB photo

## Iraq blocks UN inspectors from entering military base

UNITED NATIONS, June 12 Iraq on Tuesday blocked UN weapons inspectors from entering a military base believed to house materials related to Iraq's secret weapons programmes, diplomats said, reports AP.

The incident was the first major confrontation between UN weapons inspectors and Iraqi officials since the United Nations and Baghdad agreed last month to a deal in which Iraq would sell dirs 1 billion in oil every 90 days under strict UN supervision to purchase food and humanitarian aid. Diplomats said the con-

frontation was likely to increases suspicion between the two sides and could make it more difficult for Iraq to realize its goal of persuading the Security Council to lift its

John Weston. "It just doesn't help the general atmosphere of confidence one little bit. Weston said one of the sites was believed to the "connected with nuclear weapons items and documentation." He gave

no further details. In Washington, US State Department, spokesman Nicholas Burns said "Iraq is al-

crushing economic embargo.

The council imposed the

sanctions after Baghdad's 1990

invasion of Kuwait and diplo-

mats have they will not con-

sider lifting the embargo until

lraq fully cooperates with the

fuels the suspicions that as

ever they are out to hide some-

thing," said British Ambassador

"This kind of behavior just

weapons inspectors.

ready in violation on the first day of the mission.

## Ukraine denies sale of N-technology to Libya

MOSCOW, June 12: Ukraine has not made nuclear technol ogy available to Libya in violation of U.N sanctions and the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, a foreign ministry spokesman said Tuesday, reports AP.

"We categorically reject these accusations that Ukraine violates U.N sanctions against Libya," said Yuri Serhiev, head

of the Foreign Ministry's information directorate. The Washington -Times newspaper on Monday re ported that Ukraine has established a secret "strategic co-

operation relationship with Libya," raising new U.S fears that nuclear technology will be transferred to Libya.

from a system of export control with a reliable mechanism to implement sanctions. But some Ukrainian law-

States had helped Ukrains

makers do not rule out the possibility that some dual purpose technologies could have been sold to Libya. "In principle, such sales are

possible," said Volodymyr Usatenko, chief scientific consultant for a parliamentary commission on the use of nuclear power, in a telephone interview with the Association

Usatenko said the Foreign Ministry was not necessarily informed about such contracts because "they were arranged through Ukraine's National Space Agency.

#### 'Our solar system seems to have planetary neighbours' NEW YORK, June 12: Our gest that two roughly Jupiterby tracking the star's motions and Paul Butler of Ban sized planets orbit Lalande solar system seems to have

planetary neighbours practically on its galactic block, astronomers said, reports AP. The fourth nearest star to the sun. Lalande 21185, appears to have one or more planets orbiting it. It those planets really exist - and their discoverer is almost certain

four times closer than any of the planets discovered outside the solar system. "We're pretty sure that there's something there, but it's a little early to say exactly what," said George Gatewood, who announced his discovery Tuesday at a Madisson, Wisconsin meeting of the American

that they do - they're about

Astronomical Society. A re-analysis of more than 60 years of observations sug21185. Gatewood estimates that one circles the star at about the same distance as Saturn, which is roughly 900 million miles (1.440 million kilometers) from the sun. He the other. thinks the other lies closer, in an orbit analogous to that of the solar system's asteroid If they are as Gatewood es-

timates, the more distant planet takes about 30 years to circle Lalande 21185, and the nearer one is in a six-year or-"These are the first ones that are really like our solar system," said Steve Maran, an

astronomer at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. Gatewood found the planets

on the sky down to the object's tiniest twitch. Gatewood's method is so precise, Maran said, that it could tell if an astronaut on the moon switched a flashlight from one hand to Previous discoveries of

planets circling nearby stars have found Jupiter-sized planets, but those planets have generally been in unusual or-

Last fall, Swiss astronomers made the first confirmed discovery of a planet outside the solar system. But that planet lies only 5 million miles (8 million kilometers) from its sun - 20 times closer than Earth's orbit — so close that astronomers wonder how it can survive there. In January, Geoffrey Marcy

much weaker. that it can't even be seen with the naked eye, Gatewood said. Astronomers at the Allegheny Observatory in

nounced the discovery of two more planets beyond the solar system. But one of those planets is also very close to its sun. and the other follows a lopsided orbit very unlike the circular paths that the solar system's planets follow. Gatewood said that if his

estimates of their characteristics are correct, then the planets probably don't support life. They're too cold because they're farther from their sun than Earth is, and their star is Lalande 21185 is so weak

Pittsburgh have collected more

than 66 years of detailed ob-

beginning in 1988. Those observations show that Lalande 21185 is speeding toward Earth at just over 50 miles (80 kilometers) a second. There's nothing unusual in that. But the measurements also show that the star's mo-

tion toward Earth periodically speeds up and then slows down ever so slightly. That change in speed is probably due to the gravitational pull of planets orbiting Lalande Maran cautioned that the planets' existence has not been

confirmed by independent astronomers. But he said that the results presented at the astronomy meeting show planets to be the most likely explanation for the star's movements.

## servations, made photographically at first and electronically