

# BRIEFLY

## Clinton to discuss foreign policy:

President Bill Clinton and his senior national security team plan a special meeting next week with influential members of Congress to discuss foreign policy and seek more bipartisan consensus. US officials said on Wednesday. Reuter reports from Washington.

The meeting is scheduled for April 16 at the presidential guest house known as Blair House, across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House.

Facing disputes over such a key issue as future ties with China and NATO expansion, Clinton has been keen for some time to discuss these matters with the lawmakers, officials said.

## Rioting erupts in Java:

Rioting by supporters of rival and political parties erupted again on Indonesia's main Java island, and homes, offices and vehicles were damaged in at least two towns, police said yesterday. Reuter reports from Jakarta.

At least 14 people were injured in the violence on Wednesday, the Repubblica newspaper reported.

It was the latest in a series of violent incidents that have rocked central Java province in the past two weeks.

## Fatah wins students' polls in WB:

Supporter of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah Movement won student elections in a West Bank Palestinian University seen as a test of strength between the PLO and Islamist groups, university officials said. Fatah won the elections, a university spokesman told Reuters on Wednesday.

Fatah, running as the "Jerusalem Block," won 22 seats on the 51-member assembly of Bir Zeit University, narrowly edging out the Hamas-affiliated Islamic Block, which took 20 seats.

## E Timorese rebels kill 6:

East Timorese separatist rebels killed six people and wounded five others in two ambushes in the troubled territory, an Indonesian military official was quoted as saying yesterday. AFP reports from Jakarta.

East Timor Deputy Military Chief Colonel Sukoco said the dead included two regional administrative officials, the Jakarta Post daily reported. He said the first attack Monday was on a car carrying the officials in the town of Viqueque, 110 kilometres (72 miles) east of the East Timor capital of Dili.

## Mine blast kills 11 in China:

Eleven people were killed and 13 others injured when an explosion ripped through a coal mine in northeastern China, a local official said yesterday. AFP reports from Beijing.

The blast occurred early Sunday in the medium-sized station Linsheng coal mine on the outskirts of Shenyang city in Liaoning province, a mine official told the agency by telephone. "There was an explosion at 0520 on Sunday morning which killed 11 miners on the night shift. Thirteen other miners were injured but they are all out of danger now," he said.

## Cong asks MPs to vote out UF govt

NEW DELHI, Apr 9: India's Congress (I) Party today ordered its members to vote out the ruling coalition in parliament on Friday, reports AFP.

The whip, issued by Congress leader Santosh Mohan Deb, asked members to attend Friday's one-day session "without fail, cancelling all their other engagements of whatever importance or urgency they might be."

It also asked them to oppose the vote of confidence to be moved by the tottering United Front coalition government of Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda.

"They (Congress members) should remain present in the House... throughout the day till the motion is defeated," it said.

The whip was issued immediately after final peace talks between the Congress, which has withdrawn its parliamentary support to the government, and the ruling Front failed.

## Call for ban on female circumcision

GENEVA, Apr 10: The heads of three UN agencies called Wednesday a global ban on female genital mutilation, but said it could take three generations to wipe out the practice, reports AP.

"Our joint plan provides the crucial momentum to once and for all eliminate female genital mutilation, a dangerous and potentially life-threatening procedure that affects millions of girls each year," said Carol Bellamy executive director of UNICEF, the UN children's organisation.

Bellamy, who is American, said pressure is needed everywhere "to ensure every girl's right to a safe and healthy life."

## One-third of Zaire in rebels' control Kabila gives Mobutu 3-day ultimatum to quit

GOMA, Zaire, Apr 10: With his forces largely in control of Zaire's second-largest city, rebel leader Laurent Kabila said early Thursday that the rebel army will halt its advance so president Mobutu Sese Seko can respond to an offer to leave power and withdraw to his home village, reports AP.

He told a news conference that the rebels were meeting "stiff resistance" from presidential guards units in the outskirts of Lubumbashi, and the airport was not yet secured, "but the sum total is that the city has been."

After half a year of fighting, the rebel forces now control more than a third of the country, including two of its three largest cities, and have vowed to move on to the capital.

Now, Kabila said, there would be a pause for three days to wait for a response from Mobutu on a proposal that he leave office and withdraw to his

home village in the north of the country.

Kabila said Mobutu would not have to go into exile, but could stay in his village, Gbadolite, under rebel protection. Kabila has made similar suggestions in the past, but without setting a deadline.

Meanwhile bodies of the dead lay row on row at the place known only as kilometre 29, some wrapped in rough brown blankets, others naked and ignored by an estimated 80,000 refugees.

But the death rate was dropping as high-protein relief supplies began getting through, international aid workers said Wednesday.

"Basically once it arrives on the planes, we throw it right onto trains, we throw it onto trucks, virtually any transport available to get it here to these camps and to get it distributed as quickly as possible," said Michele Quintaglio, spokeswoman for the World Food Programme.

They are camped in a stretch of territory that runs 95 kilometres (60 miles) south from Kisangani to Ubundu. Rebels seeking to topple the regime of President Mobutu Sese Seko seized Kisangani, Zaire's third largest city, on March 15.

Aid workers say that another 20,000 refugees are scattered amid the stench of death and human excrement in the thick jungle off the main track. Among them are 3,000 starving children.

The refugees refused to follow their compatriots and return home late last year from camps along the Zaire-Rwanda border where they had been living for two years. Former members of the Rwandan Hutu army and extremist militia pushed this group of refugees ever westward, often using them as human shields against the rebel advance.



This photo released on Wednesday by US Rep. Tony Hall's office in Washington and taken during a recent fact-finding mission shows orphan children who are malnourished and suffering from scalp and respiratory complications lying in a bed in the village of Yong Yun in North Korea. These children lost their mothers to starvation as a result of widespread famine in North Korea. — AFP/UNB photo

## Iraq sends pilgrims to S Arabia despite UN ban

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 10: Iraq flew Muslim pilgrims to Saudi Arabia for religious reasons and the United Nations should not impede "the most divine duties of the Muslim people," Iraq's UN ambassador said Wednesday, reports AP.

Iraq sent an airliner full of Muslim pilgrims to Saudi Arabia on Wednesday for devotions at Islam's holy cities. It was the first international flight dispatched by Saddam Hussein since the UN Security Council banned flights in and out of his country after Iraq 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

US Ambassador Bill Richardson called the flight a "flagrant violation" of the sanctions and said the United States would demand strong council condemnation.

But the Americans failed to get the council to issue such a statement Wednesday. Instead, the 15-member body referred the matter to the UN Sanctions Committee on Iraq to determine whether the curbs on Iraq were violated.

Diplomatic sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said France, China, Russia and Egypt insisted on referring the issue to the sanctions committee.

But that committee is made up of the same countries that sit on the Security Council, and it appeared the action was meant only to buy time.

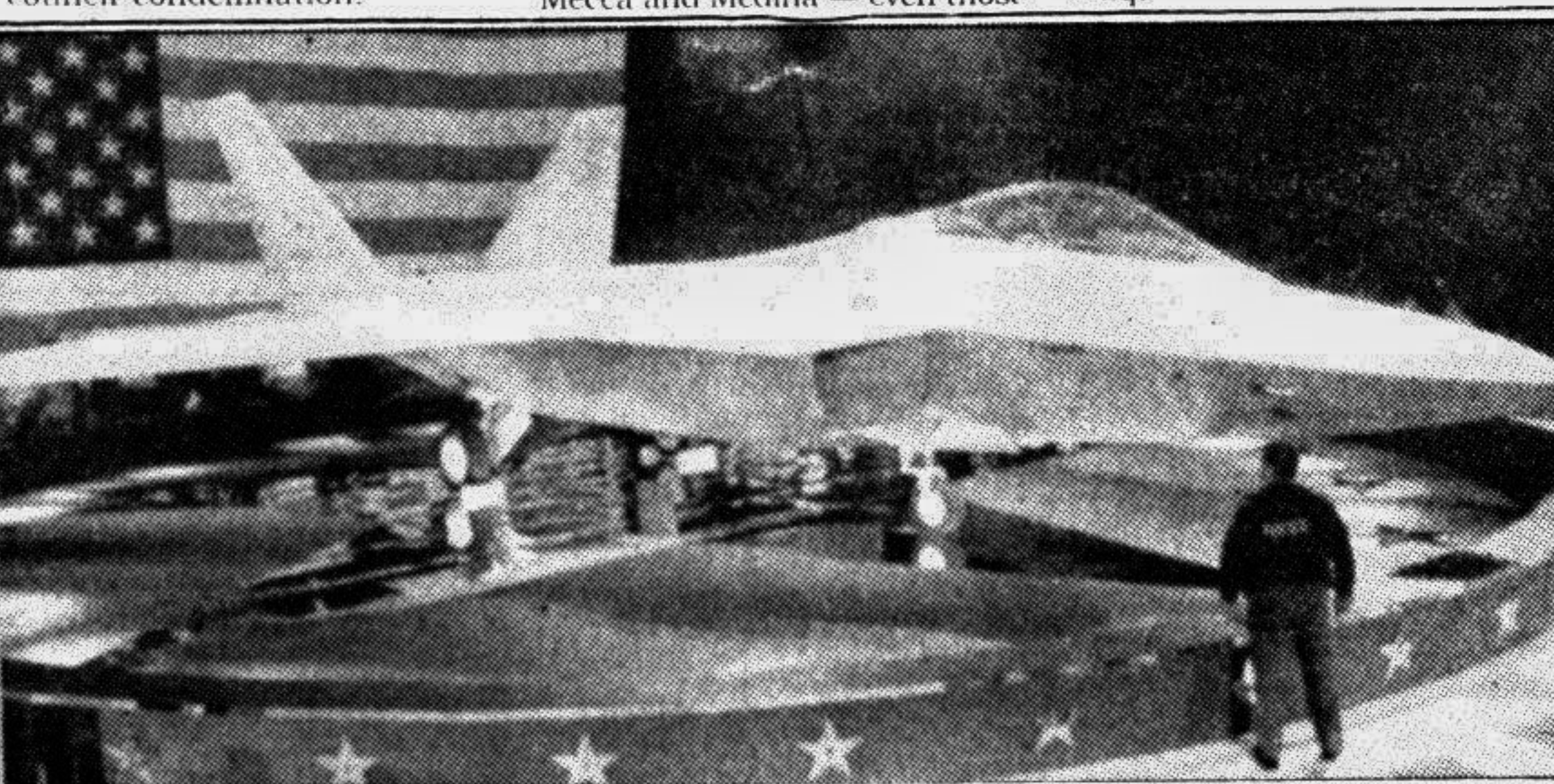
Saudi officials said little could be done to stop Muslims from making a hajj — the pilgrimage to the Saudi cities of Mecca and Medina — even those

defying a ban on flights from Iraq.

Under the sanctions imposed in 1990 after Iraq invaded Kuwait, the Saudis should impounded the plane, Libya, which is under similar air sanctions, has also violated the sanctions by flying pilgrims to Saudi Arabia.

On March 29, a Libyan jet flew 105 Muslim pilgrims to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The council called the Libyan flight "totally unacceptable."

The decision by the Saudis to allow the planes to land and depart and the unwillingness of the council to take stern measures underscore the problems Washington faces in pursuing its hard-nosed policy against Iraq.



The first production F-22 fighter aircraft for the US Air Force is unveiled in a ceremony Wednesday in Atlanta. Military officials call the plane the most technologically-advanced warplane in military history. The price for each plane is 71 million USD. — AFP/UNB photo

## Global warming detected in oceans around Antarctica

SYDNEY, Australia, Apr 10: Rising temperatures in the ocean depths off Antarctica provide new evidence that pollution and gas emissions from industrial age are causing global warming, researchers said Thursday, reports AP.

Carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels and other gas emissions from industry have built up for more than a century and trap heat in the atmosphere, said Professor Bill Budd of the Antarctic Cooperative Research Centre.

Most measurements of global warming have been made at or near the Earth's surface, and though they show a general trend toward warming there is also wide local inconsistency in measurements, he said.

But new data from deep ocean probes in the Southern Ocean, Indian Ocean, and South Pacific show the same warming trend.

"The deep changes have occurred in waters which originate from surface waters in the Southern Ocean," said Dr. Nathan Bindoff, also from the Antarctic Research Centre, based in Hobart.

"These surface waters sink and are carried northward by the ocean currents into the Indian and Southern Pacific Oceans where the observations were made. The Southern Ocean is an important source of deep water and is one of the keys to

understanding global climate change," he said.

"Indian Ocean waters tested down to 2,950 feet (900 metres) have warmed up to 1 degree Fahrenheit (0.5 Celsius) between 1962 and 1987, based on comparison of measurements, Bindoff said.

The Indian Ocean has risen by 1.4 inches (3.5 cm) in those 25 years just from thermal expansion.

If this warming were being driven by the "greenhouse gas effect" of heat trapped in the Earth's atmosphere, Budd said, you would also expect a dilution of the salty oceans in southern latitudes approaching Antarctica.

That is because a warmer atmosphere holds more moisture, and drops more rain and snow to mix with the oceans.

Bindoff's research found exactly that — waters of the Indian Ocean between 1,600 and 4,900 feet (500 and 1,500 meters) deep "contain more fresh water than in the past."

"By comparing salinity pattern of the surface waters with the pattern of deep water salinity, this extra fresh water has been found to come from surface waters in the southern Ocean," Bindoff said.

This discovery validated computer models that predicted increased precipitation near Antarctica from manmade global warming. It also added more weight to

Antarctic studies which found in 1995 that about 40 per cent more snow is falling on the Lambert Glacier than is being drained away, amounting to about a half-inch (1.2 cm) in extra depth.

That effect was ascribed to global warming, but researchers were unsure whether it was manmade or part of a longer-term climatic trend toward warming after the last ice age.

More deep-sea temperature measurements will be taken from instruments brought into Hobart this week by the Melville, a research ship from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego, California.

The ship recovered 50 deep-sea probes from the Southern Ocean as part of a US 1 billion dollars study of ocean currents.

They measured temperature, current flow and movement for two years at depths of up to 2 and a half miles (4 km).

It is all part of the World Ocean Circulation Experiment, sponsored by the US National Science Foundation, Australia's federal science agency, and science agencies from 23 other nations.

The data from the probes will be compared with satellite measurements and other information collected over the last six years of studying the Antarctic circumpolar current, which has a volume of water equal to 150 times that of all the world's rivers.

## Scientists sure about life in Jupiter's moon!

PASADENA, California, Apr 10: Space scientists said on Wednesday they were confident life existed in the muddy waters of one of Jupiter's moons, reports Reuter.

"I am sure there's life there," John Delaney of the University of Washington said in a reference to the Jovian Moon Europa. Delaney and the other experts spoke at a news briefing detailing results of pictures from the Galileo probe.

Pictures of Europa sent back by Galileo after its closest flyby of the moon in February and released by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on Wednesday showed a red-coloured sea with crust of ice about three feet (one metre) thick in which huge icebergs several miles (km) across were floating, the scientists said.

The images were taken as Galileo was 363 miles (586 km) from Europa.

Talking to reporters at NASA's jet propulsion laboratory, the scientists said they believed all the ingredients for

creating and sustaining life forms existed in Europa's waters.

Delaney, a professor of oceanology, said he and other scientists believed the waters under the ice crust were being warmed by volcanic activity and undersea research on earth had shown that "volcanic activity supports life without sunlight."

## Gunmen kill Shi'ite Muslim in Pakistan

MULTAN, Pakistan, Apr 10: Masked gunmen killed a Shi'ite Muslim activist on Wednesday in the town of Khenawa in Pakistan's central province of Punjab, police said, reports Reuter.

They said Ali Hassan Jafari, a homeopathic doctor, was shot by motorcyclists with automatic weapons as he was walking home from his clinic.

## Off the Record

### Dress code for prostitutes?

MEXICO CITY: Prostitutes in one of Mexico's red light districts are getting a dress code. Baby doll nighties, bikini briefs and lycra are out; decorous pants and knee-length skirts are in, reports AP.

Local officials targeted the "exaggerated dress" of the 3,000 prostitutes in the capital's La Merced district after residents complained they were tired of seeing near-naked women on the streets.

The municipal order — which is not legally binding — bans baby dolls, string bikinis, see-through blouses, lycra clothing and underwear worn outside, the Mexico City daily La Jornada reported Wednesday.

### New method of eye treatment

LONDON: Using a technique pioneered in Italy, British surgeons have restored a man's sight by inserting a piece of his tooth and jawbone into his eye, reports AP.

Bhijni Varsani, 62, from north London, can read newspapers again and see his family for the first time in nearly two years.

In a technique known as osteo-odontal keratoprosthesis, surgeons used a piece of Varsani's tooth and bone to build a frame for an artificial cornea, which was stitched into his left eye.

Varsani was the first British man to undergo the complex, two-part operation.

Some 180 similar operations have been performed at Rome's San Camillo Hospital, where the technique was developed by Prof. Giancarlo Falcinelli.

"I am very satisfied. Varsani has gained his maximum visual potential," said Christopher Liu, consultant ophthalmic surgeon at the Sussex Eye Hospital in southern England, where Varsani was treated.

He can see halfway down the eye chart and read newspapers. He can even see a watch and tell the time.

Varsani lost his sight through smallpox when he was a child. Trachoma robbed him of the sight of his other eye two years ago. Three cornea transplants failed.

In the first stage of the operation, in November, an oral surgeon removed one of Varsani's eye teeth and a piece of jawbone, then ground them into a miniature curved plate a third of an inch (9 mm) long a quarter of an inch (6 mm) wide and a tenth of an inch (3 mm) thick.

## Georgians mark bloody Soviet crackdown day

TBILISI, Apr 10: Some 3,000 Georgian opposition supporters held a memorial meeting in central Tbilisi Wednesday on the eighth anniversary of a bloody crackdown by Soviet troops, who used teargas and shovels to break up a pro-independence rally, killing 21 people, reports AFP.

Overnight, small groups of people carrying church candles and flowers walked silently to a memorial slab which bears the names of the victims.

Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze, who was Soviet foreign minister at the time of the crackdown, attended an official memorial march by around 100 people, which included a minute's silence.

At the opposition meeting later in the day, participants condemned Shevardnadze's Soviet past and later rapprochement with Russia.

"Today we are commemorating those who stood on this square — not Shevardnadze, who issued Moscow's orders to disperse defenceless people. Today we are commemorating those who wanted real independence," said Manana Tskhakaya, 46.

There were scuffles with police, but no injuries, as the demonstrators made their way to the memorial.

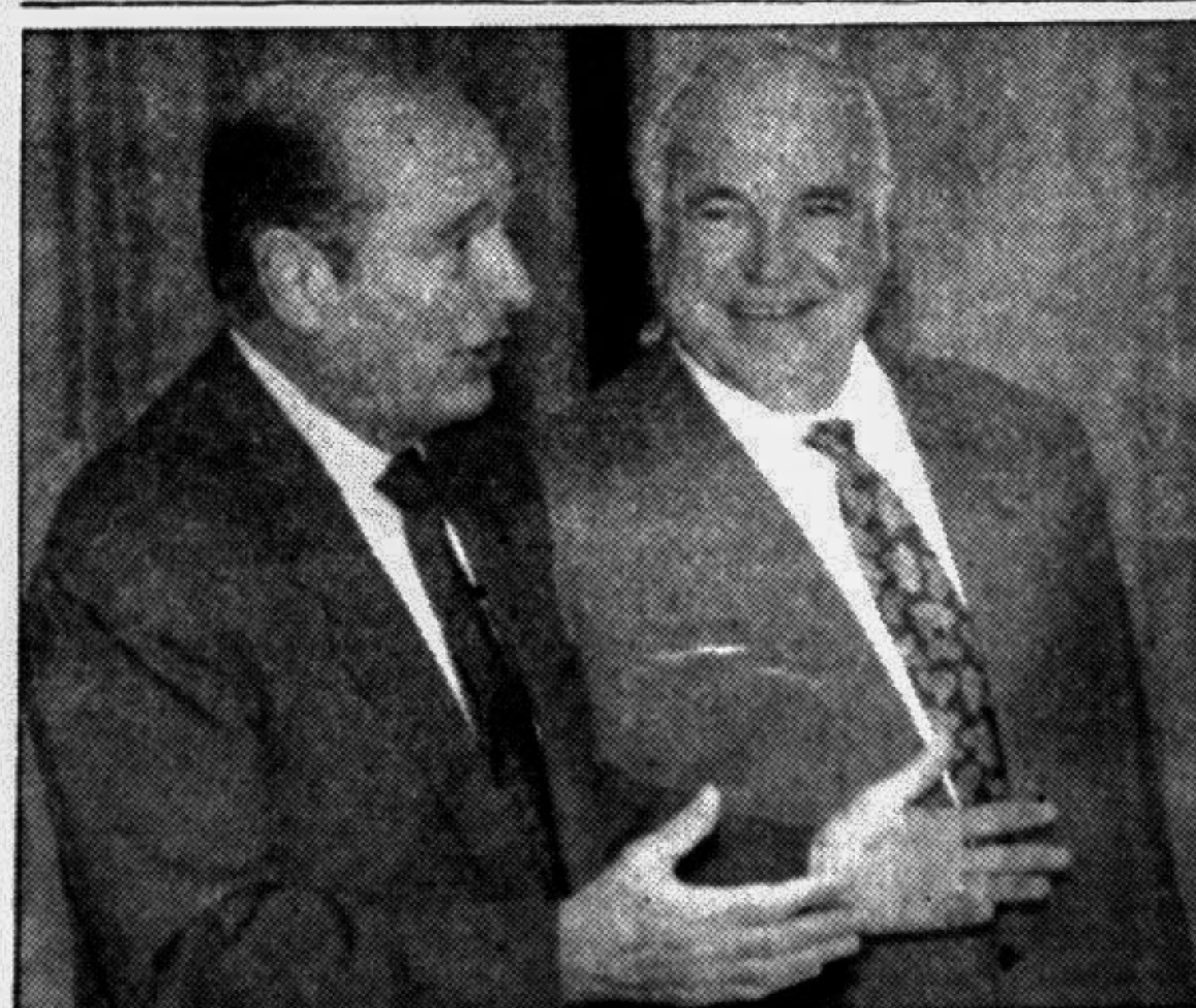
Many of the demonstrators carried banners denouncing Russia and the Georgian authorities, as well as portraits of Georgia's first independent president, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who was ousted from power in 1992.

## Italian PM to ask for vote of confidence

ROME, Apr 10: Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi will ask for a parliamentary vote of confidence on Thursday after his governing coalition split over Albania, reports AFP.

President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro asked Prodi for the vote on Wednesday during a one-hour meeting, after Marxist members of the centre-left government balked at endorsing an Italian-led multinational force to Albania, political sources said.

The troops, to be deployed from Monday with UN approval, is intended to secure transport hubs in Albania so that relief aid can reach the needy in the violence-ravaged Balkans state.



French President Jacques Chirac (L) gestures as German Chancellor Helmut Kohl (R) looks on in front of the chancellery on Wednesday. Chirac began talks over dinner with Kohl on problems of European construction, the introduction of a single European currency and enlargement of the NATO alliance, two months ahead of the EU summit in Amsterdam. — AFP/UNB photo

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## বিশেষ ছাড়

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CT-14AQ1	১৪"	১৬,৫০০/=	১৮,৫০০/=
CT-20AM1S	২০"	২০,০০০/=	২১,৫০০/=
CT-2169PM	২১"	২৬,০০০/=	২৭,৫০০/=
CT-21AQ1	২১"	২৭,৫০০/=	২৮,৫০০/=
CT-25AB1(Q)	২৫"	৪৮,০০০/=	৫০,০০০/=
CT-29AC2(Q)	২৯"	৭০,০০০/=	৭৫,০০০/=
CT-33AC2(Q)	৩৩"	১,১৫,০০০/=	১,১৫,০০০/=
রেফ্রিজারেটর			
MR-176DX	৭.৫ সিএফটি	২২,০০০/=	২৩,০০০/=
MR-186DX	৮.৫ সিএফটি	২৩,৫০০/=	২৪,৫০০/=
MR-216DX	১০ সিএফটি	২৬,০০০/=	২৭,৫০০/=
MR-496 F	৬ সিএফটি	১৬,৫০০/=	১৭,৫০০/=
MR-696(AF)	৯ সিএফটি	১৯,৫০০/=	২০,০০০/=

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