

# Israel on top of US weapons proliferators' list

WASHINGTON, May 23: The Department of Commerce has begun to identify foreign entities that the US government believes are engaging in proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, reports AP.

Under recent Clinton administration policy, the Commerce Department has so far identified two entities for which US exporters need to apply for export licenses even if the products they want to ship are not controlled.

First on the Entity List, named in February, was Ben-Gurion University in Israel. The Commerce Department requires export license application for US shipments to Ben-Gurion of all computers with capacity of 2,000-7,000 million theoretical operations per second.

Second on the list, published earlier in May, is Bharat Electronics Ltd in India, for which all US exports require a Com-

merce license application.

"We have done that because of our concern that these two entities are involved in activities which may contribute to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," Eileen Albanese, director of the Office of Exporter Services in Commerce, said in a May 22 interview.

She said that she expects the Entity List to grow considerably.

"There are more names in the pipeline," Albanese said, "and how long the list is going to end up being in the end, I don't know."

Names can come off the list, too; the Clinton administration has hopes that the threat of negative publicity will encourage foreign entities to disengage from proliferation activities, she said.

"If a company or an entity changes its ways, we would definitely consider taking it off the

list," Albanese said. "It's not as if you're there forever and nobody ever looks at you again."

The current policy had its origins in the Iran-Iraq war when a US company nearly exported to Iraq a sophisticated furnace that could have been used to build weapons. Although US regulation did not control exports of that furnace, the Commerce Department managed to get the shipment stopped.

After that experience, President Bush issued by executive order in 1991 the Enhanced Proliferation Control Initiative (EPCI), a catch-all provision authorizing the Commerce Department to require a license application for any export the US government believes will contribute to development of weapons of mass destruction — nuclear weapons, chemical and biological weapons, and missiles — even if Commerce does

not otherwise control the export.

Under that initiative any exporter must seek a Commerce license if he knows or has reason to know that the uncontrolled commodity he is shipping is going to be used to develop a weapon of mass destruction.

To inform exporters, Albanese said, the Commerce Department is starting to provide this list of foreign entities believed to be engaged in development of weapons of mass destruction for which export license application is necessary.

Six years passed from signing of the EPCI executive order until start of the Entity List, she said, because a number of concerns arose: Intelligence agencies were concerned about compromising intelligence sources and methods. The State Department was concerned about diplomatic ramifications.

## Haitian polls postponed till June 15

PORT-AU-PRINCE, May 23: Election officials in Haiti announced late on Wednesday that second-round balloting in senatorial elections would be postponed until June 15, a move diplomatic sources attributed to international pressure, reports Reuter.

"What is important about this process is the credibility," US Ambassador William Swing said on Thursday. "It isn't the date that counts."

Haitian election officials have come under fire for the way ballots were counted in the first round of elections, on April 6.

"There was a lot of discussions, and we decided it was best not to hold the elections on Sunday," Alexandre Lavaud, general secretary of the Provisional Electoral Council told Reuters in an interview on Thursday. "There was also a last-minute problem of organizing the materials."



The famous cartoon rabbit, Bugs Bunny, adorns a first class stamp which was unveiled during a ceremony at Warner Brothers Studios by the US Postal Service on Wednesday. The famous cartoon character — the first depicted on a stamp — is under fire from stamp collectors who consider the issuance of the stamp frivolous and undeserving of the venerable traditional of US Postal Service stamps.

## Blair attends EU summit

NOORDWIJK, Netherlands, May 23: British Prime Minister Tony Blair attends his first European Union summit Friday with his partners eager for signs he will accept more integration than his Conservative predecessor, reports AP.

The aim of the one-day summit in this coastal resort is to see if Blair's Labour government can endorse reforms designed to enable the EU to take in a dozen new members in the years ahead and remain a manageable outfit.

But the reforms — to be approved at a mid-June summit in Amsterdam — would translate into a major widening of EU powers at the expense of national sovereignty.

This was vehemently opposed by the Conservative government of former prime minister John Major which saw reform proposals emanating from Germany and France signaling a dangerous loss of national sovereignty.

At a hotel overlooking the wind-churned North Sea, Blair's 14 EU colleagues will sound him out on how much European integration his Labour government can swallow.

His rise to power was seen in Dublin and continental capitals as something of a turning point in Britain's often testy relations with its partners.

All the more so since it was Labour Party policy, as recently as 1983, to take Britain out of the EU. It joined the bloc in 1973.

# BRIEFLY

## Clinton, Blair to meet Thursday

US President Bill Clinton will meet British Prime Minister Tony Blair in London next Thursday, a Downing Street spokesman said on Thursday. AFP reports from London.

Though Blair and Clinton will meet in Paris on Tuesday to sign a new deal between NATO and Russia, the US President will go on to London for additional talks with the new Labour prime minister.

"He (Blair) and Clinton get on very well. They have got a very keen mutual interest in certain issues — particularly education, job-creation and welfare reform," a Downing Street spokesman said.

## Russian border guards kill 6

Russian border guards in Tajikistan opened fire over the past few days on two groups trying to cross the Tajik-Afghan border killing six infiltrators, the border guard press service announced yesterday, AFP reports from Dushanbe.

Investigations indicated that the infiltrators were trying to smuggle opium into Tajikistan, the report said.

The first clash, in which two people were killed, took place on the Pyang River in eastern Tajikistan. The location of the second clash was not given.

## Bus set on fire in Philippines

An armed group dressed in fatigues took over a bus in a town near this southern Philippine city, shot and wounded the driver and set the vehicle alight, police said yesterday, AFP reports from Cotabato.

The group seized the bus in the town of Sultan Kudarat late Thursday, ordered the passengers off, and shot the driver, said police chief senior inspector Rostum Datumanong.

The incident occurred despite the massive police presence in Cotabato in a drive to halt kidnap gangs.

## Gunman kills 11 in Brazil

Armed with a submachine gun, an apparently deranged former Brazilian soldier killed at least 11 people before police shot him dead in the northeastern city of Natal, AFP reports from Rio De Janeiro.

The gunman, identified as Genildo Ferreira Dos Santos, initially killed six or seven members of his family including his wife and his mother-in-law, police told AFP.

## Polls campaigning French PM warns against win by Left-Wing

PARIS, May 23: Prime Minister Alain Juppe warned on the last campaigning day today that a Left-Wing win in parliamentary elections would cripple France because of an unavoidable "cohabitation" or power-sharing, reports Reuter.

In an interview with the newspaper Le Figaro, Juppe said the centre-right's priorities if it stays in power after the May 25-June 1 poll would include limiting the number of offices politicians can hold and giving women a bigger say.

"Experience shows that cohabitation does not put France in a strong position. It does not allow it to play its role to the full, chiefly on the European or international stage, and it puts a brake on or paralyses big economic decisions," he said.

Opinion polls released before last weekend's blackout suggested the centre-right would retain power but the stock market has been jittery, with dealers citing rumours of secret polls showing the government's lead narrowing.

The premier said he would overhaul voting procedures at regional and European Parliament level, limit the number of offices which parliamentarians can hold to one other post, and change the constitution to give women better access to politics.

## Kabila forms 13-member cabinet without PM

KINSHASA, May 23: Laurent Kabila, self-proclaimed president of the former Zaire, named an incomplete government and will not appoint a prime minister, one of his chief lieutenants told reporters early today, says Reuter.

"There will be no prime minister. It is a presidential regime," Gaetan Kakudji of the victorious alliance which ousted ex-president, Mobutu Sese Seko on May 17 told a news conference.

Just before midnight on Thursday, state radio broadcast Kabila's incomplete list of 13 ministers in a transitional government.

There was no mention of a prime minister — the post which Kabila was under foreign and domestic pressure to hand to veteran civilian politician Etienne Tshisekedi.

Political analysts said Kakudji's statement showed Kabila, who proclaimed himself president last Saturday as his alliance rebels marched into Kinshasa, had decided to exclude the powerful Tshisekedi, whose supporters demanded a role in the new administration.

Kabila's alliance of democratic forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) began their long trek across Zaire, since renamed by him, from Lake Kivu in the east last Octo-

ber and finally reached the Atlantic at Matadi, the country's only port.

## Japan to suspend aid to Myanmar

TOKYO, May 23: The Japanese government is to suspend official development aid to Myanmar to encourage the country's military regime to resume talks with democracy advocates, a press report said today, reports AFP.

The government will not restrict corporate investment in Myanmar, but freeze loans through the overseas economic cooperation fund to private sector-led projects, the Nihon Kiezi Shimbun said.

Tokyo is also expected to stop humanitarian assistance in medical and food supplies, excluding small subsidies to non-governmental organisations, the major economic daily said.

No immediate comment on the report were available from the Japanese government.

Myanmar's military rulers have rounded up more than 70 National League for Democracy (NLD) activities ahead of next week's anniversary of the 1990 general elections, won by the NLD but ignored by the ruling military.

# Diana dogged by accusations of flirting in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, May 23: Princess Diana flew into Pakistan to raise money for a good cause Thursday, only to find herself accused of flirting with a waiter and smack in the middle of a political scandal, reports AP.

Embasat Rehman, a prominent Lahore socialite, said the princess flirted at an unspecified restaurant during her 1996 visit to raise money for a charity cancer hospital founded by former cricket star Imran Khan.

In Islamic Pakistan, where sex outside marriage is a criminal offense and many women do not venture outside the home without a veil, flirting is considered scandalous.

Rehman refused to give details on the nature of the alleged flirting, but said she was present for much of Diana's earlier visit because she was married to Yousuf Salahud-din, one of Khan's close friends.

Her claims were front-page news Thursday. They also

prompted her ex-husband to call Rehman mentally ill and to threaten to sue her for libel.

"My ex-wife has launched a vilified campaign against me, especially at a juncture when Lady Diana is due in the country for fundraising," Salahud-din was quoted as saying by the independent daily The News.

Rehman also accused Khan of destroying her seven-year marriage to Salahud-din by luring scores of sultry young women to their home. She said the two hosted parties at their home where liquor and hashish, both banned substances in Pakistan, were widely available.

Khan's spokesman dismissed the allegations Thursday as slanderous.

Khan's associates have accused Rehman, a member of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's party, of trying to tarnish the cricket hero's political career.

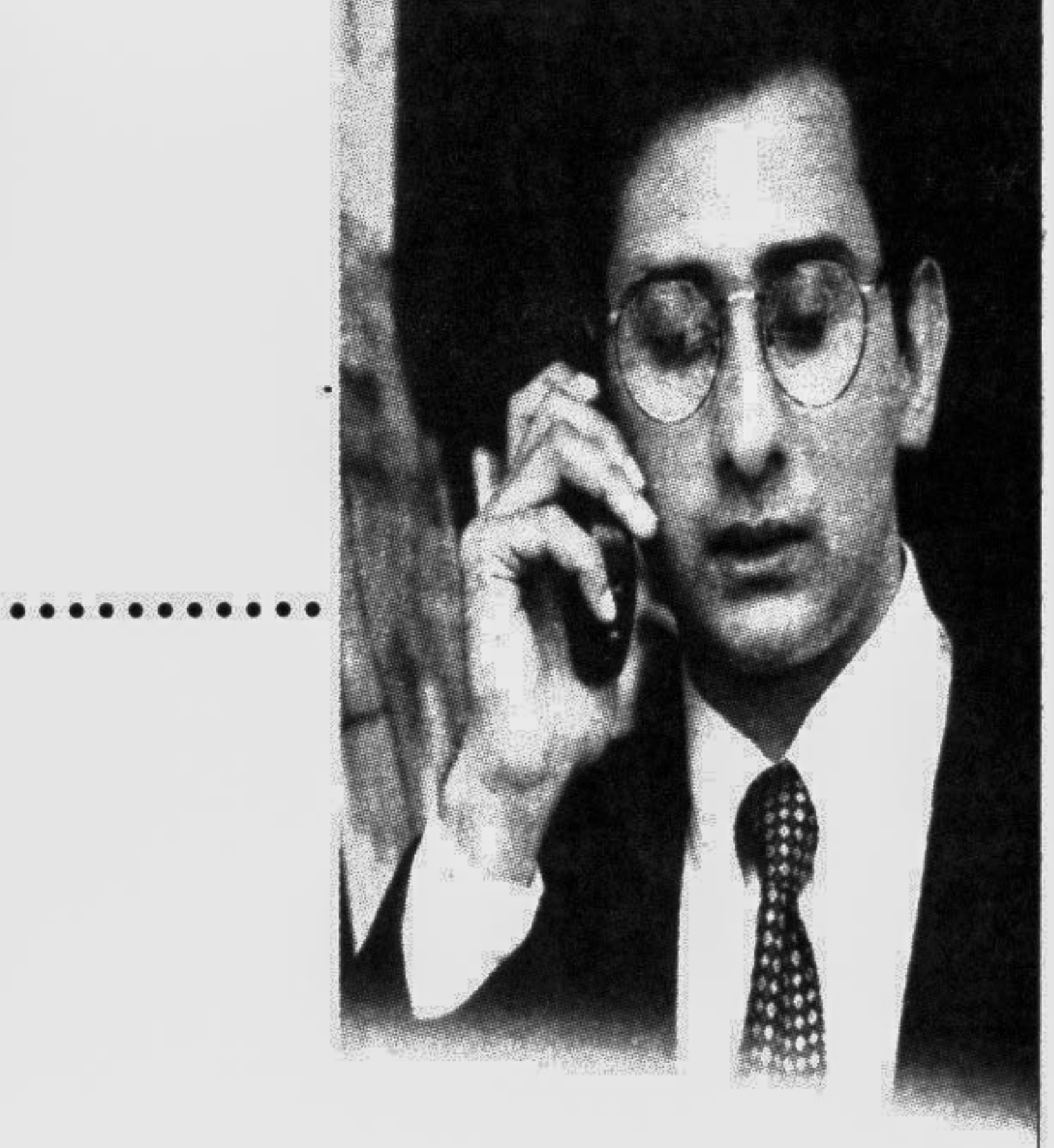
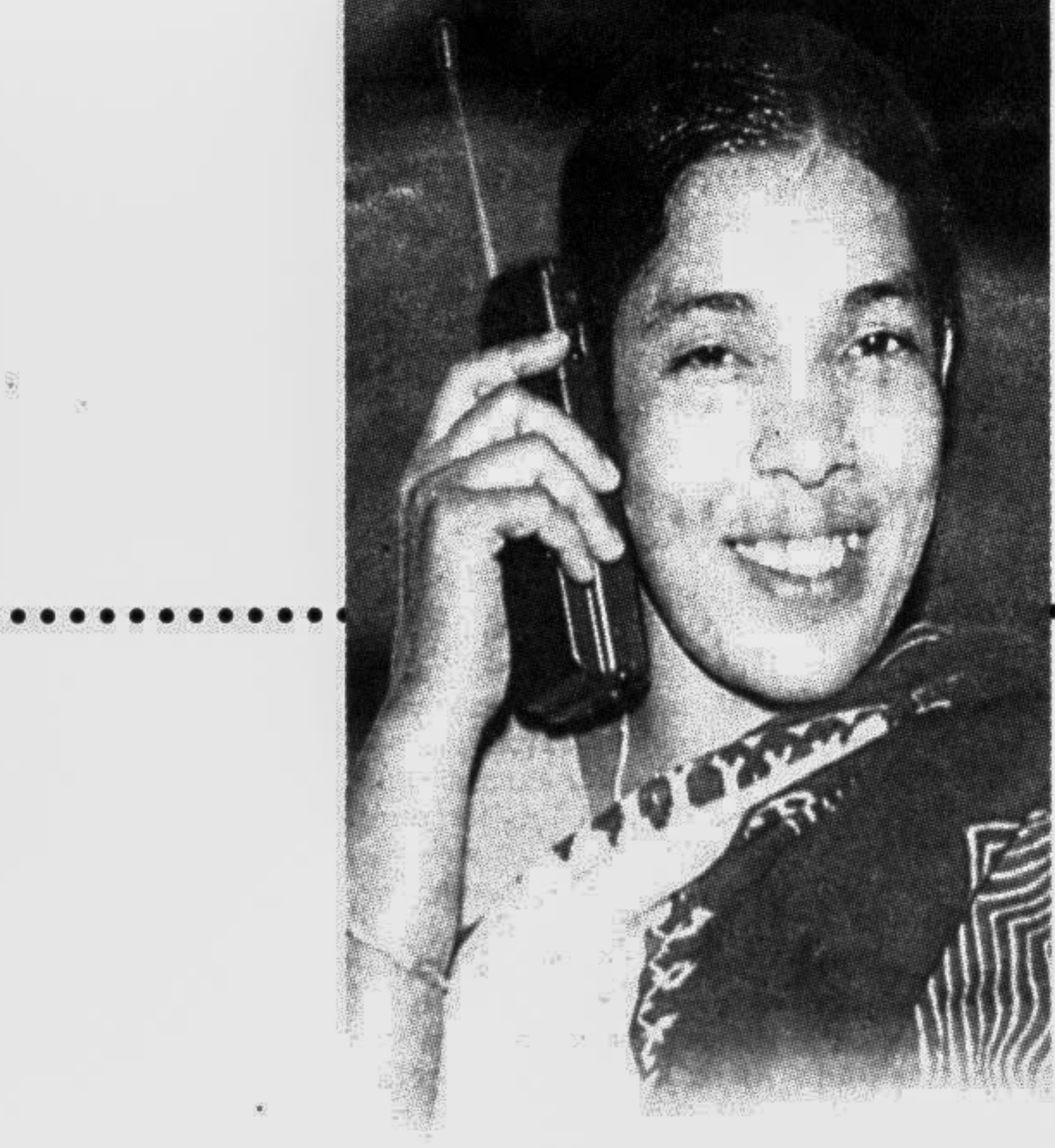
Khan's Justice Movement failed to win a single seat in national elections in February. Critics earlier had accused Diana of using her high-profile first visit to boost Khan's political ambitions.

Despite the furor, the princess was well received on her first day in Lahore, receiving bouquets of flowers from children outside Khan's hospital.

Khan, who led Pakistan's team to victory in the World Cup in 1992, founded the Shaikat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre in 1994. It is named for his mother, who died of cancer.

Diana, 35, presided over a fundraising lunch at the hospital Thursday and will host a tea for hospital staff and top Punjab officials Friday. She will dine that evening at a private party hosted by Salahud-din.

Diana will attend an American Red Cross gala dinner in Washington June 17 that hopes to raise 500,000 dollars for land mine victims around the world.



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