#### BBBBFBB

DPRK FM arrives in Cuba: North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam arrived in Cuba's capital on Friday for a five-day official visit, AFP says from

Havana.

He is scheduled to hold separate meetings with Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, Economy Minster Jose Luis Rodriguez and Noemi Benitez, the Interim Minister of Foreign Investment.

Chadian rebels surrender: Chadian rebels fighting for a federal state in the southern part of the country have surrendered to government forces after six months of fighting, according to reports from Chad, Xinhua says from Paris.

The Forces Armees Pour La Republic Federale (FARF), a political-military group which has hundreds of desert fighters, signed on May 8 with president Idris Deby a truce in exchange for an amnesty.

Earthquake hits Japan: A moderate earthquake with an estimated magnitude of 5.7 struck southwestern Japan early yesterday morning, but there were no

southwestern Japan early yesterday morning, but there were no reports of damage or injury, AP says from Tokyo.

The quake hit at 1949 GMT in the Sea of Iyo off the coast of Yamaguchi Prefecture (state), 782 kilometres southwest of Tokyo, the Meteorological Agency reported.

Quake rumbles New South Wales: An earthquake measuring 3.8 on the Richter scale rumbled isolated southwestern New South Wales yesterday, AP reports

from Sydney.

The quake, which occurred just after 5 am, was recorded on seismographs operated by the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology throughout New South Wales and Victoria.

2 Israelis die in S Lebanon: A bomb exploded yesterday in southern Lebanon, killing two Israelialied militiamen. AP reports from Lebanon.

The bomb, apparently detonated by remote control, went off near the Sojod outpost of the South Lebanon Army militia, a militia official said on customary condition of anonymity. The area is eight kilometres north of Marjayoun, the main town in Israeli-occupied south Lebanon.

Ancient ship to be recovered in Hanoi: Recovery work was to begin yesterday on a 15th century ship that sank while carrying Vietnamese ceramics, AP reports from Hanoi.

The ship was discovered last July eight nautical miles east of Cu Lam Cham island, off the central coast at Quang Nam province. The Thanh Nien newspaper said the work will be carried out by a team of 57 people, including 25 foreign experts. Ten professional divers will work in four-minute shifts at a depth of 72 metres.

Actor-director John Derek dead: John Derek, the actor-director reputed to have been the force behind the meteoric career of his wife, Bo Derek, died Friday. He

was 71, AP says from California.

With family members present, Derek died at 12:45 pm, said
Marian Medical Center spokeswoman Stephanie Grogan.

Forest fires unabated in Russia: Firefighters in the Russian Far East have run out of money to hire aircraft to battle forest fires that have spread across thousands of hectares a news agency reported yesterday, AP

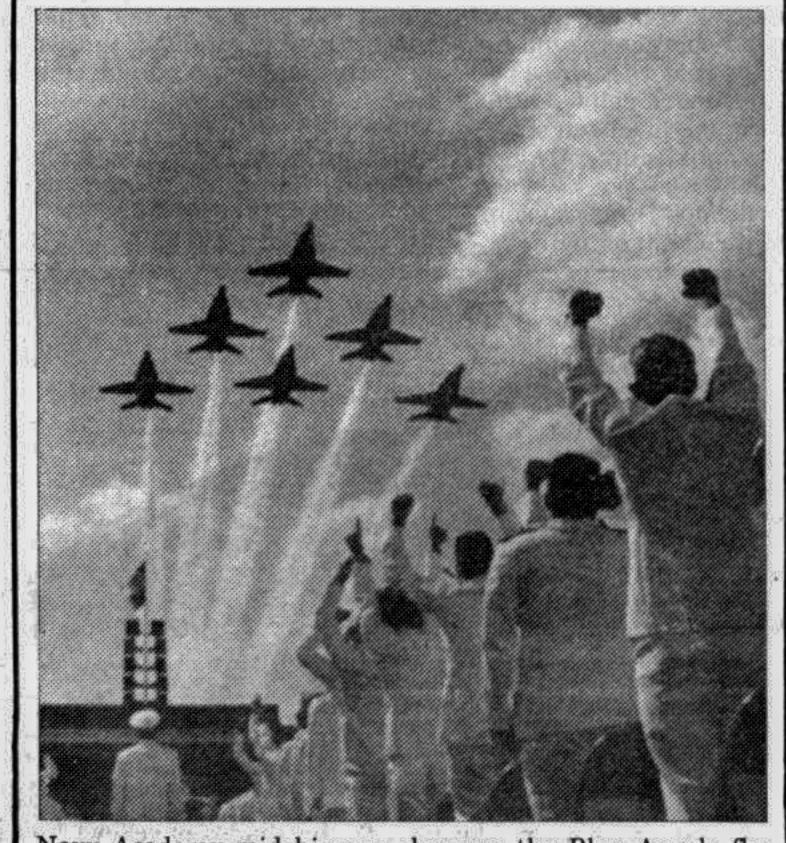
reports from Moscow.

Nearly 34,000 hectares (84,000 acres) of forests are engulfed in flames, and the local forestry air guard service has only enough cash to hire three aircraft to fight the fires, the ITAR-Tass news agency said.

Kissinger made honorary citizen:
Former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has been made

an honorary citizen of his German hometown of Fuerth, a city official said Wednesday, Xinhua reports from Bonn.

Kissinger was born to a school teacher's family on May 27, 1923 in this southeastern German city. The Jewish family emigrated to the United States in 1938 to escape Nazi persecution. Kissinger became a US citizen in 1943.



Navy Academy midshipmen cheer as the Blue Angels fly over Navy and Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis, USA, Friday at the start of the graduation and commissioning ceremonies.

— AP/UNB photo

'Reformed' Indonesian Cabinet hailed

# US calls on new govt to permit demonstrations

WASHINGTON, May 23: The Clinton administration called for maximum restraint Friday as Indonesian troops rounded up student protesters in the Parliament complex in Jakarta, reports AP.

State Department spokesman James P Rubin also praised the Southeast Asian country's new president, B J Habibie, for selecting a 36-member Cabinet that was "marked more by competence than family ties."

He also urged the government to permit demonstrators to make their points peacefully. The new Cabinet has a substantial military presence and six prominent Muslim figures. They are to serve until 2003, when Habibie will finish serving the term of President Suharto, who resigned this

demonstrations.

Habibie dropped Suharto's

week in the midst of massive

daughter and a golfing friend of the former president from the Cabinet but kept several key ministers. This angered students whose street protests were instrumental in ending Suharto's 32-year rule. In the Parliament complex, soldiers scuffled with students, hundreds of whom sang the national an-

them and waved red and white

Indonesian flags.

"We call in the strongest and most urgent terms for all parties to exercise maximum restraint," Rubin said. "At the same time, we believe the Indonesian authorities should allow peaceful demonstrations and should refrain from the use of force in dealing with the demonstrators."

According to some reports from Jakarta, the capital, the soldiers had used forced against the protesters. But Rubin said the State Department had no independent confirmation of

the reports.

Meanwhile, a US congressman on Friday said he would be
going on a human rights and

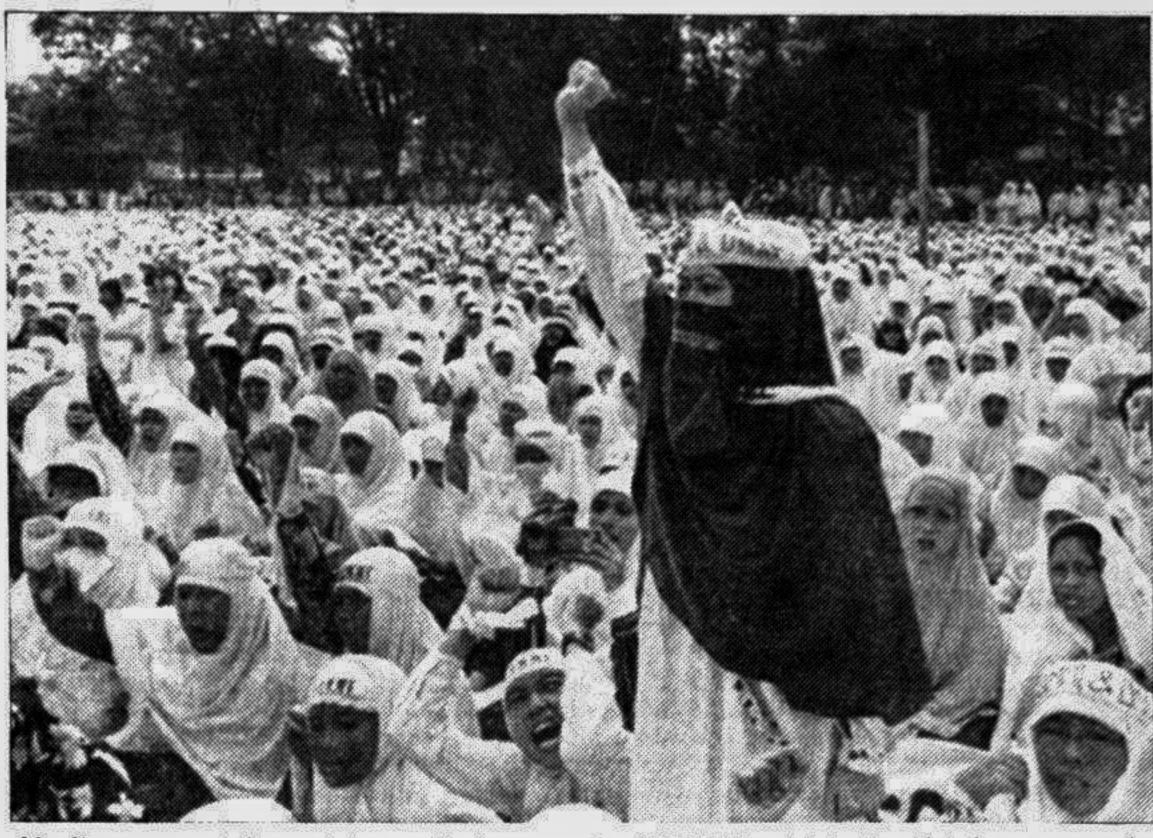
democracy fact-finding mission

to Indonesia.

"I am going to Indonesia in order to learn the facts on the ground and talk with democracy leaders, as well as government officials, about the situation in Indonesia at this historic moment," said Chris Smith, a Republican from New

In a news release telefaxed to the AP bureau in Jakarta, the congressman added he would seek to "persuade the Indonesian government to pursue a speedy transition to democracy and to stress the central importance of human rights in the process."

Smith said he planned to arrive in Indonesia Monday, and has asked to meet with newly installed President BJ Habibie.



Muslim women take part in a rally in support of KAMMI outside the Al-Azhar mosque in Jakarta Friday. KAMMI is the United Action of Muslim Indonesian Students Group, the second largest Indonesian Muslim organisation.

— AP/UNB photo

### Son-in-law of Syria re Suharto relieved of army post offer to

JAKARTA, May 23: The sonin-law of former president Suharto, Lieutenant-General Prabowo Subianto, has been relieved of the command of the armys' strategic reserve, diplomatic sources said early today, reports Reuters.

"Yes he's been relieved of his Kostrad (strategic reserve) command," a diplomat said.

Military analysts said armed forces (ABRI) commander Wiranto had moved swiftly to consolidate his grip following his reappointment in his command position and as concurrent defence minister by President Habibie on Friday.

Sources said Prabowo, who had been heading the army's main combat force with some 17,000 troops, had been named commandant of the Staff and Command College in the west Java city of Bandung.

#### First polls under Chinese rule in Hong Kong today

HONG KONG, May 23: Hong Kong on Friday put the final touches on preparations for its first legislative election since the territory returned to Chinese rule last July, reports

Some 2.8 million people in this 6.6 million-strong territory are eligible to vote on Sunday to return a 60-member legislative chamber that will serve for two years.

The administration of leader Tung Chee-Hwa, appointed by Beijing to run this former British colony after the handover, has pumped in 500 million HK dollars (65 m US dollars) and worked for months to make the election a success.

#### Warning for Viagra users!

NEW YORK, May 23: With nearly 1 million men now using Viagra, paramedics have begun asking victims of chest pain if they're taking the potency pill before giving them heart medication, because the combination can be lethal, reports AP. Pfizer Inc. on Thursday also

repeated earlier warnings that patients on nitroglycerine and related heart drugs shouldn't use Viagra, a caution that has been on the drug's label since its approval in March.

Using the two drugs together may cause patients' blood pressure to fall to dangerous levels. Pfizer reported six deaths among Viagra patients to the Food and Drug Administration on Thursday. It's too early to say if Viagra played any role—the FDA hasn't yet had time to tell even if the men were taking heart medication. But companies are required to reveal any possible adverse reactions to their drugs.

## Syria rejects Israel's offer to quit Lebanon

WASHINGTON, May 23: Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa rejected an Israeli offer to withdraw from Lebanon and took a swipe at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government, reports AP.

"This is not a path to a comprehensive peace", Al-Sharaa told reporters Friday after an hour-long meeting with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. "We don't accept a unilateral or partial peace."

Albright agreed that an overall agreement should be the goal of peacemaking in the region, a senior US official said.

However, she told Al-Sharaa the United States welcomed Israel's proposal to abandon its buffer zone in southern Lebanon and, as a practical matter, "we are willing to make progress wherever we can," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Syria, which has a controlling interest in Lebanon's foreign policy, wants to recover the Golan Heights, a strategic border plateau that it lost to Israel in the 1967 Mideast War.

Past Labour governments in Israel were willing to give up the buffer zone and uproot Jewish settlers for the right peace terms. But negotiations broke down nearly two and a half years ago, and Netanyahu, emphasising security concerns, has not shown interest in resuming them.

"There is not much optimism", Al-Sharaa said of the stalemate in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. "The Israel government's policy is the main factor."

Albright last month backed

Albright last month backed the Israeli offer to negotiate a withdrawal from Lebanon. She called for direct negotiations between Israel and Lebanon on new border arrangements.

Like Syria, the Clinton administration wants to see a resumption of negotiations between Israel and Syria, too, with the goal of an overall Middle East peace settlement based on Israel relinquishing land to Syria as well as the Palestinians.

Al-Sharaa said his government was seeking "land for peace."

"We are ready to start the talks (over the Golan Heights) from the point that we finished," he said.

# India gears up diplomatic efforts to cool tension over N-tests NEW DELHI. May 23: India was there from day one of the times since independence in

NEW DELHI, May 23: India has moved its diplomatic efforts into high gear to cool tensions over its nuclear tests and a barrage of feisty exchanges with Pakistan. China and the United States, reports Reuter.

In a move that local media described as damage limitation, the government held a news conference late Thursday to stress its commitment to good relations with neighbours and its readiness for talks with world powers to formalise a new moratorium on tests.

Prime Minister Atal Behari
Vajpayee assured Russian
President Boris Yeltsin by telephone in the evening that New
Delhi had conducted its five nuclear tests for security purposes
rather than aggression and that
no more were planned.
The Press Trust of India

(PTI) news agency reported that India's Ambassador to the United States. Naresh Chandra, was meeting senior US officials to revive dialogue between the two countries.

A senior government official denied that there had been a change of tack.

He said it was Yeltsin who

had called Vajpayee and there was nothing unusual about the envoy to Washington meeting top-level officials.

saying that India seeks peace, is not interested in an arms race and wanted to ensure security." India tested five nuclear devices last week, its first in 24

blasts," he said. "We have been

years, triggering a storm of global outrage. The United States and some other countries imposed sanctions on New Delhi and arch-foe Pakistan said it would conduct tests of its own.

Earlier this week, Interior

Minister Lal Krishna Advani had said Pakistan should "realise the new geo-strategic situation" and warned that India would take a new, proactive stand on militancy on its soil.

On Thursday the government issued a sternly worded

the movement of militants into the strife-torn Kashmir valley. A senior minister said that while New Delhi wanted peace, it was capable of fighting Pak-

statement that accused Pak-

istan on any battleground.

But a few hours later, Vajpayee's Principal Secretary,
Brajesh Mishra, told reporters
emphatically: "There is no
question of a war with Pak-

with Pakistan."
India accuses Pakistan, with
which it has gone to war three

istan. We are not going for a war

times since independence in 1947, of arming and training Islamic guerillas in Kashmir. But Islamabad says it gives separatists only political and diplomatic support.

Mishra said New Delhi was waiting for a response from Islamabad to its proposal for a resumption of their deadlocked talks.

But Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Gohar Ayub Khan, told an

Indian television channel that while Islamabad was interested in resuming dialogue, it would be a futile exercise.

"India has sucked us

(Pakistan) into a headlong arms race," he said.

#### Japanese Emperor begins Europe tour

TOKYO, May 23: Japan's Emperor Akihito embarked Saturday on a state visit to continental Europe and England, where he is expected to receive honours from Queen Elizabeth II and face protests by World War II veterans, reports AP.

At a send-off ceremony, Akihito said he hopes the trip, the
first to Britain by a Japanese
emperor in 27 years, will create
greater "mutual understanding
and friendly relations."



# MRANGS. HOME APPLIANCES

### RANGS HOME APPLIANCES ARE THE BEST MATCH FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD



# Pakistan asks UK to oppose India's entry into UNSC LONDON, May 23: Pakistan cluded any options. Whatever said.

LONDON, May 23: Pakistan has asked Britain to negate any move related to India's entry into the UN Security Council (UNSC) and said the country should not be allowed to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in the wake of it conducting nuclear tests, reports PTI.

ports PTI.

This was stated here by Pakistani Premier Nawaz Sharif's special envoy Kursheed Kasuri who handed over a message from Sharif to his British counterpart to Foreign Secretary Robin Cook Friday night.

Kasuri, who held a 45-minute meeting with Cook at the foreign office, told newsmen that he told the UK Foreign Secretary that "India must not be allowed to sign the CTBT and any chance of its joining the Security Council must be negated" for what he described as "it would mean rewarding

India for its nuclear zealotry."

Kasuri is also a member of Pakistan's national assembly. Pakistani Commerce Minister Ishaque Dar who joined Kasuri during the press conference said that Islamabad was "keeping its option open on conducting a nuclear test." "I have not ex-

cluded any options. Whatever course of action we will take will be aimed at the country's national interest, Dar said.

Reuters Adds from Karachi:

Pakistani Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub Khan yesterday warned India of an unforgettable damage if it attacked Pakistan. 'Our Ghauri missile has a

1,500-km range and is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead. India would never forget the damage," Khan said.

He told reporters after meeting opposition leader Benazir Bhutto that Pakistan's se-

curity had been threatened by

India's five nuclear tests last week and other threats, which could not be taken lightly.

The minister's meeting with Benazir was part of a series of contacts in which Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government is trying to forge a national

the India tests.

Sharif, who is under tremendous domestic pressure to order a Pakistani nuclear test in retaliation, said Pakistan can do it but is not in a hurry. We will not let the national interest down. Khan

consensus on how to respond to

said.

Benazir, who called on Sharif to resign for failing to answer the Indian tests, said, we have our differences but well unconditionally support the government if Pakistan is attacked by India.

AFP adds from Islamabad: Pakistan on Friday described as a "deception" India's announcement it was observing a moratorium on nuclear testing following its five underground blasts last week.

A Foreign office spokesman said the moratorium and a reported Indian offer to discuss its proposal of no first use of nuclear weapons agreement with Pakistan were meant to "placate" international opinion.

Such statements were "designed to wave further weds of deception to conceal India's hegemonic and aggressive de-

signs," the spokesman said.

"The world has now seen India's true face. A country with India's record or war, conflicts and subversion against each of its neighbours, now armed with nuclear weapons, is a threat to global peace and security," he said.

/// ব্যাপিরাপর যে কোন সেলস্ও সার্ভিস সেকারে আপনারা সাদরে আমন্ত্রিত

□ ঢাকা পুরানা পল্টন ফোন ঃ ৯৫৬৩৪৩২-৩৩, বিজয় সরণি ফোন ঃ ৮১৮৮৮০-৮১, সোনারগাঁও রোড ফোন ঃ ৯৬৬৩৫৫৬, ক্রিসেন্ট সেন্টার ৩৬ তোপখানা রোড ফোনঃ ৯৫৫৫৫১৯, গুলশান ফোন ঃ ৮৭১৫৭৬, ৯৮৮০৫১৬, উত্তরা ফোন ঃ ৮৯১৯৭১, মিরপুর বেগম রোকেয়া সরণি ফোন ঃ ৯০০৫৮৪৩, দারুস সালাম রোড মিরপুর-১, ইব্রাহিমপুর ঢাকা ক্যান্টনমেন্ট ফোনঃ ৯৮৭১৯৩৯, মালেক প্রাজা থিলগাঁও রেলগেট ফোন ঃ ৯৩৪৮৩০৩, লালমাটিয়া রক-এ ফোন ঃ ৯১১৮৩২৮, পলওয়েল সুপার মার্কেট ফোন ঃ ৯৩৪৬০৮৪, জিনজিরা বাস রোড (হাউলী) ফোন ঃ ২৩৮২০১, দোলাইরপাড় যাত্রাবাড়ী ফোনঃ ০১৭৫৩৩৩১১ া সাভার ফোন ঃ ৩৫৪ া নারায়ণগঞ্জ ফোন ঃ ৯৭১২৮৩২ া চউগ্রাম ওয়াসা কর্ণার ফোন ঃ ৬১১৩৩৪, ৬২১৭৩৯, আগ্রাবাদ ফোন ঃ ৭১২৮১০ া কক্সবাজার, ফোন ঃ ৩৩০৩ া খুলনা ফোন ঃ ৭২২৬০৫ া সাতক্ষীরা ফোন ঃ ২৪২৪ া যশোহর ফোন ঃ ৭২২৬৪ া রাজশাহী ফোন ঃ ৭৭৪৬৭৫ া নাটোর ফোন ঃ ৬৯১৬ া পাবনা ফোন ঃ ৬২২৭ া ক্রির্জা ফোন ঃ ৩০৬ া কৃষ্টিয়া ফোন ঃ ৫৫২০৬ া সিরাজগঞ্জ ফোন ঃ ৭৩০৪১ া বভড়া নবাববাড়ী ফোন ঃ ৪৯০৪, ৭২৪৪৪, দন্তবাড়ী ফোন ঃ ৬৫৭২ া লার্যপুরহাট পৌর রিপণি সদর রোড া নওগাঁ ফোন ঃ ২১০৯ া সিলেট ফোন ঃ ৭১০১৭১ া মৌলভি বাজার ফোন ঃ ৫৩৭০৭ া ব্রাক্ষণবাড়িয়া ফোন ঃ ৫২৫৮৯ া ময়মনসিংহ ফোন ঃ ৫৪৮৮১

্র সুযোগ আমাদের ডিলারদের কাছেও পাবেন।