Kohl in trouble

as coalition

partner threatens

to abandon govt

in the polls less than four

months before parliamentary

elections, Chancellor Helmut

Kohl faced a new rebellion in

the ranks Monday when a

leader of his junior coalition partner said his party might consider jumping ship, reports

In an interview with Stern

magazine, Guide Westerwelle,

secretary general of the tiny but influential Free Democrats,

said the "post-Kohl era" had al-

ready begun and called on the

fused to rule out abandoning

Kohl's three-party coalition af

ter the election infavour of the

been part of every German gov-

ernment since 1969, and helped

bring Kohl to power in 1982 by

The Free Democrats have

opposition Social Democrats.

He also for the first time re-

chancellor to step aside.

BERLIN, Jun 9: Still trailing

RSS vows to construct Ram

NEW DELHI, Jun 9: India's most influential Hindu group has vowed to construct a temple on the rubble of a 16th century mosque razed in 1992, newspa-

Sangh (RSS, National Volunteer Corps), a hardline Hindu revivalist group closely linked to the ruling Hindu nationalists, said the proposed temple in the northern town of Ayodhya was a matter of "national pride."

The RSS is in favour of an early construction of the temple at Ayodhya," the Indian Express and other dailies quoted its supremo Rajendra Singh as

lims, the largest minority in the country, he said.

mit the temple to be built if the

destroyed the mosque in Ayod-hya in December 1992, triggering Hindu-Muslim violence across the country which left around 2,000 people dead. The Hindus, many allied to

the RSS and other groups, setup a makeshift temple for Hindu warrior-God Ram in the place of the mosque.

Reports say preparations are now under way to build a temple On Monday Vajpayee, facing opposition party allegations

that the government was conniving with Hindu revivalists to erect a temple, said he would abide by a judicial verdict over

However Rajendra Singh told a meeting of supporters at

was "one of the most sacred places for Hindus. "Nobody should have any objection if the Hindus decided to build a temple at a place sacred

dia reported. The RSS, founded in 1925 is a Hindu revivalist group that was outlawed briefly by New Delhi following the 1992

to them," the United News of In-

mosque demolition. It has close links with Vajpayee's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Indian People's Party). Most BJP leaders are also members

of the RSS. India's 960 million population is overwhelmingly Hindu but Muslims number around 120 million.

Talks with India

Pak FM favours involvement of third party

ISLAMABAD, Jun 9: Any talks between Pakistan and India would be "futile" without the involvement of a third party. Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub Khan said in remarks published here today, reports AFP.

"Unless a third party ... the United States, Japan or any other country is involved with an assurance that Indo-Pakistan dialogue would lead to so-lutions, the Indian offer of dialogue remains useless," he told the news daily.

Khan was reacting to Monday's statement by Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Va-

Vajpayee appealed to his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif to resume bilateral talks on all issues, including the disputed Himalayan state of Kashmir.

Canada accused of aiding Indo-Pak N-programmes

OTTAWA, Jun 9: Opposition lawmakers have accused the Canadian government of helping Pakistan and India advance their nuclear arms programmes before the Asian countries conducted their recent nuclear tests. "The facts clearly indicate that Canadian technology did and continues to help make nuclear bombs for India and Pakistan and China," Conservative lawmaker David Price said Monday in the House of Commons, reports AFP.

Price and other members of Parliament said Canadian nuclear technicians were sent to India and Pakistan for maintenance work on Canadian-made nuclear reactors (Candu) sold to the two countries in the 1970s.

"Experts say that this technology is interchangeable between domestic and military

AP/UNB photo

not control the highway

Jaffna's half million people

rely on air and sea deliveries of

So far, the troops have cap-

tured about two thirds of the

highway, with another 27

kilometers (17 miles) to go. The

military admits having lost

nearly 1,000 soldiers and

claims to have killed 3,200

guerillas in the highway cam-

paign. The rebels have not given

No independent assessment

their total casualty figures.

food and other supplies.

uses," the opposition lawmakers said in their statement, implying that the Canadian technician may have unwittingly contributed to advance the nuclear programmes of India and Pakistan.

The accusations immediately touched off a heated debate in the House.

Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray did not deny that Canadian technicians were sent to India and Pakistan.

"We are, in the light of the views of the International Atomic Energy Agency, helping provide information to make sure that these reactors are maintained safely in the interests of civilian populations," Grav said.

The House debate followed an Ottawa citizens article say-

VIENNA, June 9: The head of

the International Atomic En-

ergy Agency (IAEA) Mohammed

Elbaradei said Monday the

world must step away from the

"nuclear abyss" after India and

Pakistan's recent nuclear tests,

deeply regrettable nuclear tests

by India and Pakistan, more

than at any time before, we need

all of us to reaffirm our course

of action," he said in comment

to the IAEA Board of Governors.

ther to regress rapidly into a

nuclear abyss or to move for-

ward towards a safer and more

tests have raised fears world-

wide of an arms race on the sub-

continent and concern over the

future of the comprehensive

Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), which

the two countries must sign for

of the 1968 nuclear Non Prolif-

eration Treaty (NPT) - to freeze

the number of nuclear weapon

states — was also under threat.

Elbaradei said the principle

The Indian and Pakistani

secure world," he said.

it to come into force.

"The options before us are ei-

"In the aftermath of the

reports AFP.

ing that the technicians from the Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd (AECL) and Ontario Hydro also worked on clones of Candu nuclear reactors India and Pakistan built copying the Canadian originals.

These Candu clones produce plutonium and tritium, two key ingredients in making hydro-gens bomb, the daily said.

Price and other opposition lawmakers called on the government to recall all Canadian nuclear technicians from India

and Pakistan. He also said that Canada sold China a Candu nuclear reactor last year.

An AECL spokesman said neither no technicians from it or any other Canadian firm have been sent to India or Pakistan for several months.

"The board is meeting

against a backdrop of events

that could trigger the erosion of

the basic norm of the non-pro-

liferation regime." he told the

governors at the IAEA's Vienna

epidemics or environmental

degradation, is a universal con-

cern. No-one can afford the lux-

ury of being a mere spectator. It

has a global impact and re-

His warning came as Indian

premier Atal Behari Vajpayee

dismissed a UN Security Coun-

cil condemnation of India's nu-

"unacceptable" and said his

government would take deci-

sions "on the basis of our own

assessments and national secu-

rity requirements, in a reason-

able and responsible manner."

nuclear tests last month, which

sparked a tit-for-tat response

by neighbouring Pakistan, were

necessary due to the failure of

the "flawed non-proliferation

Vajpayee said India's five

He said the UN criticism was

quires collective action."

clear explosions.

"A nuclear arms race, like

headquarters.

pulling out of the centre-left coalition headed by a Social Democrat, Helmut Schmidt. World must step away Majority Israelis favour pullback from N-abyss: IAEA

on West Bank JERUSALEM, Jun 9: A majority of Israelis favour a pullback on the West Bank and believe that an independent Palestinian state will one day be created, according to a poll aired Monday by Israeli public television, reports AFP.

According to the poll, 48 per cent of those asked favoured a pullback, while 29 per cent were opposed, and the rest had no opinion.

Asked if they favored dismantling Jewish settlements on the West Bank as part of the pullback, 45 per cent declared themselves in favour, while 39 per cent were opposed, and the rest had no opinion.

A majority of those asked, 53 per cent, also said Israel should allow the creation of an independent Palestinian state following final status negotiations on the west Bank and Gaza Strip.

Turkish president refuses to back PM's deal on early election

ANKARA, June 9: President Suleyman Demirel has refused to back the early election deal presented by Turkey's premier last week, reports said Monday. says AP.

"I won't allow a government formula to be imposed on me," the Daily Hurriyet quoted Demirel as saying.

Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz and Deniz Baykal, leader of the Republican People's Party, agreed last week to call early polls on April 18.

Yilmaz said he would resign in December in favour of an interim government. Yilmaz and Baykal said they would not take on the premiership.

The military early Tuesday named Gen. Abbdulsalam Abubakarna major general in the army and defense chief of

Move toward democracy, US urges Nigerian leadership

regime.

WASHINGTON, Jun 9: After the death of Nigerian President Sain Abacha, the US state department urged the new leadership in that country to build on the existing political transition programme to achieve civilian,

A statement Monday by spokesman James P Rubin reaffirmed US friendship for the Nigerian people during the "difficult time" after Abacha's death. It also offered sympathy to the Abacha family, but there was no expression of regret over his passing.

White House spokesman

democratic rule, reports AP.

Mike McCurry said the US government "acknowledges the death" of Abacha, and is interested in seeing his successor embark upon democratic rule even if that successor comes out of the Nigerian military, as Abacha did.

30 injured as police clashes with protesters

day, reports AP.

protesters were hospitalized as a result of violence during the march in Surabaya, about 650 kilometers (400 miles) east of Jakarta.

nerve gas allegation in

WASHINGTON, June 9: US Defense secretary William Cohen ordered an investigation Monday into a report that American Special Forces used nerve gas in the Vietnam War including against US defectors though he said he knew of no evidence to support the allegations, reports AP.

that," retired Gen. William Westmoreland said of the possible use of nerve gas. West moreland, the American commander of US forces for most of the war, said in an interview, "To me, it's totally illogical from a practical standpoint... We used some (tear) gas for some operations to overcome the enemy resistance, but not sarin

JAKARTA, Jun 9: About 30 people were injured when police and strikers clashed during a street march in the second city of Surabaya, police said Tues-

of riot police halted a 10-kilometer (six-mile) long march by striking factory workers Monday, setting off a spate of stonethrowing in Indonesia's biggest protest since the new president eased restrictions on labour.

skepticism Monday at the Pentagon and among veterans and

-staff, as Nigeria's new head of state. He was promoted to the full rank of general during a predawn ceremony in the capital. Abuja, and was sworn into office by the country's chief jus-

Mongla Port Authority Office of Chief Engineer (M)

Mongla, Bagerhat

Re-Tender Notice

Name of work : Repair of WB assessing vessel

docking.

Tender Notice: MPA/W/04/98.

Estimated cost: Tk 1,58,147.00 (One lakh)

fifty-eight thousand one hundred and forty-seven

Tk 200.00/- (two hundred) Cost of tender:

only (non-refundable). Earnest money: At the rate of 2% (two per cent) of the quoted price in the

form of Bank Draft/ Pay Order in favour of Mongla Port Authority will have to be deposited along with tender documents.

of : Enlisted dockyard and Classes engineering works enlisted contractors contractor of Marine Department of Mongla Port

Authority. of: a) Chief Engineer (M) Office, Place selling tender

MPA, Mongla (b) Executive Engineer (B-4) Office, MPA, Khalishpur, Khulna. Till 22/06/98 (08/03/1405) Last date of :

Bangla) during office hours. selling tender 23/06/98 (09/03/1405 Bangla) till office hours. submission of

10. Date and time: 23/06/98 (09/03/1405 Bangla) of opening at 1-PM will be opened in the above-mentioned offices in presence of participants in the

tender (if any). 60 (sixty) working days. for :

completion of 12 Other terms: Will be available along with

and conditions of tender Documents to

be produced/ submitted at the time of purchasing tender

G-1329

Date

tender

tender

Time

tender document in Bangladesh Form No-2911. Trade licence for purchasing

tender, VAT certificate, TIN (tax-payers identification number) original copies. Attested copies of these certificates will have to be attached.

Mongla Port Authority reserves the right to accept/reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason. Number of tender and subject will have to be written on the envelope clearly. NPA/PR/1433

DFP:12585-3/6/98 Chief Engineer (M)

Temple in Ayodhya Rajendra Singh's comments came a day after Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Atal Bethe group's headquarters in western India that Ayodhya hari Vajpayee promised that his government would not per-

pers reported today, says AFP.
The Rashtrya Swayamsewak courts decided against it. Thousands of Hindu zealots

saying late Monday. Those opposing the building of the multi-million-dollar temple had "perverted mentality" and sought to appease Mus-

Drug producers point finger at US Consumers blamed for narcotics problem

UNITED NATIONS, Jun 9: Despite President Clinton's appeal to avoid "finger-pointing," leaders of the world's drug-producing nations showed no hesitation Monday in blaning consumers for the global narcotics

problem, reports AP. Their message: If rich countries such as the United States want our help in fighting against drugs, show us the

"The illicit drug trade is demand-driven," the prime minister of the tiny Caribbean nation of St Kitts and Nevis told the opening session of the UN General Assembly special session on drugs.

lords if the rich countries, with their wealth of resources, are unsuccessful in limiting the demand," said the Prime Minister, Denzil Douglas.

"How can we truly expect small, poor countries such as mine to defeat the wealthy drug

In his opening speech to the three-day conference, President Clinton urged world leaders to stand together and avoid fingerpointing in attempting to devise new, coordinated strategies in

the services' core values.

Monday, AP says from Gauhati.

disrupted road and railroad links.

reported, AP says from Tehran.

Charmahal-va-Bakhtiyari.

Bowling Green, Kentucky.

reports from Hong Kong.

one survived.

from Canberra.

the fight against drugs. "Pointing fingers is distracting," Clinton said. "It does not dismantle a single cartel, help a single addict, prevent a single

child from trying - and perhaps dying - from heroin. Clinton said "the lines between countries that are supply countries, demand countries and transit countries are increasingly blurred. Drugs are

every nation's problem. But Latin American countries, who account for most of the world's supply of cocaine,

don't see it that way. "We need resources, and it must come from the international community," Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori told reporters as he arrived for the opening session. "And I think this will consolidate the reduction of production — it might in the Peruvian case — the produc-

tion of cocoa leaves." President Hugo Banzer of Bolivia said his government was committed to eradicating illegal production of cocoa, which is used in the production of co-

BUILFIFE

US Navy secretary resigns: Navy

In a statement issued by the White House, President Bill

Secretary John Dalton has resigned, the White House

Clinton said he accepted Dalton's resignation "with a deep sense

of gratitude." No reason or date for Dalton's departure was

given. Clinton credited Dalton with helping the Navy and Ma-

rine Corps rise to "the challenge of change" without abandoning

Landslides kill 6 in Assam: A family of

five was swept away and a Muslim priest was killed in a mosque

flattened by landslides triggered by pre-monsoon torrential

rains in India's northeastern Assam state, officials said

380 km south of Gauhati, the capital of Assam state, Superintendent of Police JH Ahmed said. More than 150 people were

injured in the landslides in Haflong and Harrangajao regions of

the province, where flooded Jatinga and Doyang rivers also

Floods kill 16 in Iran: Floods caused by

heavy rains have killed at least 16 people in northwestern Iran

The floods, which hit some 10 towns in the East Azerbaijan

province, also damaged homes and farmlands, the agency said

late Monday. It gave no other details. In April, 81 people were killed by floods in the southwestern provinces of Khuzestan and

Mishap claims 7 in Kentucky:

A semi truck crossed a median and struck two vehicles, killing seven people - including six from one family. AP reports from

Two people were injured in Monday's accident. The south-

bound tractor-trailer struck a large metal object that was lying

on Interstate 65 near Bowling Green, and the driver lost control

Police Trooper Nick Stephens said. The truck hit two north-

bound passenger vehicles, and of eight occupants in them, only

Rainstorms disrupt life in HK:

Severe thundershowers disrupted most activities in Hong Kong

and flooded the city's main streets Tuesday morning, Al

of the Chinese territory's three-level storm warning system,

which requires suspension of non-essential activity.

Officials issued a "black thunderstorm warning," the highest

Quake shakes South Australia: An

earthquake measuring 4.3 on the Richter scale shook the

sparsely populated northern part of South Australia state on

Tuesday. There were no reports of injuries or damage, AP says

nadatta in the state's north. Australian Geological Survey Or-

ganisation scientist Kevin McCue said. That would be about 850

The quake was at a remote location 60 km southeast of Ood-

crossing the median into the northbound lanes. Kentucky State

over the past month, the official Islamic Republic News Agency

The deaths occurred on Sunday night in Cachar, a district

announced Monday, AP reports from New York.

hearing the death news of Nigerian President Sani Abacha.

An unidentified Nigerian delegate holds the hand of South Africa President Nelson Mandela's hand while Mandela speaks to the Organisation of African Unity Secretary General Salim Salim after the preliminary meetings at the 34th annual OAU summit in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso Monday. The Nigerian delegation and Sierra Leone President Alhaji Tejan Kabbah (pictured behind the Nigerian delegate) left Burkina Faso

Fighting in Lanka

LTTE claims to have repulsed attack: 56 killed

NEW DELHI, June 9: Guerillas lighting for an ethnic homeland in Sri Lanka said they fought off a government attack in the north Tuesday, and at least 56 fighters from both sides

were killed in the seven-hour battle, reports AP. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam, in a statement faxed to news agencies in the Indian capital from their London headquarters, said government forces retreated, leaving behind the bodies of 30 of their soldiers, after encountering heavy rebel resistance at

Lankan capital of Colombo. The Tigers said they lost 26 fighter.

Thursday, with government forces attacking it and nearby Mankulam in a two-pronged effort to capture the region's main highway from guerilla control.

In Sri Lanka Tuesday, the

defense ministry said government troops destroyed a rebel fortification near Mankulam and advanced north. The ministry statement made no men-

tion of casualties. The government has been battling since May, 1997 to capture the highway connecting the Jaffna Peninsula with the rest of Sri Lanka. The army captured the 1,000-square-kilometer (400-square mile) peninsula in 1996 from the Tamil rebels. who had run the area like a mini-state for five years.

of the battle situation was pos-Kilinochehi, 275 kilometers sible as the government bars journalists from visiting the (170 miles) north of the Sri war theater on their own. The government also has imposed censorship on reports about the Kilinochechi was also the fighting emanating from Sri scene of heavy fighting last Because the government does

The Space Shuttle Discovery flys around the Russian space station Mir after undocking from the space station Monday in this image from NASA television. Discovery is the

Lanka keen to play honest broker between India, Pakistan?

ninth and last shuttle to dock with Mir.

NEW DELHI, June 9: Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar, on a limited tour of the subcontinent. has expressed his country's keenness to advance the dates of the South Asian regional summit which was scheduled for late next month, reports lndia Abroad News Service

km northwest of Adelaide.

Diplomats say Sri Lanka is keen for an early SAARC summit in its bid to play an honest broker between India and Pakistan whose relations have deteriorated since they went for nuclear tests, drawing worldwide condemnation and sanctions from the United States and Japan.

Sri Lanka, some official say, may also be wanting to play a role in trying to bring about a rapprochement between India. Pakistan and China since Colombo has excellent ties with

all three countries. Kadirgamar had recently visited Beijing and the security of South Asia following the tests by India and Pakistan had figured in his talks with top Chinese leaders. Indian Prime Minister Atal

Behari Vajpayee, whom Kadirgamar met yesterday, as well as Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, under growing pressure to resume bilateral talks, will have their first meeting at Colombo and their talks are expected to overshadow the summit itself which was earlier scheduled for July 20-22.

"Naturally Sri Lanka is looking forward to the summit," a diplomat said here. "This time it will not be just SAARC, but an event of international significance. The question is when."

the dates of the summit. They Sri Lanka is due to hold

elections to seven of its eight provincial councils, the supreme ruling body in its various provinces, most probably in August. Some Indian officials think President Kumaratunga. who is expected to campaign extensively for the elections. might be looking for an early SAARC summit so that she can concentrate on the elections.

A July 20-22 summit will also be close to the 15th anniversary of the anti-Tamil riots of 1983 which the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) dubs as "black July" and during which period it carries out suicide attacks in Colombo - a prospect no one will relish with seven heads of states around. Sri Lankan government of-

ficials remain tightlipped about

say it can be announced only after Kadirgamar had handed out invitations from Kumaratunga to leaders of all six other SAARC members -- India, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Maldives. which is the outgoing chair-Maldivian President Mau-

moon Abdul Gayoom was to have visited India and Pakistan last month in connection with the upcoming SAARC summit, but he put it off following the nuclear tests. Kadirgamar had handed over a formal invitation from Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga to Prime

Minister Vajpayee during a 30-

minute meeting at the latter's

residence here, but declined to

speak to reporters. He was ac-

companied by Sri Lankan For-

meeting where India's Minister of State for External Affairs Vasundhra Raje was also present. Kadirgamar earlier met Raje separately. Indian Foreign Secretary K. Raghunath said later that the Vajpayee Kadirgamar meeting.

their second in three months,

was a "cordial" one

eign Ministry officials at the

- AP/UNB photo

Raghunath declined to confirm reports from Bangladesh. Kadirgamar's last stop, that the Colombo summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) might be held from July 9 to 11, ahead of the earlier schedule of July 20-

"We are committed to SAARC," Raghunath said, "but deciding the dates for a SAARC summit involves a lot of discussions among member states."

Pentagon to probe

former military leaders.

in Indonesia

Violence erupted when a line

At least five police and three

Vietnam War

The charges brought mostly "I have no recollection of

nerve gas."