

# BRIEFLY



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat puts a pen back in the pocket of his uniform after Sheikh Yousef Salama, left, director of the Islamic Waqf, guardians of Islamic holy sites, showed Arafat maps reportedly showing Israeli expansion plans for Jerusalem, during a conference of Muslim officials called "Jerusalem in Danger" in Gaza City, Monday.

## Over 12 hurt in Pak bomb blast:

More than a dozen people were injured when a bomb exploded yesterday in a vegetable market in Lahore, capital of Pakistan's Punjab province, police said. AFP reports from Lahore.

## Gunmen free 13 in Guatemala:

Thirteen US missionaries kidnapped Monday by heavily armed gunmen in Guatemala's northern Peten region were freed hours later, the defence ministry said. AP reports from Guatemala City.

## Chinese cities hit by floods:

Parts of Wuhan, a major industrial city along the Yangtze River in central China, are flooded and waters are expected to rise further as the river swells, state-run media reported Tuesday. AP reports from Beijing.

## Storms continue to sweep US:

Thunderstorms and tornadoes swept through America's midwestern heartland from Nebraska to Indiana Monday after three days of blazing heat and storms killed at least 20 people across the region, Reuters reports from Des Moines, Iowa.

## 5 die in Philippine shelling:

At least five people were killed and 11 injured when suspected rebel candidates fired more than 10 mortar shells at the Sulu provincial capital on Jolo island before dawn Tuesday, stopping a scheduled oath-taking by the re-elected provincial governor, the military said. AP reports from Zamboanga, Philippines.

## Ex-Peru first lady to run for mayor:

Susana Higuchi, the former wife of Peru's President Alberto Fujimori, will campaign to become mayor of Lima, a spokesman of her group 'Harmony 21st Century' said Monday. AFP reports from Lima.

## Japan to launch Mars probe:

Japan is set to join the select circle of interplanetary spacefaring nations with the scheduled launch this weekend of its Planet-B probe to Mars. AP reports from Tokyo.

## IAEA report reveals N-tests in S Pacific no threat to people

PARIS, June 30: French nuclear tests in the South Pacific over the past three decades have left "extremely modest radiation levels" that pose no threat to people, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Monday, reports AP.

## Talks to ban chemicals open

MONTREAL, June 30: Delegates from 100 countries began negotiations on Monday aimed at producing the first global treaty eliminating the use of certain long-lasting toxic chemicals, reports AP.

## Chief minister of Kashmir threatens agitation

SRINAGAR, June 30: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) chief Farooq Abdullah yesterday threatened to launch an agitation if Article 370 of the Constitution, guaranteeing special status to the state was changed by the Vajpayee government, reports PTI.

## Chief minister of Kashmir threatens agitation

"National Conference has neither entered into any agreement with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led coalition government at the centre that we will support it for every right or concession, nor are we slaves of BJP," Abdullah told a youth national conference workers' rally at Sher-i-Kashmir Park in heart of the city.

## US opposes move in UNSC to condemn Israel

WASHINGTON, June 30: US State Department objects to a move in the UN Security Council to condemn Israel for expanding Jerusalem's administrative authority to Jewish settlements on the West Bank, reports AP.

## Pak foreign secy discusses nuclear ambitions with US officials

WASHINGTON, June 30: Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shamsah Ahmed discussed his country's nuclear ambitions with senior US officials here Monday as Washington sought to step up its dialogue with Islamabad, reports AP.

## Estrada sworn in as Philippines president

MALOLOS, Philippines, June 30: Joseph Estrada, 61, was sworn in today as the 13th president of the Philippines, report AP.

## Violence leaves 6 more dead in Karachi 3,000 additional policemen to be deployed

KARACHI, Jun 30: The Sindh provincial government on Tuesday ordered an additional 3,000 police into this violent city after another night of relentless bloodletting left six people dead, the authorities said, reports AP.

## CPI (M) offers support to Congress to form non-BJP govt

CALCUTTA, June 30: Close on the formation of the Rashtriya Loktantrik Morcha, veteran CPI (M) leader Jyoti Basu today offered party's issue-based support to the Congress for formation of a non-BJP government at the centre, reports PTI.

## UN slammed over girls' edn, healthcare

KABUL, June 30: Several international aid groups threatened Tuesday to leave the beleaguered capital if the Taliban religious army forces them to relocate to abandoned dormitories once used by students of the war-damaged technical institutes, reports AP.

## Aid workers may leave Kabul if forced to relocate to dormitories

KABUL, June 30: Several international aid groups threatened Tuesday to leave the beleaguered capital if the Taliban religious army forces them to relocate to abandoned dormitories once used by students of the war-damaged technical institutes, reports AP.

atives in other parts of the city, at least until the shooting stops," said Mohammed Idrres, a resident of Liaqatabad, who was contacted on telephone.

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GENEVA, June 30: France will donate several million dollars to a new UN programme to prevent unborn children and infants from contracting the AIDS virus from their mothers, Health Minister Bernard Kouchner said today, reports AP.

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## Serb forces battle to regain Kosovo village from rebels

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, June 30: Serb forces battled to regain control of a Kosovo mining village captured by ethnic Albanian separatists, forcing thousands of villagers to flee as government forces steadily attacked the area from three sides Monday, reports AP.

## Off the Record 'UFO sightings warrant closer look'

WASHINGTON, June 30: Scientists from around the world have concluded that some witness accounts of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) warrant a closer look, according to a report released Monday, reports AP.

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## Clinton hails emerging new China

SHANGHAI, June 30: US President Bill Clinton, turning his attention Tuesday to dramatic changes in communist China, hailed an emerging new China "that is more prosperous, more open and more dynamic," reports AP.

## UNSC call to complete Angolan peace process

UNITED NATIONS, June 30: The UN Security Council Monday urged the UN Angolan envoy, urging the government and rebels to intensify efforts to complete the peace process that Alouise Blomberg Beye helped foster, reports AP.

## Serb forces battle to regain Kosovo village from rebels

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is a new China emerging in the world that is more prosperous, more open and more dynamic," he said in a joint appearance with his wife.

Clinton flew here late Monday from Beijing where he addressed students at Peking University. He urged political reforms and was challenged — pointedly but politely — by the youthful audience about America's own human rights record, arms sales to Taiwan and US perceptions of China.

## UNSC call to complete Angolan peace process

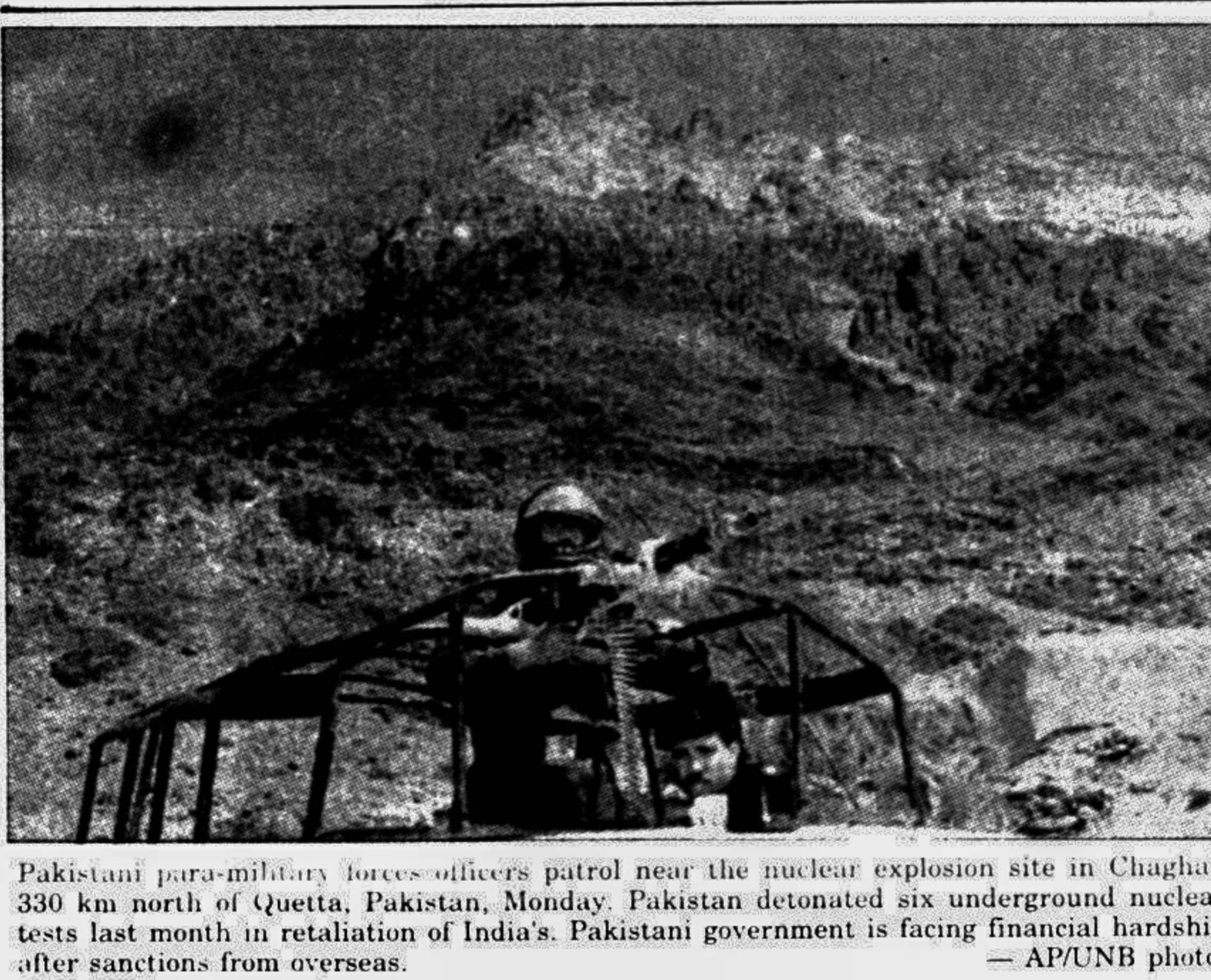
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Pakistani para-military forces officers' patrol near the nuclear explosion site in Chaghai, 330 km north of Quetta, Pakistan, Monday. Pakistan detonated six underground nuclear tests last month in retaliation of India's. Pakistani government is facing financial hardship after sanctions from overseas.

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