Majority favours Clinton: The US public has no appetite for impeaching President Bill Clinton even if he lied under oath about his relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky, according to a poll

released Saturday, AFP reports from New York. The Newsweek poll found only 39 per cent believed Clinton should be impeached if he lied when he previously denied in sworn testimony that he had an affair with Lewinsky, now 25. Thirty-five per cent said an apology would be sufficient, while 19 per cent said no action would be necessary if Clinton lied. His overall approval rating was 60 per cent, about the same it has been in past months.

Iran bans liberal newspaper: Iran's judiciary on Saturday banned a liberal newspaper close to President Mohammad Khatami, amid growing pressure from Islamic hardliners, the official IRNA news agency announced,

AFP says from Tehran. It said Tehran's Justice Department ordered the Daily Toos to stop publishing from Sunday because it had violated the country's press law. Earlier on Saturday, dozens of Islamic fundamentalist protesters beat up the chief editor of Toos, a day after the paper came under attack from the head of the judiciary.

Floods kill 3 in Indonesia: Extensive flooding in the Indonesian town of Samarinda in east Kalimantan after a dam burst has left three people dead and

forced more than 53,000 others to evacuate, police in the stricken town said yesterday. AFP reports from Jakarta.

"Two people died in the flood and another has been missing since Thursday and is presumed dead," second Sergeant Bajuri of the Samarinda police told AFP. "Our record as of yesterday morning also shows that some 53,000 people from five administrative units have been evacuated to safer ground," Bajuri

Heatwave claims 2 in Turkey: A heatwave baking the city of Zmit with temperatures as high as 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) has killed two people. Anatolia news agency reported on Saturday. AFP says from Ankara.

One 47-year-old victim died of a heart attack in the hospital while the other 65 died of a heart ailment caused by the heat, the agency said. The heat wave, which has especially affected Turkey's central, southern and western parts, has seen temperatures soar above 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit).

Former MI-5 member held in France: A former member of Britain's MI-5 security service was arrested on Saturday while on the run in France, a British government

spokeswoman said, Reuter reports from London. David Shayaler faces charges under Britain's Official Secrets Act and the government is seeking his extradition so that he can stand trial. Shayler was arrested by French police following a request from the British government, the spokeswoman for the Home Office (Interior Ministry) said.

Cohen leaves for Manila: US Defence Secretary William Cohen left Sunday for the Philippines after a wrapping up two days of talks with Indonesian leaders, AP reports from Jakarta.

Cohen and entourage flew from Jakarta's Halim Perdanakusumah airport directly for Manila, the Philippines capital, an official at the airport in eastern Jakarta said. In his meeting Saturday with President BJ Habibie, Cohen urged the Indonesian leader to push ahead with democratic reforms and efforts to rebuild its shattered economy.

ADF rebels kill 12 in Uganda: Between 80 to 100 well armed Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebels attacked Kasese town centre in western Uganda in the early hours of Saturday morning, killing at least 12 people,

security sources confirmed, AFP reports from Kampala. Unconfirmed civilian reports from Kasese said that a foreigner - either a Filipino or a Korean working for a cobalt mining company in the area - was among the dead. However, security sources were unable to confirm the death of the foreigner. Among those killed were also two policemen and a soldier.

Eritreans, Ethiopians refuse

to budge in border talks

early May has subsided since

mid-June, following a US-bro-

kered deal to stop deadly air

faids. Several hundred people -

perhaps more — perished before the fighting subsided.

Seyoum, who met with the

mediators after Woldetensae

left, repeated his country's de-

mand for an Eritrean troop

ter Stan Mudenge and his Dji-

bouti counterpart, Mohammed

Musa Sheahim, were among the

other mediators taking part.

Zimbabwe and Djibouti had

hashed out a list of peace pro-

posals presented to the diplo-

itrea have steadfastly refused

face-to-face talks, the two for-

eign ministers shared the same

plane Saturday morning to this

opponents made contact on the

flight, and they were quickly

whisked away from Oua-

gadougou's international air-

port to different hotels by Burk-

itrea's invasion of two districts

on the western end of the 960-

kilometer (600-mile) border be-

tween the East African coun-

tries that precipitated the crisis

and subsequent fighting.

Ethiopia says it was Ere-

It was not clear whether the

West African capital.

ina Faso diplomats.

Although Ethiopia and Er-

Zimbabwe's Foreign Minis-

withdrawal.

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina

Faso, Aug 2: The foreign minis-

ters of Ethiopia and Eritrea on

Saturday refused to budge in

their bitter frontier dispute af-

ter holding separate talks with African mediators, reports AP.

The feuding parties agreed to meet again Sunday with the

diplomats representing the Or-

ganisation of African Unity in

Burkina Faso's capital of Oua-

tors, led by OAU secretary-gen-eral Salim Ahmed Salim, began

more than 12 hours ahead of

schedule, prompting initial op-timism by Burkina Faso offi-

cials about the chances for a

Minister Haile Woldetensae and

his Ethiopian counterpart Sey-

oum Mesfin also voiced hopes

for a settlement, although both

try was ready to meet face-to-

face with Ethiopia and for-

malise the end of fighting with

a cease fire, but was unprepared to withdraw from disputed land

an Ethiopian precondition for direct talks.

any territory of Ethiopia, and

we are not willing to withdraw

from our own territory," Wolde-

"Eritrea has not occupied

Fighting which flared in

Woldetensae said his coun-

refused to compromise.

Eritrea's Foreign Affairs

Discussions with the media-

gadougou.

peace agreement.

tensae said.

### crucial mission to Baghdad by their chief Richard Butler, reports AFP.

It said the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) in charge of disarming Iraq was ignoring Baghdad's cooperation over the past seven years, leaving little incentive for it.

BAGHDAD, Aug 2: Iraq

stepped up its protests over the

work of UN weapons inspectors

on Saturday, on the eve of a

"The suspect intentions of this commission are to torpedo everything achieved since its creation in 1991 in the destruction of Iraqi arms, and it wants to return to square one," said the official daily Al-Jumhuriya.

"Why should Iraq continue to make sacrifices by dealing with a commission that is headed by a suspect team and made up of US and British spies?" asked the newspaper.

What new promise will Butler bring us this time?" It asked. charging that he "does not stick to his commitments and

changes his stand under US INA reported.

"UNSCOM receives its orders from outside the United Nations, gathers its information from the US Intelligence services, London and Tel Aviv. That's why it respects neither its commitments nor its promises," charged Al-Jumhuriya.

Butler, accompanied by his top experts, is due in Baghdad today and will meet Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz on Monday and Tuesday.

Iraq intensifies protests over work

of UN weapons inspectors

His arrival falls on the eight anniversary of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, four days after which UN sanctions were slapped on Baghdad.

The embargo cannot be lifted until UNSCOM certifies the elimination of Iraq's biological, chemical and nuclear weapons as well as missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometres.

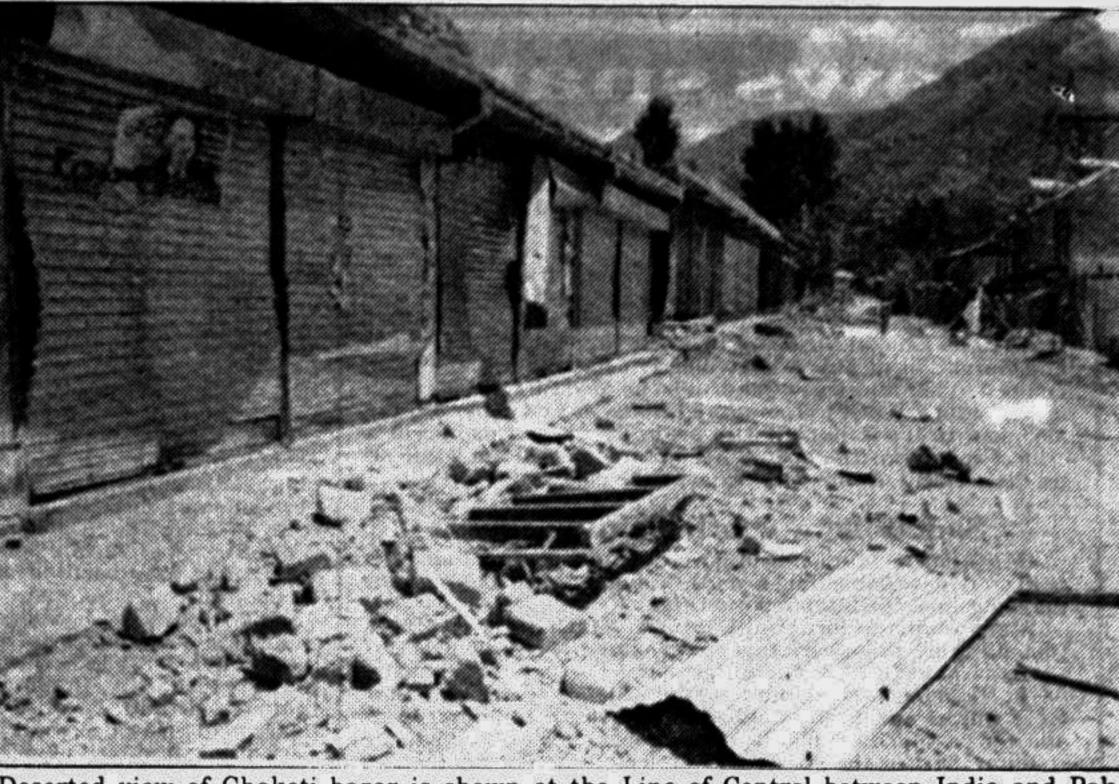
The Iraqi parliament is to discuss the embargo in an emergency session on Monday, the official Iraqi news agency

The session would be devoted to "the continuation of discussions on the unjust embargo. as well as the questioning of Industry Minister Adnan Abdel Majid Jassem about continuing severe power cuts in Iraq, it

The Iraqi parliament has already recommended an end to all cooperation with UNSCOM inspectors because of the lack of progress in lifting UN sanc-

Butler said Friday while visiting China that he expects US Army Laboratory findings of lethal nerve gas on Iraqi mis-sile warhead fragments to be confirmed "in a few weeks" after follow-up tests in Europe.

Traces of the lethal VX nerve gas were detected in June in an analysis of samples from Iraqi missile warhead remnants, despite Iraq's insistence it had never weaponized the gas.



Deserted view of Chakoti bazar is shown at the Line of Control between India and Pakistan held Kashmirs Saturday, 430-km north from Muzaffarabad, north of Islamabad. Dozens of Pakistanis including soldiers were killed and houses destroyed by Indian troops. The exchange of mortar and artillery fire between India and Pakistan in the disputed territory of Kashmir has continued since Wednesday. - AP/UNB photo

## Complaints about election fraud not yet resolved in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, Aug 2: Cambodia's National Election Committee on Sunday feted observers and other participants in last week's polls - but made no apparent progress in delivering a final vote tally or resolving complaints about election fraud, reports AP.

A cultural show was held at the home just outside the capital of committee chairman Chheng Phon "to thank the foreign and national observers who have contributed so much to the success of the Cambodian elections.

But even though voting went smoothly at last Sunday's polls, no final results have yet been issued, and charges of irregularities and fraud continued to emerge.

The committee on Saturday released preliminary official results for just seven of 23 constituencies. A spokesman for the committee said that the complete final tally had been delayed as results were being sent in by fax and radio, keyed into computers and then rechecked with officials from communal and provincial counting stations

The delayed count has caused concern about opportunities for tampering with the vote count.

There are 122 parliamentary seats at stake, and from unoffi cial projections it appears that Co-Premier Hun Sen's roling Cambodian People's Party will

win a majority of them. The opposition parties have asked for a recount in areas where they suspect irregulari-

A statement from an independent Cambodian poll watch ing body, the Neutral and Impartial Committee for Free Elections in Cambodia, listed several otherwise unpublicised incidents of manipulation and

The group, affiliated with the human right organisation noted three violent election-day incidents in the centra province of Kampong Cham one the most heavily contested

In two districts, the group said in a statement issued Saturday, it appeared that shooting

#### Car bomb blast in N-Ireland

BELFAST, AUG 2: A car bomb exploded Saturday in Banbridge, southwest of Belfast, police said, it was not immediately known if there were any casualties, reports AFP.

The blast took place in Banbridge, Countrydown.

Most paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland, Protestant and Catholic, say they are holding to their ceasefire to shore up the peace process, but severa dissident groups on both sides have refused to comply.

in the air discouraged people from voting, and in a third district a woman was shot dead early in the day.

"Initial reports indicate that voters were severely intimidated (by the shooting), such that only five people who cast their votes before the shooting were be to vote," it said.

In some areas, particularly the provinces of Kampot and Takeo, its observers were not allowed to enter polling stations or were asked to leave by officials, it said. In one district of Kampot province, a NICFEC observer was threatened and resigned out of fear.

The group reported its observers had witnessed at least one case of fraud, also in Kampot, where the chief of one polling station was seen inserting ballots into the ballot box after voting had closed.

It noted as well that in some vote-counting centers only one party agent or observer was allowed in, preventing effective monitoring because several ballot boxes were tallied simultaneously.

In a counting station in Kampot, an official misread ballots in favour of one party although the ballots were marked for another party, it

Opposition parties last Tuesday asked that new votes be taken in disputed precincts, if their charges of wrongdoing were found to be valid.

### Week-long agitation against Vajpayee govt begins Aug 9

from August 9 against the Vajpayee government for its failure on all fronts, reports PTI.

commander in Srinagar, the summer capital of Indian-ad-The Dal had planned protest ministered Kashmir, dismissed "There is no truth and there is no question of violations as we don't believe in violations.

he told AFP. Officials, however, said Indian Air Force Chief Marshal SS Sareen arrived in Srinagar Saturday on a two-day visit in the wake of border firing be-

tween the arch-rivals.

India denies

violating

Pak air

Pakistani claims that Indian

fighter planes violated the

ceasefire line in disputed

Kashmir were "totally false," an

air force official said here Sat-

planes intruded over four sec-

tors in the Pakistan-controlled

area of disputed Kashmir where

cross-border firing has claimed

But PV Naik, the air force

more than 70 lives this week.

Islamabad said Indian war

urday, reports AFP.

the claim.

SRINAGAR, India, Aug 2:

Pakistan said it had informed United Nations military observers that Indian fighters flew over the Keil, Chakothi, Pandu and Shankot sectors on the Pakistani side of Kashmir.

The first intrusion was around 9:15 am (0415 GMT) at Pandu, followed two hours later by a flight over Chakothi area and at 11:50 am. A fighter crossed into the Shahkot and Keil sectors, Pakistan military,

Ex-politician files defamation suit against Time

magazine in KL KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 2: A former Malaysian politician has filed a 13.75 million dollars defamation suit against the Asian edition of Time magazine, news reports said Sunday.

reports AP. Abdul Rahim Tamby Chick, the former chief minister of Malacca state, named as defendants the magazine's publisher, John Marcom, who is also president of Time Inc. Asia, the editor, Donald Morrison and reporter David Liebhold over the June 15 article titled "How Malaysia Throttles Dissent.

Time's Asia headquarters in Hong Kong was closed Sunday and staff could not be reached for comment.

The Star newspaper reported.

The Time article focused on the case of Lim Guan Eng. an opposition member of parliament, who was sentenced to prison on sedition charges for publishing a 1995 pamphlet questioning the government's decision not to press statutory rape charges against Rahim. Lim also questioned why the 15-year-old schoolgirl was detained after the sex scandal broke, but not the politician.

Rahim, who filed the defamation suit Saturday in High Court, said the Time article was worded in such a way as to assume his guilt.

NEW DELHI, Aug 2: Janata Dal will organise a week-long agitation across the country

Protest rallies and demonstrations will be held at district level besides courting arrests (jail bharo) to draw attention of the people to the BJP-led coalition's failure in containing prices of essential commodities, party president Sharad Yadav told the newsmen here

rallies immediately after the installation of the coalition government to protest against its anti-people polices and programmes, he said.

Party general secretary Mohan Prakash said the Dal had been organising awareness campaigns for its party workers at the district level for the last three months in several states including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Sharad Yadav, and former union minister Ram Vilas Paswan would be present at the protest rally at Balmikinagar in Champaran district of Bihar on August 9, he said

Mohan Prakash, who undertook a fortnight long visit to the north east last month to highlight the inefficacy of the Vajpayee government, accused the centre of rencouraging blackmarketers and hoarders resulting in the price rise of essential commodities.

AFP adds: Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee returned home Friday from a South Asian summit and said the process of dialogue had started between India and archrival Pakistan during the Colombo event.

"My meeting with the Pakistan Prime Minister has started the process of the resumption of a dialogue," Vajpayee said of his two rounds of talks with Nawaz Sharif in the Sri Lankan capital.

The Vajpayee-Sharif meeting was their first since India and Pakistan conducted their nuclear tests in May. "On the fringes of the SAARC

(South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation) meeting I have had some useful bilateral discussions with all our neighbours," Vajpayee said. "The three major international meetings that have concluded in the last one week or so

have clearly established that there is a much greater understanding of India's national security priorities than before. "I refer to the meeting of the ASEAN and the ARF (Asean Regional Forum) in Manila and

the SAARC meeting which concluded today in Colombo," the Indian Prime Minister said. The ARF is the only intergovernment forum for security issues in the ASEAN which

groups Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia. Myanmar. the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

## Longest-living British royal

# Queen mother turns 98 tomorrow

LONDON, Aug 2: The queen mother, who celebrates her 98th birthday on Tuesday, is in the record books as the longest living British royal, and with her flowery hats and beaming smile, remains close to Britons' hearts, reports AFP.

It was on June 14 this year, at 97 and 314 days, that Elizabeth Angela Marguerite, mother of Queen Elizabeth II, beat the record of Princess Alice who died on January 3, 1981 aged 97 years and 313 days.

is known simply to millions of Britons, has had a difficult years. After a bad fall in January, during a visit to her farm on the royal estate at Sandringham on the east coast, she had to undergo her second hipreplacement operation in two years.

tions in Britain gave updates about the condition of the "nation's grandmother's on each of the news bulletins.

The media also closely followed the movements of the queen, waiting for the moment when she would finally decide to visit her mother in hospital.

queen mother's first hip-re-

But the "queen mum", as she

Redio and television sta-

The British press expressed indignation in 1995, after the

placement operation, that her daughter waited for six days before paying a visit to her bed-The queen mum recovered

Blesses with remarkable health, she was hospitalised for the first time in her life at the age of 64 for appendicitis, then two years later for an intestinal blockage, and, at 86, for a leg ul-

Afflicted by worsening arthritis, she gave in to her doctors pleas and in November 1995 she underwent surgery to replace her right h., joint. Since then she has moved around with difficulty leading on a stick or seated in a small electric buggy driven by a chauf-

This does not prevent her from flashing her trademark smile or enjoying the simple

On her birthday, the queen mum is expected to spend the day at her London residence Clarence House, and she will have lunch with her daughters Elizabeth and Margaret, and other members of the royal family. No particular event is planned for this private day, Buckingham Palace indicated.

### 80's air disaster near Island of Ustica

### 4 Italian generals accused of hiding vital evidence

ROME, Aug 2: Four retired Italian generals were accused on Saturday by public prosecutors in Rome of hiding vital evidence relating to a 1980 air disaster which left 81 civilians dead, reports AFP.

The generals occupied top posts in the air force when an Îtavia DC-9, en route from Bologna to Palermo exploded on June 27, 1980 near the Island

of Ustica, off the coast of Sicily. A number of explanations have been presented in the 18year investigation. One suggests that one or two Libyan aircraft had been flying close behind the DC-9 to avoid leaving a radar image and that one of eight pursuing US, French and Italian fighter aircraft accidentally targeted the passenger plane.

Roman magistrates Giovannisalvi Andvincenzo Roselli called Saturday for the four air force generals to be tried for an "attack on the coun-

try's constitutional bodies." They also called for a further six officers and non-commissioned officers be tried for falsifying their testimony.

The generals are former chief of staff Lamberto Bartolucci, Zeno Tascio, the colonel responsible for secret operational information, their number three Coorado Melillo and Franco Ferri, chief adjutant to the staff.

They are accused of having hidden "information concerning the possible American military traffic on the day of the catastrophe from the political and legal authorities" to avoid giving the impression that allied aircraft had any responsibility in the affair.

A judge at the preliminary hearings will examine the prosecution's plea in the coming weeks and decide if there is a case against the high-ranking

French and US officials have denied having fighter aircraft in the air.

But experts who helped in an inquiry last year said that was false and that fuel from a US plane was found in the water where a piece of the DC- 9 was

BONN, Aug 2: The Colombo summit between the Indian and Pakistani prime ministers is being described here as a "zero result meeting" by the German media which is taking inordinate interest in subcontinental relations following the May nuclear blasts, according to India Abroad News Service.

Krystal, 8, twin bother Joey, 5, and sister Kassey, 6.

Though Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif were in the Sri Lankan capital to attend the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit, the German media gave greater attention to the India-Pakistan bilateral meetings on the fringes of the sum-

from semi-official television channels to private radio and television stations to the print media, carried prominent items on the Vajpayee-Sharif meeting. The phrase "zero result meeting" was coined after Sharif's interview to The Island newspaper in Sri Lanka in which he claimed the outcome of his talks with Vajpayee had been "zero".

The entire German media,

Editorials in a number of

German newspapers, written in a style that was critical as well as sarcastic, warned that India and Pakistan were nuclear intants with little or no knowledge of management of their arsenal. Any miscalculation by either side could easily lead to a catastrophe not only for South Asia but also for other regions.

Minutes after this photo was taken on Thursday, 5-year-old Antony Gottus (left), was

mauled by this 4-month-old Royal Bengal tiger at the North Dakota State Fair in Minot.

Other family members posing from left are: sister Katrina, 16, mother Wanda, sister

Willi Germund, who made a scathing commentary on the Colombo meeting in the German left-wing daily Frankfurter Rundschau, described India and Pakistan as dangerous "fighting cocks" and urged New Delhi and Islamabad to open their eyes. For years In-dia and Pakistan have been talking of the necessity of building mutual confidence. reducing tensions and giving priority to the needs of their people, he wrote.

ernments of the two countries have the opportunity of translating their big talk into practice, they behave like children, he claimed. New Delhi and Islamabad search for and find reasons to prove that bilateral agreement cannot be realised,

However, each time the gov-

Germund claimed. They offer lofty justifications which mean only one thing: they do not want to negotiate. However, most Indians and Pakistanis would prefer nothing more than burying the hatchet, he said. Germund predicted that the next meeting of the two countries, scheduled to be held in September on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) meeting in South Africa. would also not produce a breakthrough.

Indo-Pak talks in Colombo a 'zero result meeting': German media

- AP/UNB photo

The two countries have been firing at each other regularly with conventional weapons and are trying to merely pull the world's leg by saying, to quote an Indian official, that this was normal, he wrote. "It is time that New Delhi and Islamabad open their eyes: their atomic arsenal poses in reality a danger for the entire world," admonished Germund.

The Sueddeutsche Zeitung, a liberal daily published from Munich, noted that the first dialogue between the two South Asian countries since conducting their atomic tests had failed to bring them any

The German media's interest is understandable, given the widespread interest of ordinary Germans on nuclear issues even though the official German reaction to the tests in May was muted. A German diplomat, commenting on condition of anonymity, said Bonn would be happy if India and Pakistan could resolve all disputes through bilateral discus-Although Bonn has sus-

pended development assistance to New Delhi and Islamabad, amounting to some 350 million and 75 million German marks respectively, it has not endorsed the U.S. stand of imposing sanctions.

Germans are now wondering what Bonn's position on the nascent South Asian nuclear states would be following the general election scheduled for September 27 in which, political analysts claim, the dice is loaded against the current government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Kohl heads a coalition comprising his Christian Democratic Union (CDU), its Bavarian sister party the Christian

Social Union (CSU) and junior partner, the Free Democratic Party (FDP). The coalition has condemned the Indian and Pak-

It remains to be seen if the Social Democratic Party (SPD) which is currently in the opposition, will bring about a change in Bonn's stand on the South Asian tests if it comes to power.

Indian officials are privately saying they expect development assistance to be resumed sooner or later. A matter of speculation at this point is whether the scheduled fourday visit of President K.R. Narayanan to Germany in September will soften Bonn's stand and move the government to resume assistance.

But many are questioning the wisdom of the timing of Narayanan's visit, which is likely to get little notice as most German politicians will be busy campaigning. As one Frankfurt-based Indian businessman asked: "What good is it (the visit) going to do if Chancellor Kohl's party, as is widely expected, fails to be reinstated after the election?"

#### HR Commission officials will visit Jaffna this week

JAFFNA, Aug 2: State-appointed Human Rights Commission officials and police will visit Jaffna this week to investigate the claim of a soldier and convicted killer that he helped bury hundreds of Tamil civilians in northern Sri Lanka, reports AP.

"The soldier also is likely to visit Jaffna," Major-General Lionel Balagalle, commander of the Sri Lankan security forces. told a group of visiting journalists on Saturday. The investi-

The soldier, Corporal Dewage Somaratne, claims he knows where nearly 400 Tai ais were killed by government forces and buried on the out-

skirts of Jaffna, a predomi-

nately Tamil town 300 kilome-

ters (190 miles) north in

gations were to start in a few

Colombo. Between 500 and 600 Tamil civilians have disappeared in

northern Jaffna Peninsula. which includes the town of Jaffna, since the military drove out Tamil rebels.