



Madonna accepts her award for best video of the year for her song "Ray of Light" during the MTV Video Music Awards on Thursday night in Los Angeles. —AP/UNB photo

US president should resign: UK media

LONDON, Sept 11: President Bill Clinton should resign rather than drag the United States through a long impeachment process which will paralyse US decision making and harm world stability several British newspapers said today, reports AFP.

As the American public awaited details of the massive report by independent counsel Kenneth Starr on the Monica Lewinsky affair which could seal Clinton's fate press comment here was bitterly critical of the leader of the free world.

The left leaning broadsheet, the independent, while conceding that Clinton's behaviour did not equal the crimes of Richard Nixon, insisted that US president would have brought it upon himself.

"The heart of the matter is personal the president's personal judgement and lack of shame," the newspaper wrote in an editorial.

It called upon Clinton to consider "whether his resignation would be in the interests of the presidency, the nation and

the world."

The conservative Daily Telegraph broadsheet ridiculed the president's recent spate of apologies for his conduct in the sex and lies scandal, "if one says I'm sorry so now can I stay in my job the act of apology is obviously a device."

Clinton saying sorry is really just another version of Clinton lying the last and most desperate version perhaps, the London daily said adding that if Clinton was truly sorry, he would be leaving the oval office for good.

The centre-right broadsheet, The Times said that unless Clinton could prove without relying on incredible legal constructions "that Starr's charges of perjury and obstruction of justice were false he should go quietly."

"What a demeaning spectacle in the world's most powerful nation, the mid-market Daily Mail lamented, warning that as a result of the crisis "it may be a long time before Washington can regain the moral authority to match its undoubted economic and military power."

Britain's best selling Sun newspaper, in an editorial headlined guilty as sin' said once Starr's report had appeared on the Internet, the US president would be "finished."

Its rival The Mirror branded Clinton as a "sleazy, self-driven liar" and urged British Prime Minister Tony Blair not to lend him his support by appearing at the US leader's side in a week's time at a joint conference in New York.

Blair who stood shoulder to shoulder with his political soulmate in January during a visit to Washington when the Lewinsky affair first erupted, is due to host a summit with Clinton on their third way's of politics on September 21.

"He (Clinton) is tainted beyond redemption and is not a fit person for our prime minister to be visiting during the president's last days in the White House, the Mirror said.

Reuters adds from Washington: A resolute Hillary Rodham Clinton reemerged at US President Bill Clinton's side on

Thursday, lauding his political accomplishments as her press secretary said the First Lady had forgiven him for his infidelity.

"None of what has been done in the last five and-a-half years to put our country on the right track... could have been done without the leadership of one particular person," Mrs. Clinton said as she introduced her husband at dinner for democratic business executives.

"Day after day I've seen his determination to do what is best for America and for the children who will inherit our country," she said in her first comprehensive remarks since Clinton admitted publicly last month to having an affair with a woman half his age.

Calm and assured, Mrs. Clinton recited a list of accomplishments, including the extension of health insurance to millions of uninsured children, improvement of schools and efforts to help secure peace in northern Ireland.

main rebel group in Sri Lanka's ethnic war.

Yogeswaran had been elected in the first vote in 15 years in Jaffna, a once bustling cultural centre transformed into a bombed-out shell by the war.

Tamil Tiger rebels, had seized the city in 1990 and proclaimed a government for the more than 1 million people who live in northern Sri Lanka, where Tamils predominate. Sri Lanka's army retook the city in 1995 after a bitter 50-day offensive and had ruled there until local elections were held in a bid to restore normalcy.

Meanwhile, Police recovered 25 kilograms (55 pounds) of high-powered explosives from a Colombo neighbourhood and took into custody three people suspected of being members of the main Tamil rebel group, a news report said on Friday.

The independent Island newspaper said the explosives were brought into the Sri Lanka capital by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the

25 kg explosives seized Mayor of Jaffna, 19 others killed in bomb blast

COLOMBO, Sept 11: A bomb explosion Friday killed the Mayor of Sri Lanka's main Tamil city of Jaffna, according to military officials, in an attack just four months after his predecessor was assassinated, reports AP.

The military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said 19 others were killed along with Mayor Ponnuthurai Sivapalan in the attack. The dead including Brig. Susantha Mendis, who was in charge of military operations in Jaffna, and the city's senior police official, Superintendent Chandra Perera. Few other details were immediately available.

Officials did not immediately say who they believed was behind the attack.

Sivapalan had taken up the mayor's post after his predecessor Sarojini Yogeswaran was shot and killed by two gunmen at her Jaffna home on May 15. The previously unknown Sangilian Force claimed responsibility for Yogeswaran's death, but the military says it is a front group of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the

main rebel group in Sri Lanka's ethnic war.

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BRIEFLY

Thai police arrest 32 teenagers: Thai police have arrested 32 teenagers and the owner of a popular discotheque after administering urine tests in a drug raid, local papers reported on Friday, AP says from Bangkok.

A team of 120 anti-narcotics police swooped down on the Sparks discotheque where more than 400 people were partying on Thursday night, the Bangkok Post reported. The 32 teenagers were being held after testing positive for various drugs, while the disco owner was being held for operating after hours, the paper said.

Russian sub sailor kills 5 crewmen: A sailor on a Russian navy submarine shot and killed at least five crewmen and wounded several others before barricading himself in the vessel, the Interfax news agency reported on Friday, AP reports from Moscow.

The incident happened overnight on an unidentified submarine in the navy base at Severomorsk near the northern city of Murmansk, the report said. Five sailors were killed and three wounded in the attack, it said. Navy officials in Moscow said they could not confirm the report.

100 held for thefts at Chinese book fair: Nearly 100 Chinese and foreign book lovers who took their passion too far have been charged with shoplifting at a book fair, a newspaper reported on Friday, AP says from Beijing.

The literary crime wave took place over five days at the 7th International Publishing Exhibition, which opened on August 28 in Beijing, the Xinmin Evening News said. "Suspects include 16-year-old high school students, a Pole in his 60s and a Chinese government researcher charged with taking an art book worth more than 1,000 yuan (120 dollars), the newspaper said. The most expensive book stolen cost nearly 3,000 yuan (360 dollars).

Fire kills 1 at Chinese factory: A fire that broke out in a refrigerator at a food processing factory has killed one firefighter and injured 28 others, the official newspaper Legal Daily reported on Friday, AP reports from Beijing.

The seven-hour blaze on September 5 did not cause damage to surrounding buildings or any other injuries, the report said without providing further details.

Japanese FM suspends visit to Moscow: Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura moved Friday to postpone his upcoming visit to Moscow at the request of Russian officials, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported Japanese sources as saying, AFP reports from Moscow.

The newly-appointed diplomat was to arrive in the Russian capital on September 13 for two days of talks with his Russian counterpart, Yevgeny Primakov, who was nominated on Thursday for the post of prime minister by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Yemeni executed in public for murder: A Yemeni sentenced to death for murder, was executed in public on Thursday in Ta'ez 270 km south of the capital, the official news agency Saba reported, AFP says from Sanaa.

Relatives of the murder victim were invited to witness the execution of Abdu Said Akilan, Saba said. Earlier on Thursday, three men were executed in public for murder in Sanaa and in Ta'ez.

Drug dealer to die in Thailand: Thailand's Supreme Court has upheld a death penalty given to an ethnic Shan heroin smuggler from neighbouring Myanmar, the Bangkok Post reported on Friday, AP says from Bangkok.

Le Hin, also known as Lao Loe Promchait, was arrested along with three other drug dealers in the northern city of Chiang Rai in 1992 for smuggling 18 kilograms (39.6 pounds) of heroin.

Annan reiterates demand for truce in Kosovo

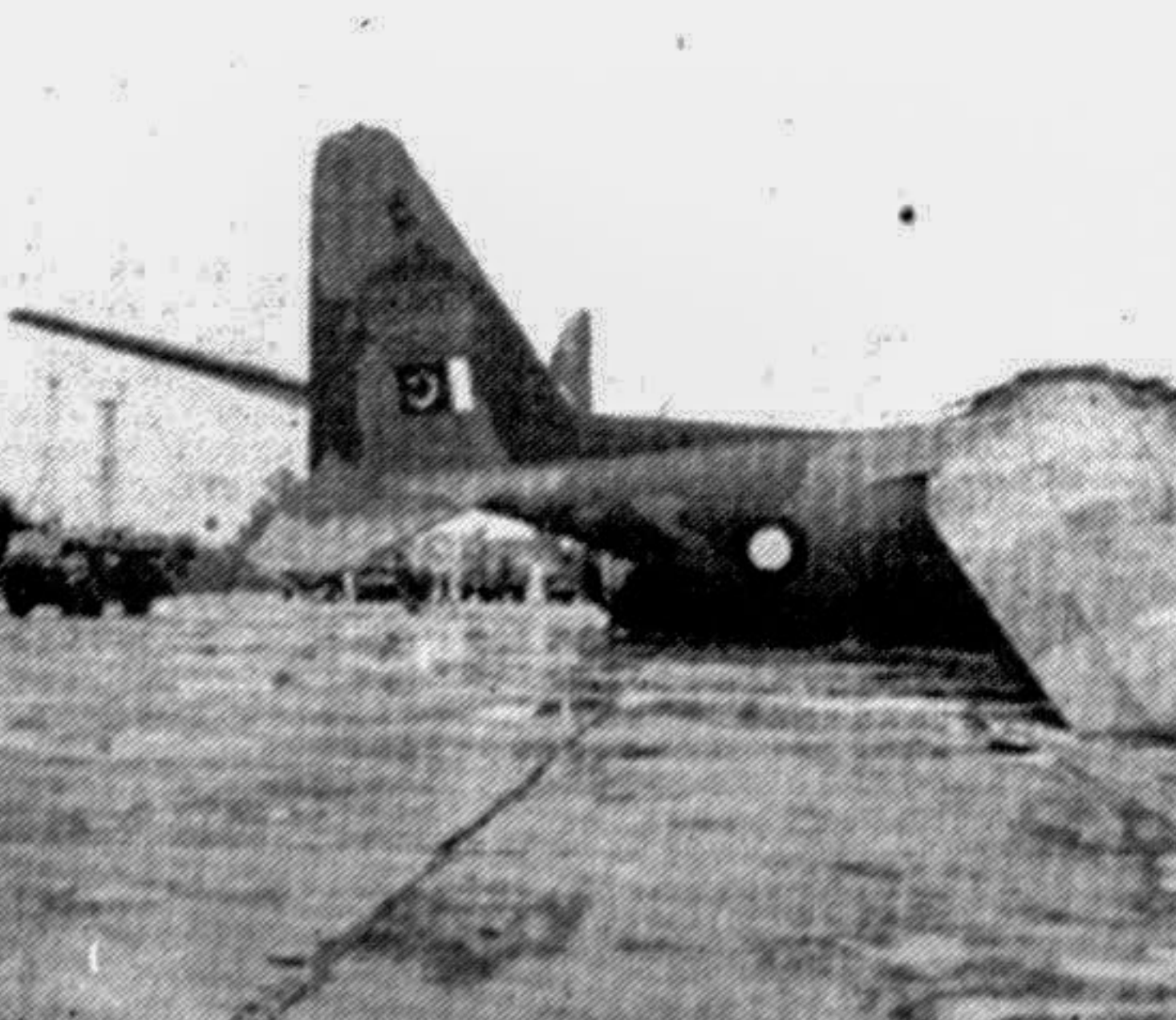
UNITED NATIONS, Sept 11: The UN chief and the Security Council both urged the Yugoslav leader to stop the crackdown on ethnic Albanians in the separatist Kosovo province and warned that a humanitarian catastrophe was imminent although a lack of consensus on the council continues to frustrate any action, reports AP.

In a letter to Slobodan Milosevic dated September 11 but released on Thursday, Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged the Yugoslav president to make good on a pledge to withdraw special troops from Kosovo,

where ethnic Albanians are fighting for independence from Serb forces.

In his letter, Annan noted that the "disproportionate use of force by Serbian police and military units has led to loss of life, mass displacement of the civilian population, and destruction of property and means of livelihood."

He blamed Milosevic for obstructing humanitarian assistance to refugees — an estimated quarter of a million people facing winter with little or no food or shelter.



A view of burnt wreckage of the Pakistan Air Force C-130 aircraft at Chaklala Air Base in Rawalpindi on Thursday. Two C-130 transport planes caught fire, killing five crewmen and wounding four others after the brakes on one aircraft failed while it was on the ground at the air base. — AP/UNB photo



Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, seated centre, presiding over a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and Ba'ath Party leadership on Thursday. The official Iraqi news agency reported Thursday that the government termed the UN Security Council's decision to suspend a review of Iraq's economic sanctions as "unjust". — AP/UNB photo

Rival party supporters clash as Hun Sen shifts tactics ASEAN ignoring HR violations in Cambodia : Ranariddh

PHNOM PENH, Sept 11: Opposition leader Prince Norodom Ranariddh blasted neighbouring countries on Friday for failing to denounce strongman Hun Sen's use of riot police and mobs to kill and beat protesters and monks in a bid to retain power, reports AP.

Ranariddh expressed disappointment that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations portrayed the violence in Phnom Penh's streets as a contest between equals. The organisation urged both sides Wednesday to "exercise restraint, avoid violence, including extremist acts."

In a press statement, Ranariddh noted that opposition demonstrators who have contested Hun Sen's official victory in July 26 parliamentary elections had done so peacefully and that Hun Sen unleashed riot police against them this week.

"Most of the violence has come from the Phnom Penh authorities, which after negotiat-

ing a continuation of the peaceful demonstrations decided to crack down, killing and wounding Buddhist monks, students and other people," Ranariddh said.

As the statement was issued, a crowd of highly organised plainclothes supporters of Hun Sen's ruling Cambodian People's Party attacked a far smaller crowd of opposition backers with clubs, guns and rocks. At least one person was killed and several wounded.

ASEAN had been a prime mover behind the recent elections, which the opposition claims Hun Sen won by fraud. The vote was seen as necessary to restore international legitimacy and aid lost after Hun Sen deposed Ranariddh as co-prime minister in a bloody coup last year.

ASEAN postponed Cambodia's membership after the coup and is keen to bring in the country as its 10th member of promote regional stability.

The organisation had noted

that international observers had ruled the elections sufficiently free and fair. But critics have said that the observers did not take into account pre-election intimidation and gave reports well before the long counting process ended.

ASEAN encouraged all Cambodians to accept the election results.

"The international community may well recognise the elections as free and fair, but the majority of the people of Cambodia do not," the Prince responded.

"This has been largely demonstrated in the increasing number of our compatriots who have risked their lives to protest against this mockery of democracy which the international community continues to encourage in Cambodia," the Prince said.

Ranariddh noted that Hun Sen had barred opposition leaders, including himself, from leaving the country.

Israel imposes curfew on PA-run areas of WB, Gaza

JERUSALEM, Sept 11: Israel imposed a total curfew on Palestinian-run areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip today and sealed the territories' borders with Israel following the killing of two top Hamas militants, the army said, reports AFP.

The army said no Palestinians would be allowed into Israel and a full security alert was called across the country to prevent attempted revenge attacks following the killing by Israeli soldiers near Hebron late Thursday of Imad and Adel Awadallah.

The Awadallah brothers were considered the top leaders of the armed wing on the West Bank of the Islamic resistance movement (Hamas).

They were wanted for a series of suicide bombings, notably two attacks a year ago in Jerusalem which left nearly 20 dead.

It effort to bring intelligence to trucks & cars

DEARBORN, Michigan, Sept 11: US automaker Ford and the US space agency NASA on Thursday announced a joint effort to bring artificial intelligence to trucks and cars, reports AFP.

Ford said it was licensing a new neural network computer chip designed by scientists at NASA's jet propulsion laboratory to curb fuel emissions and boost fuel economy by monitoring fuel combustion.

The chip which mimics the human mind can be used to upgrade current vehicle on-board diagnostic systems. The chip may diagnose and control emissions behavior continuously.

Ford and NASA scientists said the chip represents the most significant change in the way computing is conducted on vehicles since computers were introduced into automobiles in the mid 1970s.

"This chip will learn diagnostic task by passing the need to develop conventional software, said Ken Marko of Ford's neural network team.

Off the Record

Mo pays the price for his bad joke

HONG KONG: An Airport officials has been sacked after jokingly telling a flight attendant there were landmines on board a flight in southern China it was reported on Friday, reports AFP.

The airport official from an unidentified city in Hubei province was fired after the incident at Guangzhou Airport when he said a cargo of mango fruits in cabin storage was landmines the Beijing backed Wen Wei Po daily said.

The flight was delayed for two hours as security officials carried out a thorough check of the airplane which turned out to be a hoax.

The 44-year-old airport official identified only as Mo, made up the story because he did not want to share the storage space for fear of damaging the fruit.

Heart transplant — like zip in and zip out

HANSON, Massachusetts: Peter Banusiewicz has broken two hearts and is working on his third, reports AP.

Banusiewicz, 29, is recovering this week after undergoing a rare second heart transplant.

"In some ways it's ridiculous. I know people who haven't had this many lovers, never mind hearts," Banusiewicz said on Wednesday.

Dr. Gregory Couper, surgical director of the heart transplant programme at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, said only about 5 per cent of all heart transplant patients receive a second organ.

"It really is quite unusual. Because organs are such a very precious and rare resource, the patient almost has to be a better candidate than the first time around," he said.

Banusiewicz has suffered from heart problems since he was an infant and received his first transplant in 1986 at age 17. He was fine but began feeling ill two years ago.

"I was a house plant," he said. "My mother would come by and water me."

His mother is pleased. "It's wonderful," said Winifred Banusiewicz. "I can't believe all they can do. Now it's zip in and zip out, almost like having your tonsils out."

Mass wedding

TA'EZ, Yemen: As many as 2,000 men and women were married on Thursday at a collective wedding ceremony organised in the Yemeni town of Ta'ez by an association close to the opposition Islamic fundamentalist Al-Islah Party, reports AFP.

Several senior government officials, and Parliament Speaker Sheikh Abdullah al-Ahmar travelled to Ta'ez 270 km south of Sanaa, the capital, for the event.

The bridegrooms, in traditional costume complete with "Jambiyah" — the Yemeni dagger — paraded round a stadium and marched through Ta'ez before joining their wives to continue celebrations with relatives.

The wedding was financed entirely by the Islah Welfare Organisation, its leader Tarak Abu Lunum said.

President Ali Abdallah Salah provided 10 million riyals (80,000 dollars out of a total of 30 million riyals (240,000 dollars) collected at the wedding.

Clinton preparing for a dark day in his presidency

WASHINGTON, Sept 11: Bluntly warned by Senate Democrats that he faces impeachment, President Bill Clinton is preparing for a dark day in his presidency — public release of a prosecutor's report in the Monica Lewinsky affair that accuses the president of perjury and obstruction of justice, legal sources say, reports AP.

The 445-page report was being released Friday at a time of high tension, and in a fashion

unthinkable just a few years ago.

Once the House votes to authorize public release, the information will be posted on the Internet so that millions of people worldwide can sit at their computer screens and read the information — some of it sexually graphic — gathered by Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr.

The report includes a damaging portrayal of Clinton's contacts with Ms. Lewinsky and presidential secretary Betty Currie, and lays out information that prosecutors contend shows 11 impeachable offenses, including perjury, obstruction of justice, witness tampering and abuse of power, the sources said.

The sources, who spoke only on condition of anonymity, said the report accuses Clinton of lying in portions of his Aug. 17 grand jury testimony as well as his Jan. 17 sworn testimony in the Paula Jones sexual harassment lawsuit against him.

Clinton's private lawyer, David Kendall, again took a swipe at the report Thursday even before seeing it. He called it simply a collection of prosecutors' "contentions, claims and allegations and we look forward to the chance to rebut them."

The 25-page introduction, 280-page narrative and 140-page of legal analysis is only a small portion of the 36 boxes of materials submitted to the House on Wednesday and locked in a House office building.

The House Judiciary Committee and staff Friday were to begin sifting through thousands of additional pages of backup

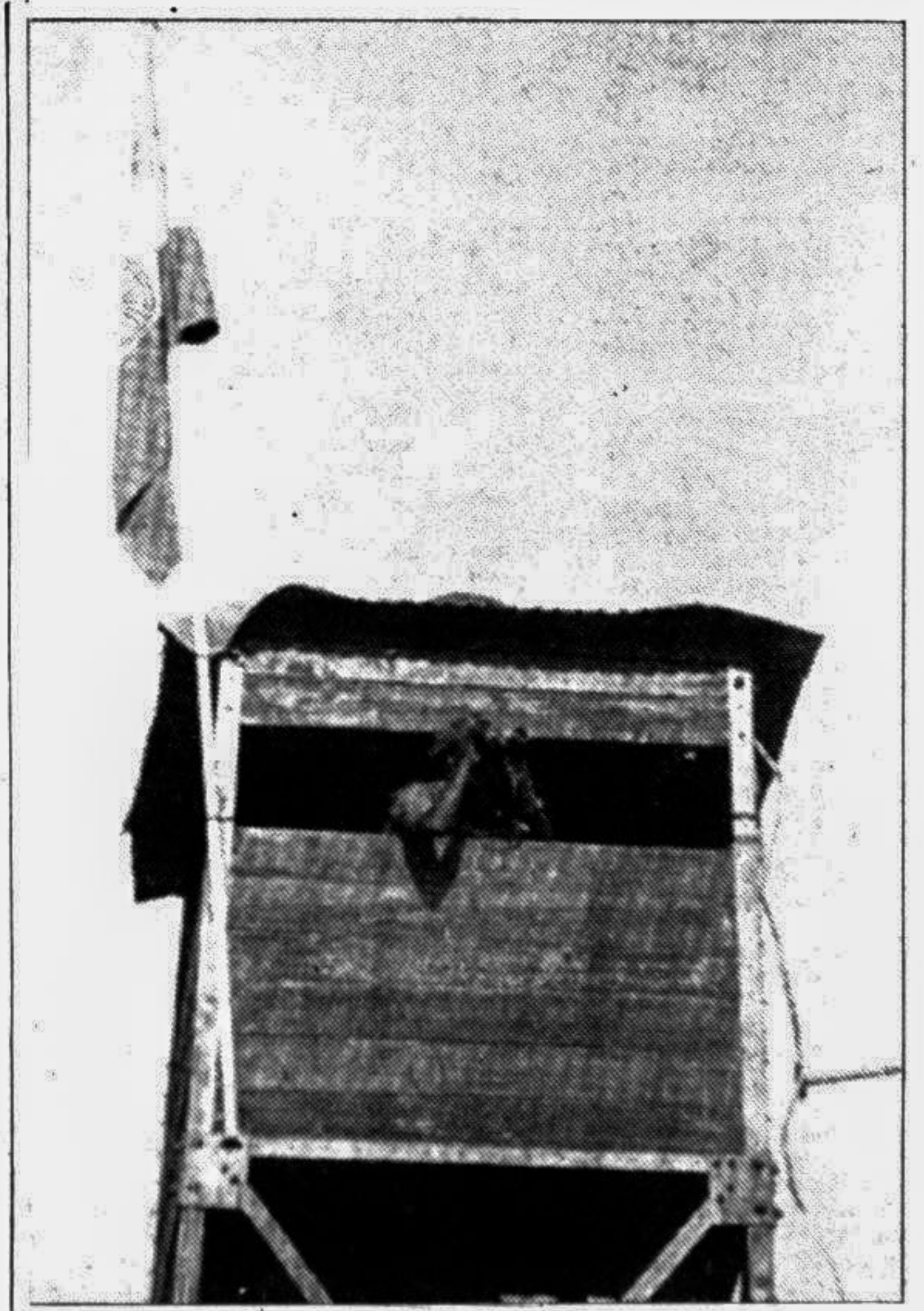
material, with an eye toward making public everything except information that would embarrass innocent people. A rule approved Thursday directed that the material not be released until Sept. 28 — after the inappropriate material is expunged.

The president assured Senate Democrats at the White House on Thursday that there would be no damaging new revelations about his relationship with Ms. Lewinsky, 25, and related matters.

Sen. Bob Kerrey told a reporter afterwards that on that point, at least, when Clinton says, "Do you trust me? No, I don't."

Speaking on condition of anonymity, one participant in the session said the talk was equally blunt inside the room.

Sen. Harry Reid told Clinton that he "didn't just let us down, you betrayed us," according to this source, and added, "Your support on the Hill is very thin."



An Indian soldier is watching the movement of Pakistani rangers from their post at the international border in Chicken-neck, some 30 km north of Jammu on Thursday. Exchange of fire has become a routine on India-Pakistan borders. More than 100 civilians were killed since both countries conducted nuclear tests. — AP/UNB photo