Most Americans against Clinton's resignation

said in a commentary that

"public revelation of some of

the graphic details of the dal-

liances in the Oval Office study

might be so embarrassing as to

economy is in the midst of its

worst recession in decades

some said Americans should

as long as the economy is in

good shape doesn't matter," said

Masato Fujita, 30, a manager at

Indian newspapers shed few

tears yesterday for a belea-

guered Bill Clinton. Comparing

him with Richard Nixon who

quit in disgrace as US President

the spectacle of a hunched and

hunched and humblied Nixon

as he left the White House for

the last time," said The Hindu,

India's most respected newspa-

was not the first US President

The Pioneer said Clinton

doing his best to hold back tears

"Clinton brought to memory

AFP adds from New Delhi:

a maintenance company.

"It was not a good thing, but

In Japan, too, where the

be punishment in itself."

count their blessings.

two decades ago.

KARACHI, Sept 12: A co-defendant in a corruption case against the husband of ex-premier Benazir Bhutto was shot dead in Pakistan's largest city Karachi overnight, police said today, reports AFP.

Sajjad Hussain, a former chairman of state-run Pakistan Steel, was sprayed with bullets by several men minutes after he left his house in the seaside sunset boulevard area late Friday, they said.

Six other people, including two activists of Karachi's influential ethnic party the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), were killed in other parts of the city on Friday, police said.

Tension rose in several neighbourhoods, with markets and shops closed.

Hussain was accused along with Asif Ali Zardari, Benazir Bhutto's husband, of receiving kickbacks on a contract during Benazir's three-year rule.

Hussain was released on bail in May last year. He was to appear before an Ehtesab laccountability) Bench of a High Court in Rawalpindi in the same case on Monday.

A senior police official said it was too early to say who could be involved in the murder.

Asians react with shock and dismay following release of Starr report TOKYO, Sept 12: Asians remonth investigation of Clin-

acted with shock and dismay

following release of the report

detailing President Bill Clin-

ton's relationship with Monica

Lewinsky, expressing worry the

political crisis in Washington

comes at a tie when the world

needs strong American leader-

cal stories off the front pages of

papers from Sydney to Singa-

pore. Japan's largest circula-

tion daily, the Yomiuri news-

paper, devoted more than half

of each its first three pages to

All across Asia, people wor-

An editorial in the The Syd-

Citing a "wobbly global fi-

ried that the crisis would leave

the United States without an

ney Morning Herald said the

scandal "Couldn't come at a

nancial system," and troubles

in Russia and North Korea, the

paper lamented that "when

strong (US) leadership is

needed, political paralysis may

newspaper and television re-

ports left out the more sexually

graphic details included in US

Independent Counsel Kenneth

Starr's report on his eight-

In Thailand and Singapore,

be the only thing on offer.'

the White House scandal.

Clinton's trouble pushed lo-

ship, reports AP.

effective leader.

worse time."

Papers in South Korea, though, summarized sections of the report including when and where sexual encounters took place, and what parts of Lewinsky's body Clinton touched.

"What an embarrassment! The Americans should have handled this more quietly." said Park Min-ja, a 55-year-old housewife in Seoul. "How is he going to stand before children?" Closer to the United States. the reaction was similar.

Mexico's Televisa television rietwork called the Starr report "500 pages of shameful details." Commenting on the report on Televisa's nightly news programme, the anchor asked "What has become of the pride, the dignity of the most powerful nation on earth?"

Across Asia, papers and people focused on Clinton's possible removal from office and some even called for him to step

"The US is the only hope for leadership, for action. And it cannot take its proper role with Clinton at the helm," read an editorial in the Bangkok Post "The president must resign," it

with a penchant for extra mari-Hong Kong newspapers were tial indiscretions for lying while in office, pointing to more forgiving.

John F Kennedy and Nixon. The South China Morning "Nixon had to step down, if Post - which had Clinton stories on its first three pages -

Clinton continues to be in office, he will perhaps be the first US president to do so despite having had to admit to lying and improper conduct."

The Times of India was also hard. "Zippergate involves more than the fact that Clinton lied and misues the power of an office, thus betraying the trust reposed in him by his country." But it added: "ultimately.

Clinton's unpardonable offence may prove to be not monstrous turpitude but common human-

The Indian express came to the president's defence, saying Americans "know that he has been lying about something which most of them would not have admitted in public if they were in his position."

It had no sympathy for investigator Kenneth Starr. "He has done this most elaborate investigation not to bring back family values to the vital centre of American polity, he has done this to evict Bill Clin-

All Indian newspapers put the Starr report into the Clinton saga in the front page, some with extensive contributions from their own correspondents.

ton from the Oval office.

Meanwhile, Internet sites

bearing independent counsel Kenneth Starr's report on President Bill Clinton were overwhelmed Friday, with varying success in meeting extremely

high demand.

Keynote systems, which monitors traffic on commercial web sites, said that just 10 per cent of those who tried to read the Starr report on the House of Representatives site (www. House Gov Increport) were able to get through the success rate on four other Congressional sites was similarly low.

The 445-page report on possible impeachable offenses by Clinton was released onto the Internet Friday just before 2:45 pm (1845 GMT).

The document sums up Starr's eight-month investigation into allegations of wrongdoing by Clinton stemming from his affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Another AP report from Washington says: Most Americans say President Bill Clinton is doing a good job and should not resign or be impeached. says a poll taken a few hours after the release of the report detailing his relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

The report by special prosecutor Kenneth Starr detailed Clinton's sexual relationship with the former White House intern and claimed substantial evidence of impeachable of-

A CNN/Gallup poll released late Friday placed the president's job approval rating at 62 per cent, about where it was before the report was released. And slightly more than six of 10 Americans believe he should not be impeached or removed from office, similar to the total who said that in a Gallup poll Thursday night.

More than half, 58 per cent. said Congress should vote to censure the president for behaviour that has eroded the public's respect for his ethics and truthfulness. That total had not shifted since Thursday night, either.

Almost 60 per cent said they thought Clinton was fit to be president

Analysts caution that such polls taken immediately after an event may not pick up shifts in public opinion, which can take longer to register. For example, six out of 10 in the Gallup poll taken Friday night had not read or heard details of the report.

The phone survey of 631 people had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage

57 states sign convention limiting use of toxic chemicals

ROTTERDAM. The Nether lands. Sept 12: Representatives from 57 countries signed a convention limiting the use of toxic chemicals in an effort to protect developing countries from the unscrupulous trade in hazardous substances and pesticides, reports AFP.

The Rotterdam Convention, sponsored by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) prevents the export of known hazardous chemicals to a second country without the express agreement of the receiving nation.

"The legally binding treaty will protect the environment and millions of farmers, workers and consumers from the misuse and accidental release of toxic substances, particularly in developing countries," the FAO and UNEP said in a statement after the signing ceremony at the end of a two-day conference in the port city of Rotterdam yesterday.

"Many substances that are banned or severely restricted in industrialised countries are still marketed and used in developing countries," the two organisations said. "By promoting the safe use of chemicals at the national level, it will reduce unwanted imports of harmful chemicals and pesticides.

BRIFFIY

Bus accident kills 7 in India:

Seven persons were killed and 30 others injured when a bus overturned and fell into a ditch near Ghughmari in Coochbehar district last night, official sources said on Saturday, PTI reports from Siliguri.

The Mathabhanga-bound bus met with the accident when its driver lost control, police said. Two seriously injured pas-sengers were admitted to North Bengal Medical College Hospital, the sources added.

7 ETA rebels jailed in Spain: A Spanish court sentenced seven activists from the Basque separatist group ETA to prison terms of between 10 and 119 years Friday for five failed attempts to murder Basque interior minister Juan Maria Atutxa, a legal source said, AFP reports

from Madrid. The seven members or supporters of ETA's Viscaya Cell received a collective total of 326 years imprisonment after being found guilty of the assassination attempts in 1994. Jose Luis Martin Carmona was handed down a 19-year sentence and Lourdes Churruca a term of 115 years as the leaders of the cell in the Biscay area of Spain's northwestern Basque country. Atutxa escaped assassination as his car never passed down the roads

where on five occasions the cell exploded car bombs.

Thai groups for removal of minister:
Grassroots organisations around Thailand have launched a drive to collect 50,000 signatures on a petition to oust the public health minister and his top aides over a corruption scandal, AP reports from Bangkok.

Scores of social and political organisations were out on the streets and at college campuses on Saturday gathering signa-tures from eligible voters. Under a new constitution enacted last year, the Senate can expel a politician suspected of wrongdoing if it receives a petition from voters with 50,000 signatures.



Zarianne Morton, 6, left and Darris Morton, 5, cross Jefferson Davis Parkway at Banks Street in New Orleans on a bike pushed by their uncle Frank Morton on Friday. The school closed and parents or guardians were picking up their children as torrential rains from Tropical Storm Frances has caused wide spread flooding in the New Orleans area. - AP/UNB photo

Troops remain on streets in Jakarta

JAKARTA, Sept 12: Some

lounging under trees, their automatic weapons stacked in neat piles, hundreds of troops remained deployed in the Indonesian capital on Saturday following days of rowdy protests against the president. reports AP.

With heavy security in place. central Jakarta was quiet. Dozens of troops were stationed at the state place complex, which houses the offices of President B J Habibie and other senior government officials. Squads of soldiers were also

stationed in adjacent Merdeka

(Freedom) Square. Their deployment follows a series of demonstrations against Habibie as the nation grapples with its worst economic crisis in 30 years. Student activists are demanding Habibie lower soaring food

Similar protests against Habibie's autocratic predecessor President Suharto took place before riots erupted in

prices or resign.

Suharto ended 32 years in power and quit after about 1.200 people died in the vio-

Voting begins in Bosnia

SARAJEVO, Sept 12: Polls opened at 7:00 am (0500 GMT) today for two days of national elections in Bosnia, the second of their kind since the end of the 1992-95 war, reports AFP.

Some 2.75 million Croats, Muslims and Serbs are registered to cast ballots in the internationally-supervised polls, in which nationalist parties are being challenged by those who reject ethnic division. Voting is to continue today

through 7:00 pm (1700 GMT) then will resume Sunday and polls will be closed at 4:00 pm 1400 GMT).

Turnout figures are expected on Monday, but because of the complexity of the election with 6,000-plus candidates from 55 parties and nine coalitions in the running — results are not due before the end of The most-watched part of

the elections will be race for the inter-ethnic presidency. Muslim incumbent Alija

Izetbegovic is widely tipped to win a new term, but a closer race is expected for the Serb and

Other contests include the Bosnian National parliament assemblies in the two entities, the presidency of the Serb entity of Republika Srpska, Cantonal Assemblies in the Muslim-Croat Federation and several municipal councils.

Palestinian stonethrowers approach an Israeli position during disturbances which erupted in Ramallah following the killing of the Awadallah brothers, the two top fugitives on Israel's wanted list, who were killed on Thursday afternoon in a safehouse west of Hebron. Adel Awadallah is believed by Israel to have been the mastermind of several suicide bombings and Imad Awadallah was also a leading figure in Hamas' military wing.

- AP/UNB photo

Detectives foil LTTE plot to kill defence minister COLOMBO, Sept 12: Detecefforts to pacify a regional scarred by Sri Lanka's 15-year tives from the anti-terrorism

Special Investigation Unit arrested a would-be Tamil suicide bomber, foiling a rebel plot to assassinate Sri Lanka's defence minister, police said on Saturday, reports AP.

Sathasivam Thirukeshwaran, 18, was assigned to kill General Anuruddha Ratwatte. who is leading the military's campaign to defeat rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The group is fighting for an independent homeland for the Tamil minority.

Thirukeshwaran, a student, was arrested in the temple town of Kandy, 90 km east of Colombo on Friday, said a police official in Kandy, speaking on condition of anonymity. Ratwatte, 60, is also from Kandy.

In Colombo, the military's top spokesman Brigadier Sunil Tennnekoons aid he could not give details as it may hamper investigation.

Thirukeshwaran was arrested the same day Tamil rebels bombed the City Hall in their former stronghold of Jaffna, killing the moderate Tamil mayor and at least 11

civil war. The rebels say that the country's 3.3 million Tamils can prosper only in a sovereign area, away from the domination of the majority Sinhalese who are 76 per cent of Sri Lanka's 18.5 million people.

The government says it is willing to grant limited autonomy Tamil majority areas, but no independent state. At least 25 people were

wounded in Friday's blast in Jaffna which destroyed much of the mayor's office, flinging sections of the roof up to 300 feet No arrests have been made, but detectives were piecing to-

tion on how rebels concealed two Claymore mines in the roof of the well-guarded City Hall. Military officials did not give any details about the inves-

gether evidence and informa-

tigations but said Jaffna was back to normal on Saturday. In Colombo, President Chandrika Kumaratunga

warned moderate Tamils of the LTTE's designs.
All those who value peace

and humanity reject the acts of terror perpetrated by the LTTE which is facing desperate situation (at the war front) in the

face of defeat," she said. Friday's bombing set back

Clashes between rival party supporters continue

Hun Sen accused of planning a 'Pol Pot-style massacre'

PHNOM PENH, Sept 12: Strongman Hun Sen staged a major show of force on Saturday, bringing more than 5,000 supporters into the capital and turning them loose with clubs and chains to beat outnumbered opposition protesters calling for his ouster, reports AP.

The opposition called off a planned mass rally for Sunday. Mu Sochua, a senior member of the royalist FUNCINPEC party. said the risk of clashes and bloodshed was too great and accused Hun Sen of planning a "Pol Pot-style massacre."

At least two people were badly beaten on Saturday, but there were no reports of shootings or new killings to add to four confirmed deaths in six days of street violence. Belief on the streets is that many more including Buddhist monks have been slain.

The new clashes follow warnings by King Norodom Sihanouk and the powerful head of the army to pressure opposition leaders to accept Hun Sen's victory in disputed parliamentary elections and stop "anarchy" in the streets. Mu Sochua said the warn-

ings would be rejected as long as the opposition felt forced to

Hun Sen assembled supporters of his Cambodian People's Party from strongholds in the Phnom Penh region. They rolled through the capital in convoys of trucks, occasionally joined by truckloads of troops.

Organisers threatened to double the size of the mob Sunday to crush the opposition's planned rally. Orders were overhead to bring in more men from the provinces and to offer each 10 kilograms (24 pounds)

One club-wielding Hun Sen supporter, Prak Sokhan, 43. said: "We wan to see all demonstrations stopped.' About 3,000 Hun Sen sup-

porters marched from the Independence Monument to the opposition rallying point near the US Embassy and the home of Prince Norodom Ranariddh. They chanted for the arrests

of the opposition leaders - Ranariddh, the king's son, and his ally. Sam Rainsy - calling them "traitors." Riot police and soldiers, who

had served as Hun Sen's shock

troops in his crackdown until he shifted to plainclothes mobs on Friday, allowed them to assemble freely. Every man carried a weapon.

About 200 opposition supporters, braving intimidation by elite police with Kalashnikov rifles and dirt bikes, shouted insults as pro-Hun Sen crowd came into view, then scattered and threw stones when they charged. A pedicab driver was badly beaten and ran for refuge tot he US Embassy.

Hun Sen cracked down on weeks of relatively peaceful protests against his 13-year rule Monday after grenades were thrown at his home. He was not there and no one was hurt. He blamed Sam Rainsy his most vocal critic, and called for his arrest.

Sam Rainsy has sought refuge in the local UN offices and called the charges a "ridiculous pretext.

About 1,500 Hun Sen supporters went on Saturday to the hotel where the offices are located and presented addressed to Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Its contents were not di-

Primakov gets down to work as Russia's new PM

MOSCOW, Sept 12: Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov got down to work on Saturday in one of the world's toughest and most thankless jobs, searching for solutions to the nation's worst economic crisis since the Soviet collapse, reports AP.

Primakov sailed through his parliamentary confirmation on Friday, offering what one Moscow daily called something for everyone.

"In the space of a few minutes, he managed to say what people on the left, on the right, patriots and pro-Westerners wanted to hear," the Nezavisimaya Gazeta commented on Saturday.

President Boris Yeltsin chose the 68-year-old, former foreign minister and intelligence chief as a compromise candidate after his previous pick. Viktor Chernomyrdin, was rejected twice by the Communist-dominated State Duma, the lower chamber of parlia-

Primakov told lawmakers he had no ready answers to the country's chronic economic problems, but he did sketch the broad outlines of his approach to solving the crisis: Continued reform with more state control. increased involvement of Rus-

sia's powerful regional leaders, improving the government's own discipline, and using the financial system to boost Russian industry as well as fill the state's coffers.

He stressed that the crisis demanded unity among parties and among Russia's disparate regions, and that his government would draw on the expertise of many different political Primakov likened his pro-

posed approach to emergency measures taken by the US government during the Great Depression of the 1930s. "So what must we do? Repeat the wild capitalism that we had

up till now? Or use the experience of other countries?" he Russian policy makers have proposed at least three economic programmes for the new

government. Acting deputy prime minis-ter and tax chief Boris Fyodorov favours tying the Russian ruble to a stable currency like the US dollar or the Euro, accelerating bankruptcy procedures

and lowering the burden on tax payers. Chernomyrdin had pre-sented this plan to the Duma be fore being voted down.

Malaysia's sacked DPM out with

reform campaign KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 12: Malaysia's sacked deputy prime "Handsome," thought maybe didn't help her get another minister took his political reform campaign on the road Saturday, driving to his home-

With shouts of "Allah Akbar!" - the Muslim rally cry meaning "God is Great!" - Anwar Ibrahim and a half-dozen vehicles left his Kuala Lumpur suburb in a convoy headed to Penang state in northwestern

Malaysia. Though he's skirted arrest for the last week by rallying thousands of supporters on his own property. Anwar intends to address a public rally in Penang

Political rallies are illegal in this Southeast Asian nation without a police permit; Anwar doesn't have one.

"We are driving for freedom. We are driving for Malaysia, said Zaki Abul Rashid, a retired army captain, pointing to the tiny Malaysian flag on his Mercedes-Benz dashboard. Anwar was sacked by Prime

Lewinsky nicknamed Clinton 'handsome', thought he might marry her WASHINGTON, Sept 12: She letter obliquely threatening to loved him, nicknamed him reveal their relationship if he

someday he would marry her. reports AP. Monica Lewinsky's version of her relationship with the

president reads like the gushy diary of a starstruck 22-year-Which is what she was. Laying her love life bare for prosecutors, Ms. Lewinsky de-

scribed not just sex with President Bill Clinton but long talks about their childhoods. Shared jokes, frequent hugs, the way the president "always used to push the hair out of my face." "I never expected to fall in love with the president. I was

At times, she believed that he loved her, too. But the relationship was often frustrating, and eventually

turned sour.

surprised that I did," she said.

By her own account, Ms. Lewinsky was emotional and insecure, capable of tears and tantrums, and deeply frustrated when Clinton stopped seeing her. A few weeks after the president broke up with her, on May 24, 1997, she wrote a "peevish"

White House job, prosecutors said in the report released Fri-

In his grand jury testimony, the president testified that he feared she would disclose their relationship if he broke it off, the report said. In the months after their

breakup, as the Paula Jones lawsuit against the president raised the possibility that Ms. Lewinsky might be asked to testify, she grew more demanding. She pressed Clinton to find her a challenging, well-paying job in New York City, the report indicates.

One Saturday last December, Ms. Lewinsky's temper caused a minor furor at a White House gate that left some Secret Service officers fearing for their jobs, the report said.

Ms. Lewinsky said she became "livid" when she arrived at the gate with parting gifts for the president, only to be told that he was with another young woman whom, the report said Ms. Lewinsky suspected of being romantically involved with the

president. Ms. Lewinsky stormed off to a pay phone to call the president's secretary and complain.

Prosecutors said secretary Betty Currie then told the Secret Service officers at the gate that Clinton was "irate" that Ms. Lewinsky was told whom he was with. Ms. Lewinsky also complained to Clinton by telephone. He told her "it was none of my business. what he was do-

But that was at the end. It had all begun, she told prosecutors, shortly after her internship started in the summer of 1995. She would try to make eye contact and told her aunt "the president seemed attracted to her or interested in her or something." Then, during the govern-

ment shutdown in November,

she got a chance to be alone

with him in White House office

and coyly lifted the back of her jacket, revealing the top of her thong panties peeking out above her pants. That night, in a dimly lit White House office, Ms. Lewinsky told Clinton she had a

crush on him. He asked if he could kiss her, leading to their first sexual encounter.

In December, after other such encounters, "I asked him why he doesn't ask me any questions about myself, and ... is this just about sex?" The president, Ms. Lewinsky said, assured her that he cherished their time together.

At times her description of the relationship that followed sounds like two teenagers in puppy love: they held hands, exchanged token gifts, talked on the telephone for hours, engaged in heavy petting. He called her "Sweetie" and "Baby." In a Valentine's Day ad for "Handsome" in The Washington Post, she quoted from "Romeo and Juliet.

But other details make clear this was the dalliance of an older man — the nation's most powerful male - with a wideeved intern. The 10 sexual acts she described were noticeably one-sided.

He told her the two of them were "full of fire" and she made him feel young. But one night,

as they chatted after telephone

sex, the president dozed off, still

Although she knew the president wanted their affair to be secret, Ms. Lewinsky told at least 11 people, including her mother and Linda Tripp, the friend who secretly taperecorded her conversations and turned them over to prosecu-

Ms. Lewinsky, now 25, also saved the most conclusive evidence of their trysts - a semenstained dress - for almost a year and a half, even after signing an affidavit for the Jones lawsuit denying the affair. She told prosecutors that she meant to have the dress cleaned but never got around to it.

Soon after the affair began, Ms. Lewinsky began calling her psychotherapist from the White House to reel off details of their sexual encounters. According to one of the

friends Ms. Lewinsky confided in, Neysa Erbland, the president told her that "he was uncertain that he would remain married after he left the White House." "Ms. Lewinsky thought, according to Ms. Erbland that

his wife," prosecutors reported. There is no other indication Clinton ever contemplated anything like that. Aldes who were worried that

Ms. Lewinsky was hanging around the president too much arranged to transfer her from her White House job to the Pentagon in April 1996. Ms. Lewinsky considered that a demotion but said Clinton promised to bring her back right after he was re-elected in November. It didn't happen.

"I was so sure that the weekend after the election you would call me to come visit and you would kiss me passionately and tell me you couldn't wait to come back," she wrote in a letter to the president she never sent. She poured out her heart in another unsent letter, written

last October. "Any normal person would have walked away from this and said he doesn't call me, he doesn't want to see me - screw it. It doesn't matter," she wrote. But, "I can't let go of you, I want to be a source of pleasure and laughter and energy to you. I 'Maybe she (Lewinsky) will be want to make you smile."

SwissAir Flight 111 Divers recover

cockpit voice recorder HALIFAX, Canada, Sept 12:

Navy divers on Friday recovered the cockpit voice recorder from SwissAir flight 111 that crashed into the Atlantic Ocean on September 2, killing all 229 people on board, the Canadian Navy said, reports AFP. Navy spokesman Tim Dunne

said divers found the "black box" containing the recorder at 4 PM (1900 GMT). Investigators said they hope the voice recorder will shed light on the flight's last six

Ottawa.

the flight data recorder recovered last week. The flight data records being studied at a laboratory

minutes, which is missing from

At a press conference on Thursday, the chief investigator said that any transcript or talks inside the cockpit would remain in secret because such talks are confidential and protected by law.

Critical information about the investigation would be

made public he said.

town for a rally that could provoke police, reports AP.

later Saturday.

Minister Mahathir Mohamad as his deputy and finance minister on Sept 2.on allegations of