

## International

# India wary of Pakistan's 'maximum restraint'

NEW DELHI, Dec 3: Pakistan's surprise offer of "maximum restraint" on the disputed Kashmir border is at best a small step forward, and more likely aimed at deflecting global criticism of its alleged support of cross-border terrorism, Indian analysts said today, reports AFP.

Experts reacted cautiously to Islamabad's offer on Saturday to de-escalate tension in Kashmir and hold a "meaningful dialogue" with India and separatists, saying New Delhi needed proof of Pakistan's sincerity.

"Deeds must follow rhetoric," said Kalim Bahadur, a Pakistan expert at New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University.

He charged that Pakistan's support of cross-border terrorism in the Indian zone of divided Kashmir was well-known. Islamabad denies the allegations, but offers open moral support to militant groups.

Bahadur said the Pakistani offer came with "too many strings attached" to be palatable to India, including a suggestion of talks with the Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference, the main Kashmiri separatist alliance based in Srinagar.

"It could be a ploy to wash their hands off the (Pakistan-based) militant groups," he said.

"Pakistan's hand in cross-border terrorism is well-known around the world and there has been a lot of pressure on them to stop all that," he said.

Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Inamul Haq announced in Islamabad on Saturday that "with immediate effect, the Pakistan armed forces deployed along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir will observe

maximum restraint."

The initiative followed an Indian ceasefire offer for the holy month of Ramadan in Kashmir, which went into effect midnight Monday.

"The Indian government will firm up its stand in consultation with the external affairs ministry," Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani told reporters in New Delhi in response to Islamabad's offer.

Advani said India was "really concerned" over Pakistan-backed infiltration of Islamic militants across the border into Kashmir and the supply of weapons to the separatists in the disputed frontier state.

Pakistan Foreign Secretary Haq said Islamabad "does not exercise any control" on militant groups fighting against Indian rule in Kashmir.

He said Islamabad was willing to enter into "meaningful dialogue" with India and proposed that the Hurriyat Conference, hold talks with Pakistan and India separately to pave the way for three-way talks.

Defence experts said the Pakistani initiative lacks meaning as troops on both sides are forced to de-escalate their deployments with the onset of winter in the Himalayan state.

Commodore C. Uday Bhaskar, deputy director of the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, told AFP that the Pakistani offer "appeared to be linked to the \$96-million-dollar IMF aid package cleared recently."

"It is my belief that it would not have been cleared without some Pakistani assurances to the global community."

Bhaskar said New Delhi had no option but to respond cautiously, citing an Indian-sponsored peace initiative last year which was followed by Pakistani incursions in Kashmir that led to a border conflict.



## Clinton rules out bid as NY mayor

WASHINGTON, Dec 3: Mayor Bill Clinton? The New York Times said it put that question to the outgoing two-term US president in an interview in the Oval Office this week, amid rumours Clinton was considering running for mayor of New York after leaving the White House on January 20, reports Reuters.

"Not any time soon," Clinton told the newspaper in response.

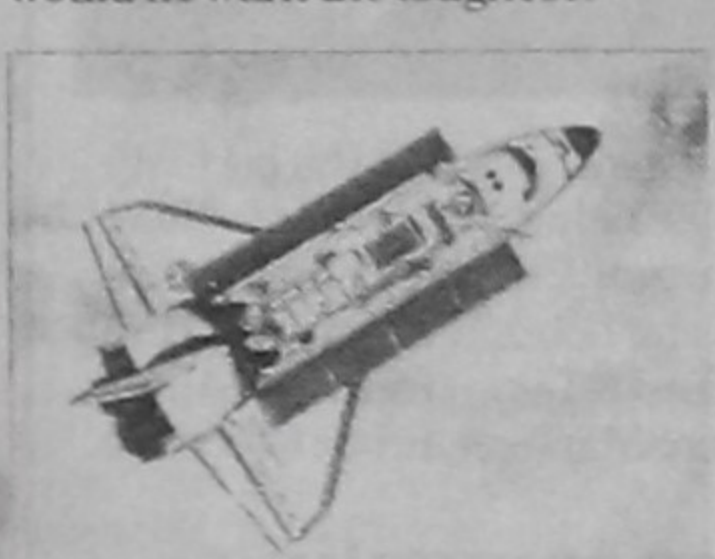
Clinton has said little about his post-white House plans, fueling wild speculation in the press about his future.

A British newspaper reported earlier this year that the president was eager to settle near Oxford University prompting former White House press secretary Joe Lockhart to joke that Clinton would go "only after he finishes his term as president of the Intergalactic Federation from his home base on Mars."

Pressed by reporters in September about his plans, Clinton dismissed suggestions that he would spend his time writing a book about the impeachment scandal. "I've thought about it enough already," he said.

Rumours spread this week that Clinton would follow in the footsteps of first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who last month won a US Senate seat from New York, by launching a mayoral bid.

Pressed for comment, White House spokesman Jake Siewert quipped that the president "already has the second-toughest job in American politics. Why would he want the toughest?"



A view of the space shuttle Endeavour from the International Space Station.

## Endeavour docks with Int'l Space Station

HOUSTON, Texas, Dec 3: The space shuttle Endeavour docked Saturday with the International Space Station (ISS) on which astronauts will install two giant power-generating solar panels, NASA said, reports AFP.

Endeavour commander Brent Jett and co-pilot Michael Bloomfield positioned the craft below the space station then slowly ascended into docking position on the station's Unity module.

"Houston: capture confirmed," Johnson space centre mission control announced, signalling the successful completion of the manoeuvre.

The two vessels were slowly orbiting above Kazakhstan.

It is the first mission to the station since American William Shepherd and Russians Yuri Gidzenko and Sergei Krikalyov took up residence there.

The Endeavour carefully approached the station under the watchful eyes of US and Russian mission controllers and the space station's Expedition One crew. To clear the way for Endeavour's docking mechanism, the Russian Progress unit split off from the station Friday. Parked some 2,500 km away, the unit will eventually rejoin the ISS after the completion of Endeavour's 11-day mission.

And Russian mission controllers were charged with protecting the two smaller solar panels currently powering the Zvezda and Zarya modules from any damage by moving them out of Endeavour's docking path.

## Philippine storm death toll 25

MANILA, Dec 3: The death toll from tropical storm Rumbia rose to 25 as it moved away from the Philippines, local reports said today, reports AFP.

The storm, which hit the central and southern Philippines last week, left 25 dead, most of them victims of drowning or landslides in the south, newspapers said, quoting relief officials.

The official National Disaster Coordinating Council however said it had only listed 12 dead and seven missing so far.

The council placed property damage at 71.3 million pesos (1.4 million dollars).

More than 3,000 people remain in evacuation centers due to flooding, the council added.

By early Saturday, the storm, which had weakened to a tropical depression, was located about 460 kilometers west of Palawan island, moving west at 19 kilometers per hour into the South China Sea.

# Police step up crackdown on Irian Jaya separatists

JAYAPURA, Indonesia, Dec 3: Police in Indonesia's Irian Jaya province stepped up their crackdown on separatism today, raiding a pro-independence headquarters and arresting 47 more activists, reports AFP.

More than 200 armed, anti-riot police took over the Irian Jaya Arts and Cultural Centre in the capital city of Jayapura at 3:30 am (0030 BST), provincial police chief, Brigadier General Sylvanus Wenas, told AFP.

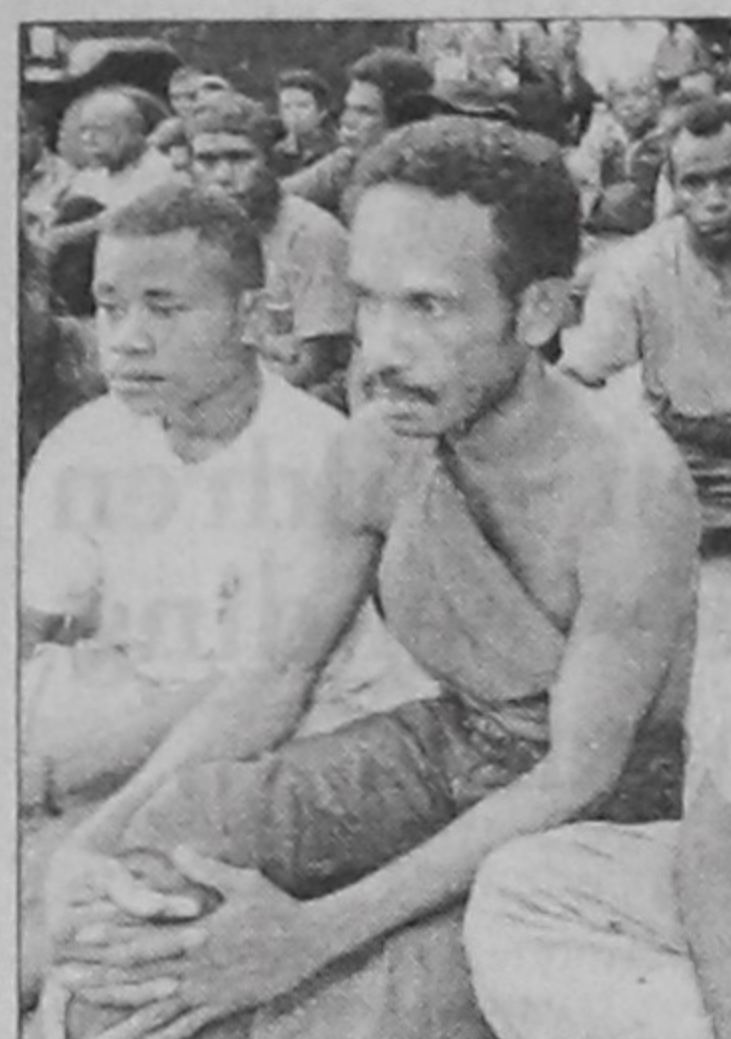
The seizure of the building, which has served as a headquarters for the Papua Taskforce, a pro-independence civilian guard, for the past six months, came almost 24 hours after a deadline to vacate the building ran out.

"We had an agreement with independence leaders that they would vacate the building by December 2 but they were still occupying it, so we seized it," Wenas said.

It also came a day after seven people were killed, six shot by Indonesian troops, in the town of Merauke, 600 km south of here, after separatists replaced the national flags with the pro-independence "Morning Star".

Following the Saturday incident, Wenas said Merauke had been deleted from the list of five places where the Morning Star was allowed to fly.

"It was one of the five, but not



Some 49 independence supporters sit on the ground shortly after they were arrested by Indonesian police in Jayapura yesterday. Indonesian police took over the Irian Jaya art and culture centre building which have been used as the headquarters of the pro-independence Papua taskforce.

any more...because they violated the agreement," Wenas said Sunday.

He said rioters in Merauke had attacked security personnel and settlers, killing one Javanese

man, and had pulled down and burned Indonesia's red-and-white flag.

On November 9, police secured an agreement with the chief pro-independence body, the Papua Presidium, that the separatist flag would be lowered from all but five places across Irian Jaya -- Merauke, Jayapura, Jayawijaya, Serui and Manokwari.

Lieutenant Colonel Daud Sihombing, chief of Jayapura police, said 47 people were arrested following the arts centre raid, including the head of the Papua Taskforce, Boy Eluay.

"Those who have not violated the law will be released," Sihombing said.

He said Eluay had been arrested at the police station shortly after the raid.

"Boy (Eluay) came to the police station at about 6:00 am to check on the taskforce when he heard about the raid, and we arrested him on the spot, but on a separate case -- an old case of extortion," Sihombing said.

A total of 61 people have been arrested here since Wednesday. Four have been since released, Sihombing said.

# Pinochet fights back against arrest order

SANTIAGO, Dec 3: Chile's armed forces chief said Saturday he may call a National Security Council meeting, as lawyers for Augusto Pinochet appealed against an arrest warrant charging the ex-dictator with masterminding dozens of political murders, reports AFP.

Army commander General Ricardo Izurieta said the military were considering the option of calling a meeting, and cited unrest in Chile caused by the order for Pinochet's house arrest on the instructions of Judge Juan Guzman Tapia Friday.

Pinochet lawyer Gustavo Collao, in a petition calling for the warrant to be declared void, cited "irregularities and arbitrariness" of Guzman's investigation.

The ailing former dictator, 85, could face the death penalty if a court affirms Guzman Tapia's finding that Pinochet orchestrated the murders of 55 Chilean leftist prisoners committed during the so-called "caravan of death."

Collao charged that Guzman Tapia had failed to question Pinochet before issuing the charges and failed to carry out an examination of the former leader's mental state. He said he expected a decision from the appeals court within 48 hours.

Guzman is handling 186 criminal complaints filed here against the former dictator who rose to power in a 1973 coup and left office in 1990.

Seven of the lawsuits are related to the "caravan of death," the name given to death squads which criss-crossed Chile in helicopters to conduct summary trials and executions of Pinochet's political opponents.

Pinochet also faces charges filed by relatives of some 3,000 victims of his oppressive leadership, killed or disappeared and presumed dead. In a sign of military unease, Chile's armed forces chiefs gathered in a closed-door meeting early Friday, with navy commander Admiral Jorge Arancibia warning that public tension was reaching "quite critical levels."

"It's worrying," Arancibia said as he left the meeting called by Pinochet's successor as army chief, General Ricardo Izurieta.

Izurieta later held an unscheduled meeting with Chile's Vice President Jose Miguel Insulza and Defense Minister Mario Fernandez, official sources said.

Insulza is acting president in the absence of Ricardo Lagos, who was in Mexico for Friday's inauguration of President Vicente Fox.

Lagos, speaking in Mexico City, called Guzman Tapia's move "a strengthening of the democracy and power of the state," his spokeswoman Carmen Castro said.

The human rights group Amnesty International welcomed the step as "potentially very positive news for human rights."

# India seeks Lanka's help to probe links between Tigers, Tamil Nadu politicians

COLOMBO, Dec 3: India has sought Sri Lanka's help to investigate possible links between the island's Tamil Tiger rebels and politicians in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu, reports here said today, reports AFP.

New Delhi, which sought the extradition of Sri Lanka's top Tamil Tiger supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran in June 1995, had a team of officials visiting Colombo last month for routine follow up action, officials and diplomats said.

The Sunday Times said the Indian team "reviewed an earlier request" that Delhi had made for the extradition of Prabhakaran, wanted in connection with the 1991 assassination of former

Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi. However, another private newspaper, the Sunday Leader, quoted Sri Lankan Attorney General K.C. Kamalababayan as saying that Indian officials had not specifically asked for Prabhakaran's extradition this time.

Kamalababayan said the Indians wanted to interview a member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) identified as "Nixon" who is currently in police custody here.

Calling for extradition was "a formal procedural exercise and was not a specific request made during the team's visit," Kamalababayan was quoted as saying. Sri Lanka's attorney

general's department was not immediately available for comment.

The extradition of Prabhakaran will remain an academic question as long as the 46-year-old rebel leader remains at large. He is believed to be somewhere in the island's northeast.

The LTTE was recently under the spotlight in India for its alleged involvement in the abduction of India film icon Rajkumar by Tamil Nadu brigand Veerappan.

The reports of Prabhakaran's possible extradition appeared as the government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga attempted to open talks with the LTTE in a bid to end decades of

ethnic bloodshed.

Norway's peace envoy to Sri Lanka, Erik Solheim, had a rare meeting with Prabhakaran in the north of the country on November 1, a move that the international community has welcomed as a significant development.

India's Home Minister L. K. Advani told the upper house of the Indian parliament last week that a high-level India mission visited Colombo in mid-November "to clear formalities" for his extradition.

The Sunday Leader said that India re-opening the case of Prabhakaran's extradition could be a subtle move to sabotage the peace process.

# Global warming threatening efforts to repair ozone hole

PARIS, Dec 3: Global warming could compromise efforts to fix the ozone hole by 2050, causing the ambitious goal to slip by more than 30 years despite progress towards scrapping ozone-destroying chemicals, scientists said today, reports AFP.

Computer models show a big drop in consumption of man-made chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) gases that gnaw away at the Earth's protective layer, they said.

If countries resolutely follow this trend, "the hole in the ozone layer will soon begin to shrink and should close completely in 50 years," they said.

The communiqué was issued by the second assembly on Stratospheric Processes and their Role in Climate (SPARC), which gathered several hundred climate experts, meeting in Argentina last month under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

But even if the consumption goals are met, global warming the result of carbon-based greenhouse gases (GHGs) spewed out by fossil fuels could cause the 2050 deadline to slip by several decades, the scientists warned.

Paradoxically, global warming heats the atmosphere at the Earth's surface but chills the lower stratosphere where the ozone layer is located.

These lower temperatures, especially in winter, cause stratospheric

clouds to form in the polar regions, which in turn initiates an ozone-killing reaction with chlorine molecules released by CFCs.

"Model results presented during the conference predicted that the enhancement of GHGs could postpone the recovery of the ozone layer by 20 or 30 years or more," said Pablo Canziano, research professor at the Atmospheric Sciences Department of the University of Buenos Aires.

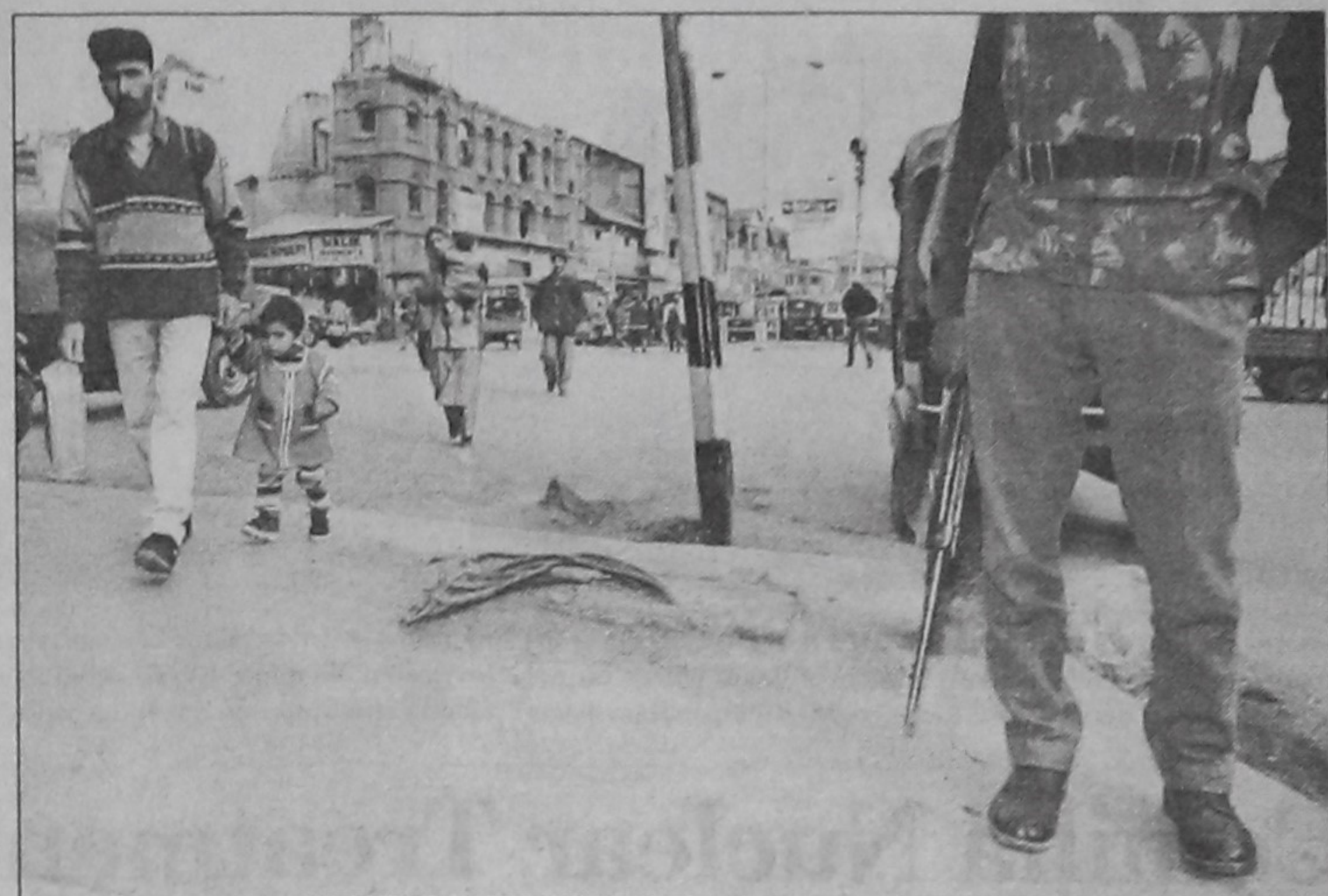
A three-year-old campaign to complete the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on global warming, which would limit output of fossil-fuel gasses, fell apart in The Hague last weekend.

Predictions that the ozone hole, which is located over Antarctica, will soon shrink contrasts with the latest data, which shows it has been expanding at a record pace over the past few years.

US satellite measurements in September estimated it to be three times bigger than the entire land mass of the United States.

A leading British scientist, Jonathan Shanklin, who helped discover the ozone hole in 1985, has predicted that a similar-sized hole could develop over the North Pole within the next 20 years, mainly because of global warming.

Unlike the hole over Antarctica, a major hole over the North Pole would affect densely-populated parts of western Europe, northeast Asia and North America.



Normal life continues in Srinagar yesterday, the sixth day of Ramadan ceasefire in Kashmir. Security forces continue maintaining a vigil but keep their guns silent. There has been no retaliation in spite of scattered attacks on security positions across the valley.

—AFP photo

## Suu Kyi under house arrest

YANGON, Dec 3: Tight security ringed Aung San Suu Kyi's house Sunday following the release of several of her lieutenants and ahead of a key hearing of a property suit the opposition leader faces, reports AFP.

A police cordon surrounded her residence and there were no signs that she would be allowed freedom, despite the junta's decision Friday to release six members of her National League for Democracy (NLD) from house arrest, observers said.

A Myanmar government spokesman had said Friday that "the temporary restrictions on the six NLD CEC (central executive committee members) has been lifted ... and they are resuming their normal activities..."

"U Aung Shwe, U Tin Oo and Daw Suu Kyi are requested to continue their stay in the present position for the time being," the spokesman had said.

Aung San Suu Kyi has been under house arrest since September 22, when she and other NLD leaders attempted to board a train in Mandalay, in the country's north.

Tensions between the Nobel laureate and the junta remained high due to an ongoing property suit filed by her brother and due to resume hearing Monday.

Aung San Suu Kyi's brother Aung San Oo has filed the suit to obtain half ownership of her Yangon home, which belonged to their late mother Khin Kyi.

## Baghdad to open 4 new embassies in former Soviet Union

BAGHDAD, Dec 3: Iraq will soon open four new embassies in the former Soviet Union, as the sanctions-hit state breaks out of its decade-old economic and political isolation, the official INA news agency reported today, reports AFP.

"Four embassies will be opened in Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan," Foreign Minister Mohammad Said al-Sahhaf told parliament late Saturday.

Iraq, which currently has 62 embassies worldwide, said last month that it had also appointed for the first time an ambassador to South Africa, Zuhair al-Omar.

Baghdad has launched a diplomatic campaign over recent months to boost its cooperation with several countries around the world to help reduce the impact of the sanctions regime imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Sahhaf described Baghdad's relations with Gulf monarchies as "excellent, with the exception of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait who finance US-British attacks" on Iraq.

## Housework is not husband's work: Survey

TOKYO, Dec 3: Most Japanese adults feel men should do more around the house but fewer than two per cent of husbands will lift a finger to help regularly with household chores, a government survey published today said, reports Reuters.

A national survey on gender equality by the Prime Minister's Office showed 72.4 per cent of adults saying that men should lend a hand in household chores such as cooking and cleaning.

The figure was up from 66.7 per cent in a similar survey in 1993.

Good intentions may be one thing but picking up dirty socks is another with just 1.4 per cent of respondents saying that husbands did their share of housework, the survey said.

More than half the male respondents said their greatest priority was their job while 43.3 per cent said they tried to balance their office life and home life, it said.

The survey questioned 5,000 people aged 20 and older but gave no margin of error.

## Florida lawmakers to call special session Wednesday

Move to solidify Bush's claim on presidency

TALLAHASSEE, Dec 3: Moving to solidify George W. Bush's claim on the presidency, the Republican-controlled state Legislature will hold a special session Wednesday to try to enforce Bush's certified victory in Florida by naming the state's 25 electors, reports AP.

Senate President John McKay and House Speaker Tom Feeney, both Republicans, will issue a proclamation to begin the historic session Wednesday. House Majority Leader Mike Fasano said Saturday.

The Republican-controlled Legislature is considering appointing the 25 electors through a resolution that would spare Gov. Jeb Bush from having to sign legislation helping his brother.

The Legislature's lawyers have recommended naming electors through the resolution, rather than passing a law that would require the governor's signature and could be reviewed by the courts.

Republican lawmakers argued the Constitution makes the legislature responsible for naming electors, and requires them to do so if there's a chance the state's vote might not be counted because of a controversy. Democrats disagree.

"I'm not surprised," House Democratic leader Lois Frankel said. "We have our own constitutional obligation to be there. ... We are going to be there to be voices of reason."

Jeb Bush was in New York on personal business and unavailable for comment Saturday, but he previously has said he would sign legislation to help his brother become president.

Despite legislative contortions to spare him from signing over the state's 25 electoral votes to his brother, Jeb Bush's signature is required on the official certificate sending the slate of electors to the National Archives, constitutional experts said Saturday.

The Florida governor has already signed a certified slate of Republican electors. If the courts invalidate that slate, the Republican-controlled Florida Legislature is prepared to override with a Bush slate.

If Congress gets competing slates and the two chambers disagree on which to accept a real possibility the slate signed by Florida's governor then will prevail, said Florida State University law professor Nat Stern.

## Iran bans student demonstration

TEHRAN, Dec 3: Iran's interior ministry has forbidden a student demonstration planned to take place in Tehran on December 6 to mark the annual "Students Day," press reports said here today, reports AFP.

The interior ministry, charged with giving permits for all kinds of rallies, notably those of a political nature, rejected the student request, papers said, adding that the police had also issued a ban on "all gatherings."

The student gathering had been called for by the Tabarzadi Group, a banned student organisation headed by a leading pro-reform student leader, Heshmatollah Tabarzadi.

This year, moderate President Mohammad Khatami is expected to address students and hold a question-and-answer session on Wednesday.

The Students Day was established in the late 1960s after riots broke out between police and students who were opposing a scheduled visit by then US president Richard Nixon. Several students were killed in the clashes.

During the past two years, student rallies have been on the rise, with students increasingly expressing their unhappiness with the massive crackdown on the press by the conservative-led courts here and the jailing of numerous prominent journalists.

## Office of the Project Director

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Primary and Mass Education Division

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প্রাথমিক শিক্ষাকে বাস্তবায়ন করা হয়েছে। কুল সাক্ষরতার সময় প্রত্যেক শিশুর কুলে অবস্থান

বাস্তবায়ন। কুল সাক্ষরতার সময় আদর্শ শিশুর আকাঙ্ক্ষা বা বাস্তবায়ন করা হয়েছে।

## Tender for Appointment of C&F Agent

NO: PEDP/DRK/PD/SAF/C&F-667/2000/2267 Dated: 28.11.2000

- Sealed tenders are invited from eligible clearing & forwarding agents for clearance of 120,00,000 (one hundred & twenty lac) Student Assisment Forms from ICD Kamalapur, Dhaka including survey, loading into trucks, carriage up to designated warehouse, unloading and stacking there.
- Only those firms which are approved as C&F agent of ICD, Kamalapur, Dhaka and have valid license from ICD Kamalapur authority and have minimum 10 (ten) years experience of clearing and transportation of materials, are eligible to participate in this tender.
- Bidders may have to bear different charges for clearing and transporting the goods which will be reimbursed later by this office.
- Tender document can be purchased during office hours (9:00 am to 5:00 pm) on all working days with effect from 28.11.2000 to 12.12.2000 from the office of the Project Director on cash payment of non-refundable sum of Tk 250.00 (two hundred & fifty) only.
- Bids must be delivered to the office of the undersigned on or before 3.15 pm on 13.12.2000 and must be accompanied by a security of Tk 1,00,000.00 (one lac). Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 3.30 pm on 13.12.2000 at the above address.

Muhammad Abul Hossain

DFP-29177-30/11  
G-2111

Project Director (Joint  
Secretary)