

## News... in a Minute

### Montana says farewell

SAN FRANCISCO — Smiling broadly and maintaining his poise, Joe Montana made his retirement official Tuesday.

For a quarterback whose trademarks were grace under pressure and resilience in the face of injury or defeat, quitting was harder than winning any of his four Super Bowl championships for the San Francisco 49ers.

"It is true, I will be retiring from the NFL," Montana said before heading for a downtown plaza to say goodbye to thousands of fans.

"I feel I've had 16 wonderful years ... I reached the point where that day happens when you wake up and all of a sudden you realize it wasn't as much a game as it was work. It felt like a job."

"I was afraid of his getting hurt," said Joe's mother, Theresa. "He's got a long life to live and he's got his children and if he's in a wheelchair what can he do?"

Montana denied reports that his wife Jennifer had demanded that he quit or that he was upset with the Kansas City Chiefs.

### Prisoners kept from diplomat

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A Polish diplomat looking after U.S. interests in Iraq was not allowed to see two Americans in Abu Ghraib prison Tuesday, the day set by Iraqi authorities for his weekly visit to check on them.

No explanation was given as to why Ryszard Krystosik was prevented from seeing the Americans in the Baghdad prison.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelly said the Clinton administration was "extremely disappointed that the Iraqis have reneged on their promise to allow weekly visits."

"The government of Iraq has an obligation under international law and convention to allow access to the detainees. We expect the government of Iraq to meet this obligation," she said.

The Americans — David Daliberti, 41, of Jacksonville, Fla., and William Barloon, 39, of New Hampton, Iowa — were arrested by Iraqi border guards on March 13 when they strayed into Iraq while trying to visit friends at a United Nations post near the frontier with Kuwait.

## Twelve-year-old activist slain

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — When Iqbal Masih was 4 years old, his parents sold him into slavery. For the next six years, he remained shackled to a carpet-weaving loom most of the time, tying tiny knots hour after hour.

By age 12, he was free and traveling the world in his crusade against the horrors of child labor.

On Sunday, Iqbal was shot dead while he and two friends were riding their bikes in their village of Muritke, 22 miles outside the eastern city of Lahore. Some believe his murder was carried out by angry members of the carpet industry who had made repeated threats to silence the young activist.

"We know his death was a conspiracy by the carpet mafia," claimed Ehsan Ullah Khan, chairman of the Bonded Labor Liberation Front, a private group that fights against child labor in Pakistan.

A man known only as Ashraf, a laborer in Muritke, was arrested in connection with the shooting, but has been released, Khan said.

The killing came only months after young Iqbal had attracted international attention. At a labor conference in Stockholm, Sweden, last November, he spoke about the horrible conditions faced by child workers, who toil for long hours in unsafe conditions and earn as little as one rupee — three cents — a day.

"We had to get up at 4 and work 12 hours," Iqbal told the conference, barely tall enough at the time to peer over the podium. "We were chained to the looms, but after work, we were usually released and could go home to sleep."

When he was 10, Iqbal contacted the BLLF and was able to escape the

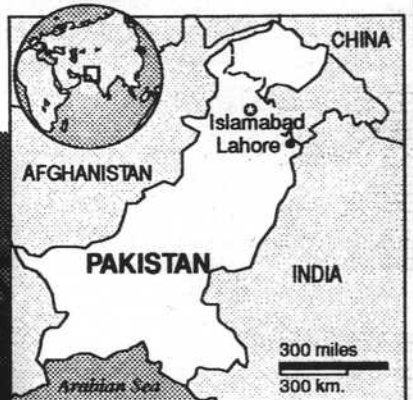
### Twelve-year-old activist slain

Iqbal Masih who spoke out against child labor abuses in Pakistan was gunned down Sunday in his village, after receiving several death threats from people in the carpet-weaving industry.



Iqbal Masih

- Sold by his parents at age 4, for less than \$16
- Worked as a carpet weaver, shackled to a carpet loom, from age 4-10
- Earned one rupee a day, about \$3
- November 1994: Spoke on the working conditions of child laborers at an international labor conference in Sweden.
- December 1994: Received the Reebok Youth in Action Award in Boston.



### Child labor and carpet factories

An estimated 6 million children age 14 and younger work in Pakistan in carpet factories, brick-making plants, on farms and as servants.

- Children work as many as 12 hours a day, waking up at 4 a.m.
- Child carpet weavers are chained to looms
- In carpet factories, the air is full of dust causing breathing difficulties
- The government barred the practice of bonding children as laborers in 1992 — the law remains largely unenforced

### Why children carpet weavers?

- Cheap labor
- Seldom complain about abuses
- Tiny fingers can make tight knots

factory. He still owed his boss 13,000 rupees — the equivalent of \$419 — a huge sum considering he earned only one rupee a day.

Khan said Iqbal's campaign against child labor had led to the closure of dozens of carpet-weaving factories in his district.

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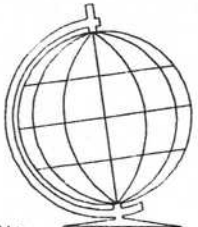
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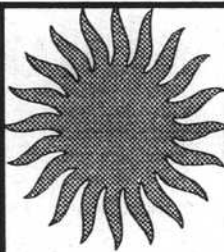


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