Japan cautious over plan to create enclave

Allies threaten to use force if Iraq blocks relief for Kurds

LONDON, Apr 13: British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd Friday said Britain and its Gulf Allies were prepared to use force if Iraq interfered with relief efforts to Kurdish refugees fleeing the country. reports Reuter.

"We and our Allies are preparing contingency plans to respond firmly to any such use of force. Iraqi action cannot be allowed to impede humanitarian relief," Hurd told a Conservative group in southeast Eng-

"We hope that the Iraqis will acquiesce in the delivery of supplies and in establishing safe havens monitored by UN officials," he added.

Iraq has rejected a proposal by Prime Minister John Major to set up havens for the millions of Kurdish refugees fleeing the Iraqi Army in northern

lragi troops mounted a counter-offensive to recapture territory lost to Kurdish guerillas during a short-lived rebellion following Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's defeat in Kuwait by the US-led Alliance.

Hurd said any attempt by Iraq to hamper the airlift of relief supplies to the Kurds would be a breach of the United Nations ceasefire resolution which formally ended the Gulf War.

Japan cautious

Reports from Tokyo say: Japan on Friday responded cautiously to a British proposal to set up an enclave in Iraq for Kurds fleeing the forces of President Saddam Hussein.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe told a news conference Japan was very concerned about the plight of Kurdish refugees because of Inhuman activities by the Iraqi government.

Asked if Japan supported the proposal for a Kurdish enclave, he said: "We pay attention to this idea. We would like to know more about it. then make known our deci-

He said a six-member medical team left Tokyo on Friday for Tehran where it will stay until April 24. Other medical missions will follow, he added.

On Wednesday, Japan announced it was wending 104.6 million yen (769,000 dollars) in emergency relief supplies to Turkey and Iran for the refugees.

Asked whether Japan would send personnel to take part in the planned United Nations peace-keeping force in Kuwait. Watanabe said an announcement would be made soon.

Moscow concerned

In Moscow, The Soviet Union said Friday it had serious reservations about creating a haven to protect thousands of Kurdish refugees fleeing Iraqi armed forces.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin told a

news conference the proposal to create "Security shelters" for Kurds in northern Iraq would mean taking away part of Iraq's sovereignty without the agreement of the Iraqi government, which would contradict United Nations char-

Genscher's plea to put Saddam on trial

BONN, Apr 13: German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said today that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein should be put on trial by an international court for war crimes, reports Reuter.

The United Nations should set up an international court similar to that in Nuremberg which tried leading Nazis for war crimes after World War II,

The United States has said it plans to set up temporary refugee camps in northern Iraq but its proposals stop far short of Major's enclave establishment idea.

Churkin said the Soviet Union, home to 152,000 Kurds, was concerned about the status of an enclave.

"The creation on Iraq"s territory of enclaves for Kurdish refugees will put the (UN) Security Council in an awkward situation of determining the borders and legal status of such a zone". Churkin said.

US officials said on Wednesday that Iraq had been served notice it faced possible military action if it pursued Kurdish rebels beyond the 36th parallel, which crosses northern Iraq.

Iraq has said it would oppose any unilateral decision to send UN forces to norther Iraq

to protect the Kurds as a violation of its sovereignty.

Food aid

In Rome, the World Food Programme (WFP) said on Friday it had won enough pledges of emergency food aid to feed all Kurdish refugees in Turkey and Iran for up to a month.

The United Nations food aid arm said that "most of the food is or will be in Turkey and Iran in the next two days."

The Rome-based WFP said it had secured pledges of sufficient emergency food aid to feed all Kurdish refugees in Turkey and Iran for up to 30

"While we have mobilised with great speed the food needed by the refugees, a huge effort is still required to get it to the border areas where it is most urgently needed," WFP executive Director James Ingram said.

Imelda to sue Manila for blocking her return

MANILA, Apr 13: Former First Lady Imelda Marcos will file human rights charges against the Philippine government at the United Nations for blocking her right to return home, her lawyer said on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Mrs Marcos will file a complaint before the UN Commission on Human Rights... for scores of violations of Philippine and international laws. Antonio Coronel told reporters in Manila by telephone.

"We will be filling charges every day against the Aquino government. They have seen nothing yet, said Coronel, who is in New York for talks with Marcos.

He said the complaint would be filed at the UN Commission on Human Rights on Tuesday.

Coronel's office on Friday filed a petition asking a Manila court to order the Philippine government to give the former First Lady a passport so she could return home.

Dadzie tipped to become UN chief

ACCRA, Apr 13 : Ghana is proposing Kenneth Dadzie. Head of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development(UNCTAD) for the post of UN Secretary General. Chana's Head of State, Jerry Rawlings said here Thursday. report AFP.

Rawlings said the time had come for Africa, which is the only continent yet to produce a UN Secretary General, to prove that it is capable of provising the right king of leader-

Rawlings assured Dadzie of the full support of the government and people of Ghana and said he was confident that he would receive wide support from the international community.

Africa plans to put forward one candidate for the post when the term of the current incumbent, Javier Perez de Cuellar, ends later this year.

The single African candidate is to be chosen at the

friend and colleague will fare badly. And will find it difficult to win the election from "any constituency" in

been changing parties a what was earlier slated as

A staunch V. P. Singh supporter in the initial days, Mrs Maneka Gandhi became hostile with the appointof Mr Nilamani Routray as her cabinet min-

Off the Record Schwarzkopf likes to

enjoy being a father KUWAIT CITY: US Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, visiting Kuwait as a formal cease-fire took effect Thursday, said the allied forces "accomplished every single mission" assigned to them in the Gulf War, reports AP.

Schwarzkopf, who arrived by helicopter from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, said the Iraqi army's brutal crackdown on internal rebellions and the chaos there did not diminish the allied successes.

"I have a great feeling of a great victory," said Schwarzkopf. "Anyone who dares even imply that we did not achieve a great victory obviously doesn't know what the hell he's talking about."

The general, dressed in camouflage fatigues, said the nearly 100,000 US troops in southern Iraq were leaving but would not withdraw until US completely President George Bush gave the word. He declined to mention any dates.

United Nations officials are to arrive in Kuwait Friday and a monitoring force is to be deployed along the Kuwait-Iraq border.

Schwarzkopf made the one-day trip to Kuwait to present the Legion of Merit to the acting commander of the Kuwaiti armed forces, Maj. Gen. Jaber al-Khaled al-

The Legion of Merit, authorized by Bush, is the highest military award the United States bestows on foreigners. Other military commanders of the allied coalition also are expected to

receive the award, US military officials said. Schwarzkopf pinned the medal and red ribbon on Gen. Jaber's chest and presented a plaque commending his

"outstanding service during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. "I promised Gen. Jaber a long time ago that the first forces going into Kuwait City would be Kuwaiti armed forces, and I'm

very proud to say that they were," the general said of the final ouster of Iraqi forces on Feb. 27. It was the general's second official visit since the liberation.

Schwarzkopf is expected to retire soon. Asked what he planned to do, he said: "I'm looking for another cause."

He also said he would go fishing, play with his dog, and "enjoy being a father. It's something I haven't done for about eight months."

Stripper wants to offer services

SYDNEY: A man purporting to be a paid stripper was arrested after several suburban housewives reported him, saying he didn't look the part, police said Friday, reports AP. The five women he visited to offer his services described

the 19-year-old man as short, ugly and "weedy," police said. "We are talking wimp," said one police officer. This guy's got shoulders like a milk arrowroot biscuit." The man, who was arrested but not charged because police

said he was doing nothing illegal, arrived in mid-afternoon at each home, saying he was from Strip-A-Gram and that he had been paid to strip. The would-be performer tried to talk his way into homes

in the Sydney suburb of Revesby. Police said that he was insistent but not forceful, and when asked to leave, did so. Jacqueline Kalou, the manager for Strip-A-Gram, was

quick to distance herself from the bogus removalist. "When the women rang and described him to me, I knew absolutely he was not one our men," said Kalou. "Our men

have fabulous physiques. . . They said this guy was short and ugly. He is definitely not one of ours." Police said there appears to be nothing illegal about posing

as a stripper and trying to find a willing audience. "There weren't any immediate charges to be laid," said

Constable Tracey Linguard. "We're #till conducting inquiries."

Husband violates ex-wife's privacy

ATLANTA, An American has been ordered to pay his exwife 225,000 dollars after he sent a nude photograph of her to a men's magazine without her permission or knowledge. reports Reuter. A jury in Atlanta, Georgia ordered Jennings Gordon, 50, to

pay the money on Thursday saying he violated her privacy when he not only sent in the nude photos to the magazine but sent copies of the magazine to her employer and her mother. Susan Hudson, now 40 and remarried, had sued for five

million dollars after her husband sent her photo to Gallery Magazine, which published the photo in its October 1985 "Girl Next Door Amateur Erotic Photo Contest".

Gordon admitted forging his ex-wife's signature on a model release. The magazine also published a caption Gordon had suggested: "Susan's main goal in life is to please as many men as possible. She has no fantasies because she lives them

In addition to awarding the woman 225,000 dollars the

jury ordered Gordon to pay her present husband, Gary Hudson, 5,000 dollars damages for trauma he has suffered.

Arun Nehru, Arif desert V. P. Singh

NEW DELHI, Apr 13: Three top leaders from Vishwanath Pratap Singh's Janata Dal (Peoples Party) quit their party posts Saturday, upsetting the former premier's game-plan for next months parliamentary elections, reports AFP.

Satpal Malik, Arun Nehru and Arif Mohammad Khan, all previous federal ministers of Mr VP Singh's 11-month government which collapsed last year, quit citing 'queer policies" of the former premier as

one of the reasons. Several other junior functionaries of Janata Dal also resigned their party posts Saturday in a move seen here as the beginning of political

horse-trading in the run-up to the polls next month for India's 10th Parliament, observers said.

In a joint letter to Dal President SR Bomai, the three sentor leaders said the extreme stop of resigning from their posts were necessitated in the larger interest of the Janata Dal," party officials

for dissent is the essence of democracy. In the absence of different viewpoints, no informed decisions in the larger interest of the nation can be taken," the three leaders said. *Our resignations are

'As you are aware, respect

meetly a protest to enable us collectively endeavour to realise aspirations of those who had formed the Janata Dal," it

Party officials said Nehru resigned from the Dal's political affairs committee and Khan left its executive body, while Malik resigned the posts of Dal Chief Whip and national executive membership he held since the party's formation before the last general election in November 1989.

The resignations came a day after the trio were excluded from a 12-member central election committee set up by the party to select poll candi-

They have, however, not resigned their primary membership of the Janata Dal, the party officials clarified.

US to scrap 43 domestic bases

WASHINGTON, Apr 13: Defence Secretary Dick Chency braved the wrath of the US Congress yesterday by proposing to shut down 43 domestic military bases and end thousands of jobs, reports Reuter.

Politically, at least, running the invasion of Iraq was a cakewalk for Cheney compared to crossing the minefields Congress will lay down to block the plan to close bases.

Congressmen jealously defend military bases in their home districts because of the jobs and government money

reports from Geneva.

they bring.

no bases would be closed," Chency told reporters in a briefing on the decision. "I get paid to make these kinds of decisions."

The base shutdowns would coincide with plans to cut 500,000 of the breakup of the communist Warsaw Pact military alliance and the end of the cold war.

The Pentagon said yesterday it is closing down 31 bases in Europe. No Congressional approval is needed for these.

But at home Cheney has a fight on his hands.

The hit list included Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta,

"If we left it up to Congress, Georgia, and its 3,900 jobs. BRITHIN

Baker arrives in Geneva

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Geneva from Damascus on Friday for a series of meetings, including talks with Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher Al-Masri, reports

Reuter. U.S. sources said Baker, who is rounding off a trip to the Middle East, would spend several hours in Geneva before flying back to Washington. Apart from talks with Al-Masri, the U.S. Secretary of State was due to meet Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the U.N.'s chief delegate for Humanitarian Assistance in

the Gulf, and officials of the European community. The sources said he would also discuss Middle East peace

prospects with former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres. ICRC needs \$73m for refugees

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) appealed on Friday for 73 million Dollars for its relief activities on behalf of refugees fleeing lraqi army repression, Reuter

The relief body said it needed the money to step up its humanitarian activities in Iraq as well as in neighbouring Iran and Turkey. An estimated 900,000 Iraqi citizens have fled to Iran and another 500,000 are on or near the Turkish border. Most belong to Iraq's Kurdish minority. The Geneva-based body said it was also doing its best to provide assistance and protection to those displaced inside Iraq by the civil strife which followed the end of the Gulf war.

Gorbachev's move to stop chaos

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev issued a decree to try to prevent economic chaos caused by republics withholding deliveries to other parts of the country, Tass news agency reported.

The decree said the fall in economic output and the disruption of economic ties threatened to bring many enterprises to a standstill. To prevent this Gorbachev gaged the republics a week to revoke restrictions on exports to other parts of the country and stop withholding for their own use

production destined to fulfil orders from state enterprises. Carter visits China's deaf school

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter visited a Chinese school for the deaf Saturday, where teachers reported on a programme he launched to train special education instructors in China, reports AP.

We hope that this project ... will spread its beneficial influence to every handicapped person in the entire country, Carter said. The former U.S. president arrived in Beijing on Saturday for a three-day visit to monitor the progress of two programs he helped launch in 1987. Carter is the founder and chairman of Global 2000, a private organization with projects throughout the world aimed at relieving poverty and

improving health standards. In China, the organization is involved in a five-year program to send American experts to train special education teachers and a three-year program to equip and train staff for

a modern prosthetic factory. The deputy secretary of the State Education Commission, Teng, said 220 special-education teachers, mostly for the deaf and blind, have gone through the training program, and 870 others are enrolled.

Israel to send aid for Kurds

Israel will send an air force transport plane packed with medicine, tents and clothing to Kurdish refugees on the Turkish frontier, the Foreign Ministry said on Friday, Reuter reports from Jerusalem.

The plane will take off early next week for the southeastern Turkish city of Diyarbakir, near the border with Iraq, a ministry spokesman said. Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy has criticised the United States for not providing the Kurdish rebels with military aid. Earlier this week, Levy said American food aid would only ensure the Kurds would "die with their stomachs full".

up in this town to receive rationed food distributed by Iraqi authorities. — AFP photo 148 planes still in Iran: Iraqi Minister

SOLEIMANIYEH, Iraq: Two young Kurdish children wait in the back of a truck to re-enter

the town of Soleimaniyeh 11 April, where government forces are in control. Kurds are lining

NICOSIA, Apr 13: Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmed Hussein Khudayer said on Friday that 148 military or civilian planes were moved to

Iran during the Gulf war, reports Reuter. Baghdad has never before given any information on the number of planes flown to Iran in one of the more mysterious

epiodes of the Gulf war. Western military officials speculated it was trying to preserve its best planes from allied fighter and bomber

Khudayer told the Iraqi news agency monitored by the Broadcasting Corporation, that the civilian aircraft belonged to Iraqi air-

raids.

Passengers planes seized from Kuwait during the Iraqi occupation are also believed to

NEW DELHI, Apr 13 : The All

India Congress Committee

spokesman, Mr. M. J. Ak-

bar, is facing considerable

difficulty in his Bihar con-

stituency of Kishangani. Mr

Akbar denies it vehemently,

but there are persistent re-

ports that he is looking for

safer pastures. Sewan is

mentioned as a possibility,

rival Syed Shahabuddin who

ran away, all the way south,

to contest an election

against Mr Jaffer Sharief in

Bangalore. This time, the

rival has emerged to chal-

lenge Mr Akbar in the same

Denying that he had left be-

cause he was chicken-

hearted, Mr Shahabuddin

today says, "This is all foul

propaganda by Mr Akbar.

Now let us see where he

goes to contest from." The

last time around Mr Akbar

had claimed to have se-

lected Kishanganj as his

constituency to "defeat" Mr

Shahabuddin, he who de-

scribed as a rank fundamen-

negotiating with the Janata

Dal for a ticket. There is

some opposition to this

from within the Janata Dal

and in case his inclusion

might prove difficult, there

Mr Shahabuddin is currently

In the last elections, it was his

reports PTI.

constituency.

have been flown to Iran. Iran neutral in the war, said at the time it would keep the

aircraft until a formal ceasefire was in a place. A United Nations ceasefire went into effeet on Thursday.

Some aircrast were reported to have crashed during emergency landing several were shot down by allied planes as they tried to flee.

Khudayer said the military planes included 24 Sukhoi-24, 40 Sukhot-22, four Sukhot-20, seven Sukhot-25, 24 Mirage F-1, 12 Mig-23 and four Mig-29.

He said the civilian aircraft were two Boeing 747, one Boeing 707, two Boeing 737,

The Minister did not say whether these figures were for planes which left or those

were in response to a statement by his Iranian counter-

part, Ali Akbear Velayati. Iranian television reported Velayati as saying on Wednesday that there were 22 Iraqi planes which would be returned on the crisis was

The allies estimated that well over a hundred planes flew to Iran and there has been no explanation for Tchran's

UN Force commander

KUWAIT, Apr 13 : Austrian Major General Gunther Greindl, wearing his new blue beret, arrived today to start creating a United Nations force to keep the peace between Iraq and Kuwait, reports

Reuter. "I think it's a tough assignment," the new commander told reporters.

in Kuwait one Bocing 727, five airbus-310A, one airbus 300, 15 Lluysthin -76, two Falcon -20, three Falcon-50 and one Jetstar.

which landed safely. Khudayer said his remarks

M J Akbar

is a move to allow him to contest from Kishangani with tacit Janata Dal support. The constituency has a sizable percentage of Muslims and backwards and Mr Shahabuddin is hopeful that Mr V. P. Singh's influence here will work in his favour. Mr Akbar had the distinction.

in the last elections, of being one of the four Congress (I) MPs to be elected from Bihar. Since then one has joined the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and the fate of the other two is uncertain. Despite frequent visits to Kis hanganj, more frequent

lately, he is expected to

find the going rough. But

that is by general Congress

(I) estimates. He himself is



loudly vocal about his "execlient" prospects, as well as those of his party in Bthar.

In sharp contrast, another first term MP, Mrs Subhashini Ali, will be contesting again from Kanpur as a CPI (M) candidate. There is a polarisation of Hindu sentiment of sorts against her but Mrs Ali's prospects remain good because of the steady secular line that she has kept.

not go in her favour with her campaign manager and friends now ranged against her. Mr Akbar Ahmad, now with the Congress (I), is

Mrs Maneka Gandhi, who has

Uttar Pradesh.

vironment ministry.

other seat. Pilibhit might She is on the lookout for a Mulayam Singh Yadav, to end his vacillations.

In Uttar Pradesh, Mrs Maneka Gandhi is looking for anconfident that his one time

frequently as constituen cies, has again been caught on the wrong side this time. She moved from Amethi after a resounding defeat, to Pilibhit where she won after difficult election. She joined Mr V. P. Singh's Janata Dal and was accommodated as a minister of state for environment. She left to join Mr Chandra Shekhar's Janata Dal (S) simply because she was not allowed a completely free hand in the en-

"safe" constituency but will have to wait for the Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr

summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Nigeria next June. Zimbabwe's Finance Secretary Bernard Chidzero is also said to be contesting, and former Nigerian Head of State Olusegun Obasanjo is considered a likely candidate.

Going gets tough for M. J. Akbar, Maneka