

US asks Iraqi troops out of the way:

The United States has told the Iraqi military to stay out of the way while allied troops build camps for Kurdish refugees struggling to survive in the country's northern mountains, AP reports from Zakho of Iraq.

The United Nations and Iraq, meanwhile, are moving forward with their agreement to establish way stations in the north for refugees wishing to return home.

The UN envoy who reached the agreement, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, said Friday he expected that plan and the allied effort eventually to be reconciled.

New Liberian President: Arnos Sawyer

was re-elected in Monrovia Friday night as interim President by the Liberian National Conference, meeting in Monrovia March 15 to find a lasting solution to Liberia's political crisis, reports AFP.

The national conference agreed to drop the idea of a triumvirate interim government following the withdrawal from the conference of Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia.

Palestinian to meet Baker: The

Palestine Liberation Organisation has given the green light for a Palestinian delegation to meet US Secretary of State James Baker in Jerusalem Saturday PLO sources in Tunis said, reports Reuter.

But the group will be reduced to three people who will hand a memorandum to Baker, the sources said.

The sources did not say whether the Palestinians in Jerusalem had received replied to 11 question they submitted to Baker through the American consulate.

Schwarzkopf meets Saudi minister: us

General Norman Schwarzkopf on Friday paid a farewell visit to Saudi Arabian Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz who presented him with a commemorative gift, the Saudi press agency said, in Nicosia, reports Reuter.

Schwarzkopf is due US led multinational forces which drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait in February after a sevenmonth occupation.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, did not disclose the nature of the gift, merely saying the minister paid tribute to Schwarzkopf's wise and courageous command.

6 killed in Bombay bomb blast: At least six people were killed and one more seriously wounded

when a bomb exploded in a bus depot in Bombay Friday night police said, reports AP.

The explosion occurred at about 10:30 pm (about 1700 GMT) in a bus terminal of the Bombay Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking, a private firm that runs Bombay's bus services.

The bus station is in the western region of the city. It was not immediately known what type of bomb was used in the attack and police said so far no body had claimed re-

sponsibility Five of those killed were employees of the transport firm, Sub Inspector of Police Rajendra Jadhav said. They included three bus conductors, a driver and a starter - an employee responsible for enforcing proper bus timings.

Mengistu offers to resign: Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam, battling major rebel

advances in the north, offered to resign of it would preserve the unity of the country, reports Reuter from Nairobi. "As long as it would help restore the unity of the country.

am willing and ready to step down," Mengistu said on Friday in a three-hour speech broadcast on television and radio.

"I ask the Ethiopian people to give an urgent verdict on how best to stem the threat by the northern rebels - be it through peaceful means or force."

Rebels, who control vast tracts of the north and have come within 100 miles (160 km) of the capital Addis Ababa in the past two months, did not take Mengistu's offer seriously and said they would fight on.

96 more to be freed in Africa:

President Frederik de Klerk has approved the release of another 96 political prisoners, bringing to 215 the total number of political prisoners freed in the past week, the Justice Ministry in Cape Town said Friday, reports AFP.

The releases are part of a deal between the government and the black nationalist African National Congress under which political prisoners are to be freed and exiles allowed to return in exchange for the ANC ending armed actions against the white minority government.

At a press conserence on Friday, De Klerk said the government was on schedule to meeting the April 30 deadline for the release of prisoners.

Pro-democracy talks in Indonesia:

Dialogue aimed at bolstering democracy in Indonesia should remain within the system and its institutions, military chief General Try Sutrisno was quoted as saying Saturday, reports

"We can hold healthy communications, we can hold political education we can make social criticism but all of these should be oriented towards the interests of the national development," he told leading daily Kompas.

They should not run outside the norms, system and institutions which we have already agreed on," Gen. Try said in an interview.

Soviet unrest worsens crisis: A surge

of industrial unrest in the Ukraine and tension in the Baltic Republic of Lithuania have worsened the crisis awaiting Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on his return from Japan and South Korea, reports Reuter from Moscow.

And the Kremlin chief will find little comfort in economic results for the first three months of this year, showing Gross National Product down eight per cent from 1990, productivity down nine per cent and foreign trade slashed by a third.

Friday's batch of bad news cast further doubt on Gorbachev's chances of saving the country from collapse with a programme of emergency measures due to be debated by Soviet Parliament on Monday.

Baghdad briefs UN Secretary-General

Iraq possesses hundreds of tons of nerve gas, 105 Scuds

UNITED NATIONS Apr. 20: Iraq told the United Nations it possessed hundreds of tonnes of nerve and mustard gases and 105 scud-type missiles including 30 with chemical warhead, according to documents obtained by reuter on Friday.

Some of the nerve gas, called sarin, is contained in Thousands of shells, shortrange missiles and aerial bombs as well as in bulk stor-

age, the documents said. Iraq also reported possession of 650 Tonnes of another type of nerve Gas called Tabun along with large quantities of mustard gas in aerial kbombs and artillery shells.

The letter was Iraq's first step towards compling with U.N. demands to destory the missiles it fired against israel and Saudi Arabia in the gulf war and the chemical weapons it is alleged to have kused against Iran and Iraqi kurds.

As required by a Security Council Resolution adopted Earlier this month, it sent a letter to the united nations Saying it still had ballistic misiles and chemical weapons, Thus Setting in motion a complicated clock that could see the Destructin of these weapons in about two months.

Hussein gave listings and locations of chemical weapons and ballistic missiles in his letter but said iraq did not possess any biological weapons, which the Security Council also ordered destroyed.

On nuclear weapons, the foreign Minister said all Iraq's atomic materials were used for peaceful purposes and had already been put under safeguards of the international Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said: they declare no nuclear weapons, nuclear weapons-usable material or other related facilities or activities. We don't think that response is statisfactory.

Other U.S. officials said they were certain Iraq had highly enriched uranium supplied by France and the Soviet Union which could be used for unclear weapons.

In an implied threat to force Iraq to comply with council resolutions, the sanctions committee of the Security Council made no immediate decision at a closeddoor meeting on friday on Baghdad's request to be allowed to sell nearly one billion Dollars worth of oil to pay for food and other goods it says it urgently needs.

The committee is expected to wait until it becomes clear that iraq will ot impede a plan by the United states, Britain and France to set up protected camps for Kurdish and other resolution.

Refugees, diplomats said. Neverthliss, the list presented by Iraq was substantial, and according to one Soviet

Turkey

Syria

Saladin

the Zagros

Kurdistan

fight Russians

but it was stillborn

diplomat showed Iraq's will ingess to comply with the U.N.

Hussein said Baghdad's arsenal contains 51 Al-Hussein upgraded scud-tyupc missiles with a range of 400 miles (640

Where the Kurds are

Lake Van

AAAASemdinin

Dahuk to get in

waiting

Arbil

Kirkuk•

/Y Iskerin

Inside Turkey

300,000

Mosul

Euphrates

Kurds are mostly Sunni Muslims.

As mountain people they had no

400 BC: As Carduchi people they

attacked retreating Greek leader

Xenophon. Most famous scion was

Since 7th Cent name Kurd applied

to West Iranians and others astride

1914-17: Turks raised Kurds to

1920: Treaty of Sevres. Turkey

revolts to fight for independent

accepted scheme for Kurdish state.

Since 1920 Kurds have staged many

political unity for centuries. Groups

of villages owed allegiance to chiefs

Tygris

Iraq

k.m.)and one Scud missile with a range of 32-180 milcs(52-290km.).

In addition, it has five Scudtype conventional warheads.

100 miles/ 160 km

Iran

2418**M**

Kurdish

USSR

population 60-100%

Under 20%

Tehran•

Kuwait

NEW DELHI, Apr 20: A re-

cent Supreme Court ruling has

left most of the estimated two

million prostitutes in India

excluded from voting in next

month's general elections, a

mass-circulation newspaper

April 15, upheld the require-

ment that all claim applien-

tions for inclusion on voting

The Express said that

lists be countersigned, accord

neighbours, clients and even

house madams were unwilling

to vouch for the prostnutes,

the madames for fear of being

caught legally in a dependency

could do the job in the place of

a resident, stay out of the red

light districts, the paper

Election list surveyors, who

relationship with the girls.

added.

ing to the Indian Express.

The ruling, handed down

reported today, says AFP.

Piranshahr

Sulaymaniyan

1 million

to get in

BAGHDAD

Who the

Kurds are

Syria

Saudi Arabia

Jordan

Iraq

BAGHDAD

Inside Iran

Savoji

800,000

missile erectiors, 28 fixed 18- Al-Hussein-type convenplatforms for ballistic missiles tional warheads and another in what it called its western zone and four missile plat-

On chemical weapons, the documents listed the nerve gases sarin and Tabun, which kill after a few minutes when the lungs kno longer work. but they can be dissiplated in the air, depending on temperature and winds.

forms in the same area.

30 with chemical warheads.

Iraq also said it had four

missile launchers and gave

their locations, two mobic

The letter said Iraq had 6,920 artillery shells filled with Sarin Another 2,500 Sarin were under the debris of a levelled storchouse, as were 200 Sarin-filled aerial bombs. Iraq also reported possession of 650 tonnes of Tabun along with large quantities of mustard gas in aerial bombs and artillery shells.

It said that five research and development sites for chemical weapons had been destroyed, presumabl by allied bombing in the gulf war.

UN discloses composition of peacekeeping force in Gulf

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 20: The United Nations on Friday disclosed the composition of the 1,440-man peacekeeping mission in the Gulf, which includes 300 officers with about 100 of them drawn from the five permanent members of the Security Council, reports Reuter.

The first UN infantrymen to be deployed in a buffer zone along the Iraq-Kuwait border fly into Kuwait on Monday but setting up the 36-nation frontier force will take several weeks, its commander said in Kuwait on Friday.

Major General Gunther Greindl of Austria said the United Nations also was concerned about the fate of more than 15,000 Iraqi refugees in the demilitarised zone his force will patrol.

The mission will be made up of 300 unarmed military observers, protected initially by five infantry companies totalling 680 men to provide security, as well as a field engineering unit to help clear mines, a logistics unit and an air unit with planes and heli-

It will be the first time officers from the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China are serving in the same UN contingent.

Kurds refuse to go to relief camps

GENEVA, Apr 20: Setting up refugee camps in Iraq will not be easy: the Kurds don't want to go there and donor countries are reluctant to foot the half-billion-dollar bill, top United Nations officials told journalists Friday, reports AFP.

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, a former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the UN's special envoy for humanitarian operations in the Gulf, spoke to reporters on his return from Baghdad, where he singed an accord on Thursday with the Iraqi government providing for the establishment of the centres.

present refugees commissioner Sadako Ogata, was returning from Iran and Turkey.

Mrs. Ogata spoke of confusion over the safe-haven areas and said the Allies wanted to turn over the camps to the UN within a month. The camps, she said, should be set up in the Iraqi plains, in four or five Iraqi cities.

There, she said, it would be easier to get relief supplies to them than in the mountains where they are

But she added, most Kurds are refusing to leave the mountains as long as Iraqi | ing.

President Saddam Hussein is in power.

Prince Sadruddin, who hours earlier signed an agreement with Iraq on the camps in Baghdad, said the 400 million dollars requested by the UN - so far without success - for the Kurds in Iran and Turkey, and the 178 million dollars asked for relief inside Iraq, would not be enough.

Iran spend \$ 500,000 a day for fefugees

NICOSIA, Apr.20: Iran said on friday that caring for one million Iraqi refugess was costing it more than 500,000 dollars a dkay, reports Reuta.

It bitterly criticised the shortage of foreign help and said that Iranians in two provinces devastated by and earthquake only 10 months ago had provided more help that the world community.

The amount of money needed for taking care of the fefugees exceeds 20 billion rials (15 million dollars at the open market rate) per month, the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Commerce Minister Abdol Hossein Vahhaji as say-

2m prostitutes Off the Record excluded from voting in India

ceremontal possession of the small Georgia town she brought for 20 million dollars, reports AP.

Wearing a Braselton button, Ms. Basinger accepted the key to the city from Mayor Henry Braselton on the porch of his house Wednesday.

of several hundred town residents and a large media contingent. "I love this. It means a lot to me."

clude motion picture studios, recording studios and a concert

he thinks Ms. Basinger's visit will help dilute criticism from town residents that she is moving too slowly on her plans for the town.

Least political Kennedy

WASHINGTON: Willie Smith spent his first year at Georgetown Medical School so quietly that one friend said "no one even knew he was a Kennedy," reports AP.

"He's the least political of all of them," said classmate Kathleen Albrecht. "He doesn't flaunt the fact that he's a Kennedy at all." But that cloak of anonymity was lifted last week when po-

lice in Palm Beach, Florida, named William Kennedy Smith a suspect in an alleged rape on the beach outside the Kennedy family compound. Today Smith, 30, is in seclusion, refusing to communicate

with investigators beyond giving them a sample of his hair and blood. Smith is avoiding his home in the fashionable Georgetown

neighbourhood of Washington but still reports for a required hospital internship, according to friends.

£53,000 damages awarded for rat bite

CARDIFF(Wales): The parents of a baby blinded in one eye when a rat gnawed at his eyelids as he slept were awarded 53,000 pounds sterling (92,300 dollars) damages against their local council in Cardiff High Court on Friday, reports Reuter.

Harry Hutchings was four months old when the rat climbed into his cot. The court ruled that Newport Council had attempted but failed to rid his home of rats.

Hundreds arrested in Kuwait

LONDON, Apr 20: The human rights group Amnesty International said in Friday hundreds of people had been arbitrarily arrested and scores tortured brutally of executed in Kuwait since the Iraqi withdrawal, reports Reuter.

It appealed to the Emir of Kuwait to intervene personally to put an end to human rights abuses.

"These violations are continuing and appear to be largely unchecked," the London-based group said, reporting on a two-week factfinding mission by an Amnesty team that went to Kuwait on March 28 to investigate allegations of rights abuses and report on violations during the Iraqi occupation.

The team reported that scores of victims had been killed and hundreds more had been arbitrarily arrested, many brutally tortured by Kuwaiti armed forces and members of resistance groups since February 26." It said the majority of vic-

tims were Palestinians, among them Jordanian passport holders. Iraqi and Sudanese nationals and members of the stateless Bidun community were also targets. "Victims have been gunned

down in public or taken away. tortured and killed in secret," Amnesty said. Many of the victims, ar-

rested at home or grabbed in the street, have apparently disappeared, Amnesty added. The group said it was con-

cerned about 600 detainces held at a military prison outside Kuwait City in deplorable conditions.

The voters have four main

parties or alliances to choose

from - the Congress (I), the

National Front made up of the

Janata Dal of former Prime

Minister Vishwanath Pratap

85 pc American households in debt

WASHINGTON , Apr 20: Eighty- five per cent of all American households owed money at some time last year - on mortgages and automobiles, credit cards and department store wares, reports

tripled in the last decade, according to a Federal Reserve study. But analysts say there's no need for alarm.

Still, the record debt could slow consumer spending and thus temper a recovery from the recession.

US household debt nearly

ous," economist Bruce Steinberg of Merrill Lynch Capital Markets said. "I don't think it means mass consumer bankruptcies, or that people are going to lose their homes."

"I don't think it's danger-

521m voters utterly disillusioned

No single Indian party to win majority in poll dominates the campaigning.

NEW DELHI, Apr 20: With a month to go to elections, none of India's major political parties looks capable of emerging with a majority and pulling the world's largest democracy back on to solid political ground, reports AFP. President Ramaswamy

Venkataraman Friday officially gave the go-ahead for the country's 521 million eligible voters to go to the polls on May 20, 23 and 26 to select their candidates for parliament. The President's announce-

ment excluded the troubled

States of Punjab and Assam,

where the autonomous

Election Commission Friday

postponed elections. Nor will Kashmir be going to the polls because of the violent secessionist campaign there. Elsewhere the elections

have been staggered so that security forces can be deployed in crupting at almost any time this Ethnic strifetorn land of 850 million inhab-Separatist movements like

those in Kashmir and Punjab have thrived on the political instability and legislative paralysis that followed the defeat of Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party in elections in November 1989, thus paving the way for a series of governments based on shaky and expedient coali-

In 1989 parties from all sectors of the political spectrum came together against the Congress (I), accusing it of incompetence and corruption, the main theme of their cam-

Next month's polls follow the collapse of the government of Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar after the Congress (I) withdrew its parliamentary support on which the government was entirely dependant. This time around, the vari-

ous parties are talking stability.

legislation to help the lower

castes and poor and state secu-

larism as their main issues, but

none of these themes alone

Singh and local parties with support from the left, the Janata Dal (Socialist) of Shekhar, and the Bharatiya Janata (BJP) pro-Hindu party dominated by Lal Krishan Advant.

> particular trend and reports in the media also highlighted apparent lack of public direction. Congress (I), which led the country to independence from Britain in 1947 and then

No polls have shown any

stayed in power for the next 40 years, has promised the country stability, saying the coalitions which followed it in 1989 have led the country to complete disaster. Its 1,000 day plan of action promises to end price hikes,

create 10 million jobs a year, decentralise power and privaties part of the economy. It also promises to adhere to job quotas for the lower castes but without giving fig-

The decisions of Gandhi's successor, V. P. Singh, last year to give nearly half of government jobs to the lower castes led in a wave of violence and protest sun ides .

castes and has promised equal opportunity. The BJP has yet to an-

Shekhar has decided to go with his government's record by V. P. Singh.

For his part V. P. Singh has reiterated his National Front's position favouring the lower

nounce its platform, although Advant has for some time campaigned for Hindu rights and for the building of a Hindu temple on the site of a mosque at Ayodhya, which both Muslims and Hindus claim as a holy site and over which both sides have clashed

during its four months in power, saying that in that time it claimed the violence caused

She buys a town

BRASELTON (Georgia): Actress Kim Basinger has taken

"You have the key to my heart," Ms. Basinger said in front

The 37-year-old actress in a native of nearby Athens. Ms. Basinger has said her plans for Braselton might in-

hall. On Wednesday her first public visit to the town since purchasing it in 1989 she refused to reveal any more specifics Harry Braselton, a descendant of the town's founder, said