was implemented.



Syria-Labanese deal worries US: The US State Department said on Wednesday it was worried about the recent cooperation treaty between Syria and Lebanon and that it would watch closely to see how it was implemented, Reuter reports from Washington.

"We're worried and concerned," Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly told the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East.

"We do not want to see it as a device which would lead to the annexation of Lebanon, or the creeping control of Lebanon. And we've made our position clear to all of the par-

ties," he said. Previously, the department largely confined its reaction to saying that its judgement would be coloured by how the pact

lraq to build monument for the dead: Iraq is to erect a monument in memory of the more than 300 people who died in an allied raid against a bomb shelter west of Baghdad during the recent Gulf War, Iraqi officials said

Wednesday, AFP reports from Baghdad. The memorial will be built at the site of the Amriya Shelter to commemorate the victims, who included many women

and at least 91 children, the officials said. An allied raid targeted the shelter February 13 at the height of the air campaign aimed at destroying Iraq's infrastructure and military command centres. Washington claimed that the structure harboured an Iraqi command post.

The Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Information has called on all Iraqi artists to take part in a competition to design the monument, officials said.

Radioactive clothing: Radioactive clothing worn by some of Iraq's "human shield" hostages helped prove Baghdad was engaged in clandestine nuclear activity, the United States told the Security Council on Wednesday, Reuter reports from UN.

A council member told reporters US officials cited four sources to back their charges, including aerial or satellite photographs of three different installations: information provided by a recent Iraqi defector: and on-site inspections carried out by UN experts.

Another evidence was radioactivity said to have been detected in clothing worn by some of the foreigners held for a time at strategic locations in Iraq as shields against possible air attacks.

A western source confirmed that radioactive clothing was cited in the evidence presented to the Security Council but did not know the nationality of the garments' owners.

US-USSR talks to slash N-arms: US undersecretary of State Reginald Bartholomew is in Geneva for talks with Soviet officials on a treaty to slash strategic nuclear arms, the state department said on Wednesday, Reuter reports Washington.

Spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Bartholomew left Washington on Tuesday night and arrived in Geneva on Wednesday.

Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh failed to resolve remaining differences on the pact, called start, when they met in Berlin last Thursday.

But they said they had made some progress and would send senior officials to Geneva to intensify negotiations on the

The failure of the two sides to wrap up the treaty has held up plans for a summit in Moscow between President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Still unresolved are issues regarding new types of missiles and how many warheads each side would deploy on its mis-

Perez greets talks on Cambodia: Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Wednesday welcomed the outcome of peace talks on Cambodia held in Thailand this week and called for renewed efforts to achieve

national reconciliation, Reuter reports from UN. The talks at the Thai resort of Pattaya were under the auspices of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, bringing together the Vietnamese backed government in Phnom Penh, led by Hun Scn, and a three party guerilla alliance headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Perez de Cuellar said in statement he was particularly gratified by the decision to implement an unlimited ceasefire and to stop receiving foreign ministry assistance.

This decision represents an important step towards the restoration of peace in Cambodia, the UN chief said.

47 Palestinians killed in Gaza, W. Bank: Israeli army "special units" have killed 47 Palestinians in the occupied territories since 1989, the Palestine Human Rights Information Centre (PHR) said Wednesday, AFP reports from Jerusalem.

According to a list published by the centre, the "special units" killed 26 Palestinians in 1989, 11 in 1990, and 10 since the beginning of this year.

Israeli television broadcast a documentary Friday revealing the existence of the "special units," or undercover Israeli army groups in the occupied territories. Palestinians said they have known about them for some time.

Ten victims listed by the centre, led by Palestinian activist Faisal Husseini, were members of shock troops of the anti-Israeli uprising known as the Intifada and some were armed.

Thirty-two, mostly masked, youths were killed for protesting or spraying pro-Palestinian slogans on walls, the centre said. Five others were apparently killed "by accident" or for unknown reasons, it said

In each of the incidents, the soldiers, dressed in civilian clothing or disguised as Palestinians and driving confiscated cars registered in the occupied West Bank, shot the Arabs point blank, according to the report.

Swiss bid to cut flow of asylum-seekers

BERNE, June 27: Switzerland said on Wednesday it was refugees, many of whom ap- the Soviet Union. peared to be seeking a richer cal asylum, reports Reuter.

Justice Minister Arnold Koller told a news conference the number of asylum-seekers had surged 85 per cent to 17,500 by the middle of May compared with the same period last year.

"We will not be able to get away with less than 45,000 appeals for asylum this year." Koller said.

Switzerland has the highest those at home. number of asylum requests per capita in Europe. Most come

And now insulin pills?

WASHINGLTON, June 27: Researches have made progress in efforts to replace the cumbersome insulin shots required by diabetics with pills or even a nasal spray, scientists said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

from Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Asia and offiproposing new measures to cials are worried that refugees make the country less attrac- fleeing economic hardship tive to increasing numbers of could soon start arriving from

Koller said the new proposife rather than genuine politi- als, which have to be approved by Parliament, would force Canton governments to deport asylum-seekers who are not classified as refugees.

He said authorities would also have to ensure appeals were dealt with in an average of six months.

Many asylum-seekers use the current long delays in the process to find jobs and earn salaries much higher than

"This is a real chance to

make Switzerland less attractive to asylum-seekers with a quick decision," Koller said. The Justice Ministry estimates that more than half the

applicants whose appeals are rejected go underground and many continue to work illegally

in Switzerland. If the measures are not im plemented, Koller said Switzerland would have to start using army units to police frontiers and prevent illegal Pawar says Cong govt will complete full term

Kashmiri militants attempt to kidnap Israelis: 1 killed, 5 missing

NEW DELHI, June 27: Muslim militants tried to kidnap Israeli tourists from a houseboat in Kashmir, sparking a struggle in which one Israeli and one militant were killed, officials said Thursday, reports fortunately, one Israeli was

serious injuries, but the Becher said. He said all four whereabouts of at least one other Israeli was unknown, the officials said. One kidnapper was killed

and two others injured when the Israelis snatched three AK-47 assault rifles and a grenade from the hands of their captors, an Indian government official said in New Delhi.

on the houseboat, moored in a lake at Srinagar, the heart of the Kashmiri Muslim separatist movement. The whereabouts of five of the Israelis

were unknown, he said. But Giora Becher, the Isracli consul in Bombay, said he thought only one Israeli was unaccounted for.

"My information is that, un- day)," the Indian official said. killed and two are wounded Two Israelis escaped with and (another) one is missing,"

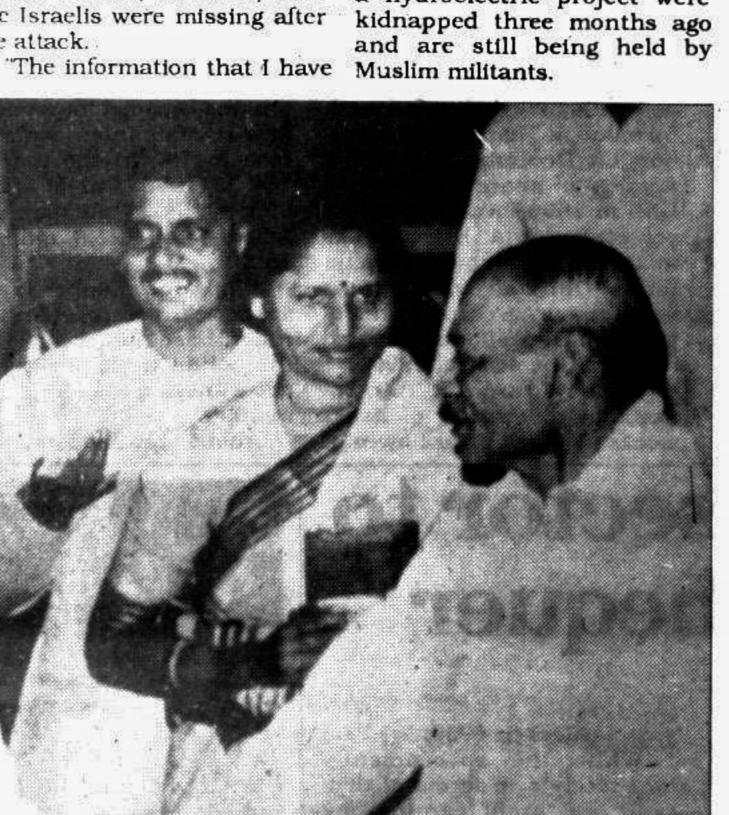
Becher said more than 50 Israelis were vacationing in Kashmir at the moment, most of them staying on houseboats. "It is not an organized group," he said. "Hundreds of Israelis vacation in India at this time of year, and part of them visit Kashmir. Many of them stay on He said eight Israelis were the houseboats, and only one houseboat was attacked." The Indian official, however, said five Israelis were missing after the attack.

is that eight Jewish tourists from Israel, who included two ladies, were kidnapped from a houseboat in Srinagar around midnight (1830gmt Wednes-

"The Israeli tourists tried to set themselves free from the militants. In the ensuing struggle, one Israeli tourist was killed and two were seriously injured. They are being given medical treatment," the officials said.

He said he had no further information on the Israelis

identities. It was the first known killing of a tourist in Kashmir since the independence revolt escalated 18 months ago. Two Swedish engineers working on a hydroelectric project were



NEW DELHI: India's new defence minister, Sharad Pawar 51, (L) beams as he shakes hands with Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao (R), the man he challenged for the prime ministership, at the presi presidential palace June 26 shortly after being sworn in. Behind them are newly sworn in junior ministers. — Photo-AFP/UNB.

Judge's killing a ploy to rig Sind polls: Benazir

Benazir Bhutto traded charges killing. on Wednesday with one of her political foes over the murder rested more than 750 people northern Sind district of Jaof a judge that led to a crackdown on Bhutto's supporters, reports Reuter.

home town Larkana that Judge cluding conspiracy to murder. Nabi Sher Junejo's assassina tion by unknown gunmen on June 18 was an excuse to ar rest members of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and rig a by-election in Sind province.

But provincial Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali told a news

KARACHI, Pakistan. June conference in Karachi the PPP by the government. 27: Pakistani opposition leader was directly involved in the Bhutto was due to address

husband Asif Ali Zardari on cial Assembly seat. Bhutto told reporters in her several disputed charges, in-

The PPP says most of those arrested in the lawless Southern Province are its activists.

public relies later on Wednes-Police said they had ar- day and Thursday in the since the murder of the Judge, cobabad to campaign for a PPPwho was trying Bhutto's jailed backed candidate for a Provin-

The PPP accuses authorities of massive rigging in elections last October held after President Ghulam Ishaq Khan The party said in a state- sacked Bhutto's 20-month-old ment on Tuesday it feared au- government on disputed thorities had planned to have charges of abuse of power. The Bhutto killed by bandits, an ac- government denies it rigged cusation immediately denied the vote.

10 killed in Algerian stir: Army firm to curb rioting It asked them to avoid mov-

ALGIERS, June 27: The Algerian army Wednesday issued a severe warning to funda mentalists against further protests, as more deaths were reported from three days of ri oting in and around the Algerian capital, reports AFP.

the capital took the total known death toll to 10, with 79 injured.

An Algerian Defense Ministry official, in full military dress, read out a communique on Television warning that troops would not hesitate to curb further rioting.

In anticipation of Friday prayers when it expected "various Muslim attempts to disturb the peace," the army called on faithful to worship in their own neighborhoods.

El-Sunna Mosque in Bab-Qued or Ibn Badis in the Kouba district, where Islamic salvation front leaders preach.

to watch their youngsters, Official reports from outside keeping them away from "professional agitators." It also asked religious leaders to stress peace and mutual aid during Friday prayers.

Meanwhile, the Algerian news service reported three more dead and 45 injured in rioting early Wednesday in two towns outside the capital.

Earlier a total of seven killed and 34 injured was reported for the capital Algiers and its suburbs.

Muslim fundamentalist mili- cause.

tants and security forces in ing to such trouble spots as the Blida, 50 kilometers (30 miles) west of Algiers, left two dead and eight injured.

A third person, a policeman, was reported killed and The army called on parents 37 injured in the town of Lakhdaria, 50 kilometers (30 miles) east of Algiers.

> The three days of clashes, Monday through Wednesday, were the worst since Algeria earlier this month imposed a state o siege and cancelled a general election in response to growing agitation by funda-

Rioting Wednesday was concentrated in working-class neighbourhoods of the capital, where unemployed youths have

APS said clashes between rallied to the fundamentalist



GENEVA, Switzerland: Iranian opposition demonstrators from the People's Mujahedeen are pulled back from the car of Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati as he arrived in the underground car park of the Hotel where he was to hold a press conference June 26 afternoon. — Photo-AFP/UNB.

The Swedes' kidnapping was claimed by the Muslim Janbaz Force, who have demanded the release of several jailed colleagues.

A score of militant groups have been battling Indian forces in Kashmir. The identify of the group involved in the attack on the Israelis was not immediately known, but the Indian government official said the kidnappers were believed to be from one of the more fundamentalist groups.

More than 2,500 people have been killed in Kashmir since the federal government launched a harsh crackdown on the armed separatists in January 1990, but the few foreigners still venturing to the area have been largely immune from the violence.

The hundreds of houseboats moored on Srinagars lakes were once a favorite destination for Indian and foreign tourists who flocked to the Kashmir Valley in summer to escape the heat engulfing most would form the nucleus of a said Wednesday, reports AFP.

Now most of the houseboats are empty, except for a few tourists, usually young people, who travel alone or in small, informal groups.

Israel and India do not have diplomatic ties. India, a founding member of the nonaligned movement of nations, supports the Palestine Liberation Organization and has refused to recognize Israel. However, Israel maintains a consular office in the western metropolis of Bombay, and Indian and Israeli tourists often visit each other's countries.

Another reports from PTI: Sharad Pawar, the new Defence Minister, Thursday underlined the need to work collectively and was confident the Congress-I government would last its full five year term.

Talking to newsmen after being sworn-in as a Cabinet Minister at Rashtrapathi Bhavan, he said a new responsibility had been cast on him at a difficult time. Pawar, who resigned as the

Chief Minister of Maharashtra Wednesday, said it was all right to work at the state level but now one had to take the nation as a whole. Asked if he was the number

two in the cabinet, he said, "that is not important what is important is to work collec-Replying to a question if the

Congress-I Government would last its full term, Pawar said, "I do not find any problem in Asked about his stand that

representation to Maharashtra in the cabinet was inadequate, Pawar said, "I have discussed this issue with the Prime Minister and I am happy after hearing him". He did not elab-On the election of his suc-

cessor in Maharashtra, he said, "everything went smoothly."

He said the message carried by the Congress (I) observers that the decision should be taken at the state level and there was no question of sponsorship, "is a good sign."

The Defence Minister, Sharad Pawar, and the Minister of State for Finance, Rameshwar Thakur, soon after taking oath Wednesday called on Sonia Gandhi at her 10 Janpath residence. Pawar was accompanied by

his wife, daughter and son in

Yeltsin will devote first 100 days to internal crisis

MOSCOW, June 27: Russian President Boris Yeltsin said Wednesday, he would devote his first 100 days in office to tackling the internal problems of his vast republic, reports

Yeltsin is to be sworn in as the republic's first elected President at a special parliamentary congress on July 10.

Briefing deputies on his talks with President George Bush in Washington, he said Russian's external activities were growing but that internal problems would be his priority "during these first 100 days."

16 massacred in a Lahore house

LAHORE (Pakistan), June 27: A gang broke into a house in the Pakistani city of Lahore, tied up all 16 people inside and alit their throats police said Thursday, reports Reuter. Only a four-year-old boy who hid from the killers survived Wednesday evening's attack.

Seven of the victims were children and four women.

Police said 15 of the victims were from a single extended family with a hosiery business in the centre of the Punjab provincial capital, the other was the family's driver. A spokesman said police

had no clue to the identity of the killers or their motive. A 20,000 dollar reward was an-

Kuwait will not allow US bases

7,000 men to protect itself

and ruled out any role for

Iranian troops in a regional se-

Al-Sabah, quoted by the

Kuwaiti news agency KUNA

also said Kuwait would accord

air and naval facilities to US

"The symbolic Arab pres-

ence could reach 5,000

Egyptian soldiers and 2,000

from Syria" according to

The goal would be "to dis-

suade Iraq or any other ag-

gressor and to show that there

is an Arab presence, that there

are countries prepared to send

other Gulf Arab states, on

March 6 joined Egypt and

Syria in signing the Damascus

declaration according to which

additional troops if need be."

forces but not bases.

Sheikh Ali.

Sheikh Ali Sabah Al-Salem

curity network, reports AFP.

KUWAIT CITY, June 27: post-war regional security The Kuwaiti Defence Minister said Wednesday that the "Kuwait has no intention of Emirate needed only. allowing the establishment of "symbolic" Arab force of around US or foreign bases on its soil,"

Sheikh Ali declared. "But a US Air and Naval presence is necessary to guarantee the security of the region. We are prepared to accord facilities (to US forces) but never bases."

Sheikh Ali also argued that while Iran had a role to play in the Gulf, It should not "physically participate" in any security apparatus.

China seeks aid for flood victims

GENEVA, June 27: China has appealed for international Kuwait, along with five aid after floods in the eastern provinces of Anhui and Jiangsu, which have killed several hundred people, the office of the United Nations Disaster Egyptian and Syrian units Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO)

Off the Record

Edhi's despair

KARACHI, June 27: Pakistan's top welfare worker declared in despair today, that he had lost faith in his country and wanted to return to India from where he had migrated after its petition in 1947, reports Reuter. "Pakistan has become unfit for human beings," Maulana

Sattar Edhi said in an emotional statement after the theft of more than 4,500 animal hides due to be sold to help finance his countrywide network of ambulances. Edhi said gunmen beat ambulance drivers and stole the

hides of sheep, goats, cows, buffalo and camels sacrificed in

Karachi and Hyderabad during the weekend Muslim festival of

Eid-ul Azha. Police said the thefts were carried out by criminals and political activists who wanted to sell the hides to raise funds for their own organisations.



BONN: German Chancellor Helmut Kohl gives a stuntman performance as a battle made of sugar is smashed on his head by an unknown actor, during the annual children's party in the garden of the Bonn Chancellery June 26. Watching him is his wife Hannelore - Photo-AFP/UNB

Diana now a self-assured future Queen

LONDON: It has been 10 years since Lady Diana Spencer, shy, sheltered and barely 20, married Prince Charles with much of the world watching, reports AP.

The bashful kindergarten teacher has emerged, at 30, as a self-assured future queen, an international celebrity and the royal family's most visible asset. Her touch has become sure, and personal.

"Her availability to anyone, her openness to other people, her acceptance of others" are part of her appeal, said Janet Laithwaite, training director of the Relate marriage counseling centers, which Diana supports. Diana appears more down-to-earth than her husband, and

mother-in-law, Queen Elizabeth II. When 67-year-old Alice Frazier threw her arms around the queen in Washington last May, the queen smiled pleasantly

more approachable than tradition would allow for her

but was clearly happy to disengage. In Budapest a year earlier, Zsuzsa Goncz, the obviously nervous wife of Hungary's interim president, slipped her hand into Diana's during a state visit, apparently for a little guidance and moral support, Diana took hold.

During her visits to AIDS wards in Britain and New York she made a point of shaking hands. "She shook my hand without wearing gloves, and that meant more to me than anything," said AIDS sufferer Shane

Snape after her 1987 visit to a London hospital. "HIV does not make people dangerous to know, so you can shake their hands and give them a hug: heaven knows they need it," Diana said in London in April.

Her support has been welcomed. "Because she is a popular figure who takes an active and positive interest in it, she's making it more normal," said Ben Mcknight of The London Lighthouse, an AIDS and HIV support center. "Other people see her and realize it can be dealt with rationally."

Nehru, Edwina exchanged passionate envelops

LONDON: So "passionate" was the "special relationship" between Jawaharial Nehru and Edwina Mountbatten, the wife of the last British Viceroy of India, that "at first, in 1948, they had writing once a week, by 1954 once a fortnight," writes Ms Janet Morgan, historian, in "Edwina Mountabatten: a life of her own", a new biography of Lady Mountabatten, reports

"My watch still keeps India time". Edwina told Nehru in a letter written on a flight from Bombay to London in April

1951, as time passed, the relationship became less fevered. "Ten years" Nehru wrote on march 12,1957. He had been looking through his papers, and described the envelopes in which he had kept each year's letters from her.

*Progressively these annual envelops became thinner, representing fewer letters, and of course my letter to you during these years followed the same pattern".

Ms Janet Morgan, who had excessive access to Lady Mountabatten's papers, writes.. "Nehru overworked, lonely. often uncertain, looked to Edwina for companionship and support. Whenever the could, he came to England eight times between 1950 and 1957. His visits were short, but he always left at last one weekend for Broadlands. It was there, one summer evening, that Mrs Travis, the Mountabattens' archvist, saw them across the fields as she made her way home. Pandit Nehru and Lady Louis, silhouetted against the sky. They seemed so much at ease that she felt it right to wish them well. Mrs Travis waved, together, they returned her salute. No two people could have looked more in harmony."