normalizing relations, which could lead to a lifting of restrictions on the movement of Vietnamese diplomats here, reports AFP from New York. The meetings were held at the US mission to the United Nation. Last year the two countries met several times in New

US-Vietnam resume talks: The

United States and Vietnam resumed talks here Thursday on

York for talks devoted mainly to the problem of US servicemen missing in action (MIA) during the Vietnam war. One item that was expected to be on the agenda of the current round of talks was the lifting of restrictions on the

movement of Vietnamese diplomats and journalists, who must

stay within a 25-mile (40-kilometre) radius of New York. Albania's SOS for shoes: Albania, which is facing a catastrophic situation with the onset of winter, is appealing to the World Community for 240,000 pairs of shoes so that its children can go to school, Economics Minister Gramoz Pashko said Thursday, reports AFP from

Belgrade. Quoted in a dispatch from the Albanian News Agency ATA. Pashko said that without the shoes, Albanian children

"cannot go to school." Albania has been facing a wave of strikes in the past few months, and Prime Minister Ylli Busi has recognised that the economic situation is disastrous.

Most basic consumer goods are lacking, and food supplies are less and less reliable, even in the capital Tirana, accord-

ing to inhabitants contacted by telephone from Belgrade. Many residents fear the oncoming winter, with wood in short supply and electric power cuts multiplying.

Khomeini's sentence chases Rushdie: Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati has said Iran has not changed its policy on the death sentence on British author Salman Rushdie, despite a statement by Iran's UN Ambassador that he need no longer fear for his life, reports Reuter from London.

"Our position towards this question is the same as it was previously. There is no change in our policy," he said in remarks broadcast by Austrian Radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

Rushdie has been in hiding under police guard since February 1989 when Iran's late spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, ordered Muslims to kill him, saying his novel "The Satanic Verses" blasphemed Islam.

Ships collide in Dublin: Air and sea rescue services were searching Friday for three people missing after two cargo ships collided in Dublin harbour, a spokesman said, reports Reuter from Dublin.

One man was believed to be trapped in the hull of the Irish-registered Kilkenny, which sank in the harbour.

He is thought to be still alive and divers were using cutting equipment to try to reach him.

Eleven survivors were found, the rescue services spokesman said.

The second ship involved in the collision was identified as the German-registered Hasselverder.

Pakistan denies transferring arms: Pakistan denied Thursday the reports that it had transferred arms meant for Afghan mujahideen to Iran during the Iran-Iraq war, reports Xinhua from Islamabad.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Siddique Kanju termed the allegations as "blatant, false and fabrications" made by the Israelf intelligence.

The Minister said in his brief statement in the Senate that the very fact that such an allegation was made by an officials of the Israeli Defence Force made it obvious that it was part of the disinformation campaign against Pakistan.

He said as ever Pakistan stood committed to completely boycotting all kinds of contacts with Israel. It was a travesty of truth that Pakistan had diverted the arms meant for Afghan mujahideen to Iran during the war in collusion with the United States and Israeli agencies, he said.

He assured the Senate that such kind of a thing never happened on Pakistan's soil and would never occur.

Mongolia changes name: Mongolia, in the latest move to distance itself from its Marxist past, has decided to change its name, the official New China News Agency said Friday, reports Reuter from Beijing.

Parliament voted on Thursday to abandon the old name, the People's Republic of Mongolia. The country will now be known as the Republic of Mongolia.

The change becomes law when a constitution now being

drafted is ratified, the Agency said. In March last year Mongolia's communist leadership, faced with a vocal pro-democracy movement, followed Moscow's

lead and renounced the party's monopoly on power. Since then, it has allowed the nation's first free elections and launched an ambitious programme to privatise stateowned industries and property.

Major's easy win in parliamentary vote: British Prime Minister John Major easily won a parliamentary vote on Thursday backing his stand on moving Britain closer to political and economic union with Europe, reports Reuter from London.

Despite some resistance from his own ruling Conservative Party, the government won by 351 votes to 250.

Analysts said Major would regard the vote as additional backing for his negotiating stance at a European Community (EC) in the Dutch town of Maastricht on December 9-10.

Major opened the two-day parliamentary debate on Wednesday saying there were great risks and rewards for Britain in choosing to join in a greater union with the European Community.

Some in his party, including his predecessor Margaret Thatcher, voiced concern that the union proposals which Major would face at Maastricht amounted to a huge surrender of British parliamentary sovereignty to EC institutions.

But no more than a handful dared to risk party unity by voting against Major, who will lead the Conservatives into a general election within the next eight months.

Lockerbie: Libya won't hand over accused: Libya has formally refused to hand over to Britain two Libyan intelligence agents accused of involvement in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie in 1988, a top Libyan official was quoted as saying on Thursday, reports AFP from London.

Libya's Foreign Minister Ibrahim Bishari denied his country's involvement in the bombing in an interview with the

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). He said he had called for an urgent meeting of the Arab

League to discuss the allegation. A man claiming to be one of the two men accused by Britain and the United States of the bombing told Radio

Monte Carlo earlier that he was not involved. A Scottish court, had asked for the two men to be extra-

dited to Britain to stand trial. A total of 270 people died when the Boeing 747 jet blew up in mid-air over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in

December 1988. Sikh militants kill 19 more: sikh

militants raked a wedding dinner with assault rifles and killed 19 members of the marriage party, police said Friday, reports AP from Amritsar.

Though details were sketchy, the massacre appeared to be part of a war between rival militant groups seeking independence for Sikhs in the northern state of Punjab, news agencies reported.

Five or six militants smuggled the Chinese-made AK-47 rifles hidden under their shawls, then opened fire indiscriminately at Thursday evening's dinner, Senior Superintendent of Police Santiv Gupta said.

Most of those killed were Sikhs, Gupta said. The dead included five women and two children. Two people also were wounded.

The wedding celebration was in the house of the elder brother of Jagir Singh, a top Sikh rebel leader of the outlawed

Khalistan Commando Force, Gupta said. The killings occurred in the village of Bhaserke Bchani, five kilometres(three miles) west of Amritsar, the holiest Sikh city and the centre of the Sikh separatist movement.

A limelight-shy technocrat

chosen for topUN job abortive follow-up negotiations Foreign Relations and Minister

CAIRO, Nov 22: Boutros Boutros Ghali, who was chosen by the security council on Thursday to be the next Secretary- General of the United Nations, is known as a technocrat who avoids the limelight despite considerable foreign policy achievements, reports Reuter.

As an Egyptian, he can claim to be both Arab and African. He is also Christian from a mainly Muslim country and married to an Egyptian

Many Arab and Egyptian diplomats say Ghali, Egypt's deputy Prime Minister, with his academic reputation and fluency in Arabic, English and French, will make an ideal secretary- general.

Under President Hosni Mubarak, Ghali was the architect of Egypt's return to the centre of affairs in the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the Non-aligned Movement and Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

He is Cairo's Deputy Prime Minister responsible for

of State for Emigration and Expatriate Egyptians.

He had served 14 years as Minister of State for Foreign Affairs but was promoted to Deputy Prime Minister to boost his chances of winning an international office, an aim that has long eluded the veteran Egyptian diplomat.

Ghali bowed out of the race for UNESCO's top post in 1987 so as not to challenge controversial secretary-general Amadou Mahtar M'bow, a scllow African. M'bow did not win another term.

Ghali says he also turned down proposals to run for chief of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in

In an apparent bid to gain Israel's backing for his bid to be UN Secretary-General Ghali met Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in Paris in September before flying to Washington to ask President George Bush for US support.

Ghali, an international law

and institutions expert, says his main ambition harks back to the Arab-Israeli conflict. This is the dominant issue for modern Egypt, which brought him into politics from academic life and journalism in 1977.

"My ambition would certainly be - let us be modest to see the beginning of the road to solve the Palestinian problem," he said in 1989. "It will take years of work. But if you could just start... because unfortunately we have not started."

Two years later, Arabs and Israelis began the process at a historic peace conference in Madrid-just as Ghali was bidding for the top United Nations post.

Ghali went with the late President Anwar Sadat on his surprise peace mission to Jerusalem in November 1977. the only visit by an Arab leader so far. He led Cairo's team at Washington talks with the Israclis and was called back twice in protest against Isreal's attitude.

He was also involved in



BONN: German Chancellor Kohl pours champagne from his glass into the glass of Russian - AFP photo President Boris Yeltsin before drinking a toast at the Schaumburg Palace.

Gorbachev ready to quit to keep union

MOSCOW, Nov 22: Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said today he was prepared not to stand for the office of president in a future election if that would help forge a new union of sovereign republics, Radio Russia reported, says Reuter.

The Soviet leader denied he was seeking to preserve the Soviet Union's political centre just to keep a job for himself.

I am prepared to renounce putting forward my candidacy for the post of president of the country in order to prove that my striving for a political union between the republics is not directed at preserving the post of president for myself, the radio quoted him as saying.

Gorbachev is on a visit to The time for compromises is the Siberian city of Irkutsk. over, we are at the last fron-But Leonid Kravchuk, leader of he Ukraine, the second most powerful republic, said in a newspaper interview a centralised state with a president and a government was impos-

Gorbachev, speaking to Soviet Journalists on board a plane to Irkutsk, said debates last week with seven republican leaders on what would replace the disintegrating union were the toughest in his political career.

To preserve our country. our state, is important above everything else. Tass news agency quoted him as saying.

He said the nationwide elections for the head of the state which will replace the USSR might be held no earlier than the middle of next year.

He had proposed to republican leaders to create a new union of sovereign states during their meeting at his country residence of Novo-Oraryovo, boycotted by the Ukraine and four other republics.

He had to tell his opponents that in order to persuade them to accept this formula he was ready not to stand in the next presidential election campaign, Tass said.

Shamir rejects Palestinian state

JERUSALEM, Nov 22: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and the main opposition Labour Party have dramat ically sharpened their differences on policy towards the Palestinians and neighbouring Arab countries, reports Reuter. Labour on Thursday

dropped its longtime opposition to talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and recognised the "national rights" of Palestinians.

The change, backed by a Labour Congress, followed weeks of haggling between doves and hawks over the party platform ahead of national elections due to take place within a year.

In a speech to American Jewish leaders on Thursday

ZAGREB (Yugoslavia), Nov

22: Nearly 400 wounded peo-

ple from the town of Vukovar,

which fell at the end of a

three-month siege by Yugoslav

forces, have reached the safety

of hospitals after a two-day,

300 km (180-mile) ordeal on

more than 2,000 other

refugees came with them on a

tortuous route through Serbia

and Bosnia, taken to avoid un-

relenting fighting west of the

tors said they hoped to sign a

deal today for the Serb-led

army to quit the Croatian capi-

have been barricaded since

huge Marshal Tito barracks.

September inside the city's

Several hundred soldiers

In Zagreb, Croatian negotia-

Buses and trucks filled with

the road, reports Reuter.

fallen Croatian town.

tal within two weeks.

Shamir strongly rejected the concept of a Palestinian state in the territories Israel captured during the 1967 Middle East war. The land to which we have returned is the land of our forefathers and no others shall have a part in it" Shamir said, quoting the words of a Jewish historical hero.

Shamir argued that for Israel to split the occupied West Bank with Palestinians would be a recipe for perpetual "Another partition of that

part of Palestine that is west of the Jordan river will not solve any problem but again set two communities - Jew and Arab - against each other in a situation of constant friction," he

A deal would bring peace of

Artillery battles between

mind to the capital's residents

but would have no real effect

the army and Croats raged on

in several areas, most flercely

in the port of Zadar and the

eastern Croatian capital of

Osijek, which many Croats fear

is in serious danger since the

bombarded Vukovar, on the

Danube River border with

Serbia, for nearly three

months until its Croat defend-

ers gave up this week.

fered appalling primitive con-

ditions in Vukovar Hospital,

(120 miles) east of Zagreb.

arrived in Djakovo, 200 km

They were then being sent

The wounded, who had suf-

Countless people were killed.

The army besieged and

fall of Vukovar.

on the fighting elsewhere.

Israel also occupies the Golan Heights on its border with Syria and the Gaza Strip on the Egyptian border.

Direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab enemies, which began in Madrid three weeks ago, are likely to resume within the next two weeks. Baker is expected to anneunce a date and location for the talks in the next few

The United States held

diplomatic contacts with the PLO through its ambassador in Tunis for 18 months in 1989 and 1990. It ended the dialogue when the PLO refused to condemn an abortive raid on Israel beaches by one of its small factions.

the buses as they passed.

spreads there.

Bosnia-Herzegovina,

wedged between Croatia and

Serbia and with a mixed popu-

lation also including Muslims,

could explode if fighting

had fired mortars and tank

shells on Neum, a mainly eth-

nie Croatian town on the

Republic's tiny strip of Adriatic

Zagreb Radio said the army

Ghali was appointed minis-

on Palestinian autonomy.

ter of state for foreign affairs in October 1977, served as acting foreign minister in 1977 and 1978 when ministers Ismail Fahmi and Mohammed Ibrahim Kamel resigned over Sadat's peace policy.

During the peace talks with Isrcal, the Jewish state's then Premier Menachem Begin made no secret of his dislike for Ghali and at one stage tried to have him removed from Cairo's team. He stayed. Ghali, descendant of a

wealthy Christian Copt family from southern Egypt whose land was nationalised in the 1950s, has a taste for antiques and is an amateur collector. He also has high govern-

ment office in his blood. His grandfather, Boutros Pasha Ghali, was assassinated

as Prime Minister in 1910. An uncle was foreign minister in the 1920s, and other ministers and parliamentarians figure in the family tree. Ghali was born in Cairo on

November 14, 1922, and studied in Cairo, Paris and the United States. He taught international law and headed the politics department at Cairo University. He was a member of the po-

litical bureau of the ruling Arab Socialist Union Party and President of the Centre for Political and Strategic Studies at Al-Ahram newspaper, where he had earlier helped to found and edit a weekly economic magazine. Journalism taught him to

write simply and "helped me to come out of the university's ivory tower," he wrote in the magazine's 1,000th edition in 1988. He has written 12

Ghali and his wife Lidia, his second, have no children.

No firm German economic pledges for Yeltsin

BONN, Nov 22: Russian President Boris Yeltsin has staked his claim to world recognition with a visit to Germany which is rich in symbolism but, so far, lacking in firm economic pledges, reports Reuter.

Yeltsin was given full military honours when he arrived in Bonn on Wednesday on a three-day visit. He hopes talks with politi-

cians and bankers will glean economic support which is badly needed to avert food shortages and social upheaval this winter.

AFP adds: Russia pledged to restore the German republic on the Volga, dissolved by Stalin in 1941, as part of a wide-ranging friendship accord signed today by Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Boris Yeltsin.

Diplomatic ties with India soon: Jewish leader

NEW DELHI, Nov 22: A senior Jewish leader said on Thursday India was reviewing its relations with Israel and hoped that diplomatic ties between the two countries would be established soon, reports Reuter.

"I am excited and I am hopeful that obstacles in the past will be reviewed and overcome," Ist J. Leibler, cochairman of the World Jewish Congress, said after meeting Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao.

India has not established full diplomatic relations with the Jewish state, founded in 1948, but Leibler said doing so would not mean that New Delhi had to support the Jewish state's policies in the Middle East.

400 wounded Croats reach hospitals

to several nearby towns. More United Nations envoy Cyrus than 100 wounded children Vance met Bosnia's president will be brought to Zagreb for Altja lzetbegovic in the repubtreatment. lican capital Sarajevo on Belgrade's Tanjug News Thursday before talks in Agency said two patients died Belgrade with Serbian leader on the journey from a Serbian Slobodan Milosevic town where they had spent the

Vance is in Yugoslavia to assess the chances of sending **European Community moni-**UN peacekeeping forces as tors with the convoy said a Serbia and Croatia want. crowd in a Serb-populated area of Bosnia mobbed and jeered "It is inappropriate to talk

about sending peacekeeping troops to Yugoslavia as long as the violence continues, Tanjug quoted him as saying after talks with Milosevic.

The 13th ceasefire of the war took effect on Saturday but has failed.

Vukovar is completely destroyed and bodies of civilians litter its streets.

MANILA: Former Philippine First Lady Imelda Marcos may have to wait a while before she can retrieve the more than 1,00 pairs of shoes she left behind when she and her husband fled a 1986 popular revolt, re-

Tax commissioner Jose Ong ordered the presidential palace on Thursday to hold on to the size-eight shoes and to scores of Marcos's designer clothes.

The clothing and footwear, including a batteryoperated pair that lights up for disco dancing, are to be held as security against the 5.7 billion pesos (205 million dollars) in income and estate taxes Marcos allegedly owes the government. The palace has put the

shoes and the clothes on public display as symbols of the excesses of the ousted

Presidential executive secretary Franklin Drilon earlier said Marcos could have her shoes and clothes back anytime

United States on November 4 to face fraud and corruption charges, says she plans to auction the shoes off at 10,000 dollars a pair and use the proceeds to help vietims of last June's

mount Pinatubo volcano eruption. Drilon said the shoes and clothes did not come near covering the taxes due the government but tax collectors could put other Marcos assets they could find under embargo. Marcos says displaying her shoes in public is "macabre and

For knock-kneed camels and seeing eunuches dancing

PUSHKAR, India: The dealers were on the lookout for knock-kneed camels, pilgrims bathed in holy water, and the By the time it ended Thursday, an estimated 400,000

The four-day fair is held in the full moon heralding winter in the Rajasthan desert of northern India, attracting buyers and sellers in brilliant day-glow turbans.

"I watch its legs to see that they don't knock together," said Singh. "When the camel is walking, it's important that the legs do not swing out to the side. Also when looking at a camel from a distance you should not be able to see its teeth."

ber tractors or any other livestock. A 5-year-old camel brings 5,000-6000 rupees (196-235 dollars) but a 10-year-old male at its peak can fetch up to

20,000 rupees (785 dollars).

The females are softer, like our women," grinned Hazir Nagara, who has been coming to the Pushkar market for 20

Maimaed beggars and women praying to give birth to sons bathe in the holy water of Pushker Lake, which according to Hindu tradition sprang from the desert on the spot where Lord Brahma the creator dropped a lotus.

Attendance this year was up sharply from last year, when Hindu-Muslim violence across northern India discouraged travelling.

the pilgrims and tourists at the carnival midway to watch magic shows or be-jewelled eunuches and transvestites grinding to a blaring Hindi beat.

honourable members

LONDON: The "mother of parliaments" tolerates much unruly behaviour from its elected members, but they must couch

called a Conservative member a jerk during a parliamentary debate on European integration this week, it drew howls of

on their green leather benches in the neo-Gothic chamber and reached for their guides to proper parliamentary behaviour

acted as something between a referee, a master of ceremonies and a chairman in the confrontational debates, betrayed uncertainty. "I am not sure whether "jerk" is an entirely parliamentary

expression," said the former army officer and tailor. "I have heard worse things here. Perhaps the right

vitriol, responded in the language of a 18th century noble-"I respect you, Mr Speaker, and I respect the House. If the

draw the offence," he said. The dispute surfaced again on the second day of the debate

He explained that a list of "unparliamentary expressions" which for years guided the Speaker in ruling on language, had been discarded "because many of these expression such as "

cheeky young pup" are no longer offensive." To laughter, he admitted he had not known what "jerk" meant, but he had read in a newspaper report on Wednesday's proceedings that it meant 'a useless person, but

Weatherill, whose rulings take on the power of precedent, ruled in 1984 that good temper and moderation were the characteristics of parliamentary language and that the context of their use was all-important in judging them.

Granted special parliamentary privilege, members may make allegations in the chamber that would draw an armful of slander writs if spoken in the street outside, but they are

never permitted to call each other " a liar" or "drunk" To avoid the restriction on "liar", one MP will accuse another of "misleading the house." Perhaps to prevent the atmosphere in the of ten uproari-

ous chamber descending further towards that of a zoo, speakers in the past have ruled out animal terms for use in insults. Terms that have drawn a rebuke include "jackass", "swine" "stool-pigeon", "rat" "pup" and "dog".

Hell's Angels in trouble

MELBOURNE: The government can't reject visa applications by Hell's Angles members just because they belong to the motor cycle club, a court ruled Monday, reports AP.

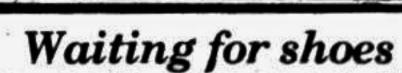
meeting in Adelaide. The court called delays in handling the applications "unreasonable." The court also ordered the immigration Department to

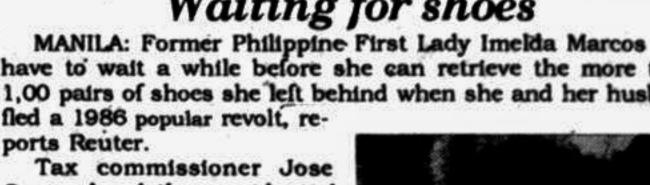
reconsider four applications that it had rejected. The court was told that a man from the United Kingdom associated with the Hell's Angles spend Sunday night in jail

Immigration Ministry Gerry Hand wrongly took into account a letter from a department officer that said the club was an international criminal organization, the court said.

drug-running, machine guns and explosives.

Off the Record













regime of late President Ferdinand Marcos.

she wanted them. Marcos, who returned from nearly six years exile in the

tourists were entertained by dancing eunuches, reports AP. people came to bargain for 15,357 camels or just to watch the sheer spectacle of one of the world's largest camel fairs.

Chotu Singh, a camel merchant from the Nagar district, was in the market for four animals, for which he expected to pay 35,000 to 40,000 rupees (1,375-1560 dollars).

On the skimpy farmlands of Rajasthan, camels far outnum-

A camel may have more than 20 working years. Males are favoured over females.

After a day of wheeling and dealing, the merchants joined

Watch your language,

their insults in the correct language, reports Reuter. So when the leader of the British opposition Labour Party

outrage from "honourable members"., Bewigged officials in buckled shoes stiffened into alertness

Even Bernard Weaterill, who as speaker since 1983 has

honourable gentleman (Kinnock) will refine his reference to the honourable gentleman," he asked in the courtly language always used in the centuries-old parliament. Kinnock, a red-haired Welshman with a colourful line in

honourable member ... is offended, though I doubt it, I with-

on Thursday. Weatherill, as so often, defused the row with

concerns a horny head and a chub-like fish."

The Federal Court ordered the government to consider applications by the late Tuesday 19 Hell's Angles to attend a

after being arrested at Adelaide airport when authorities learned of his connection with club.

The letter accused the Hell's Angles of involvement in