village in troubled Nagorno-Karabakh, disputed between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Soviet News Agency Tass said

Reuter reports from Moscow. The attackers first bombarded Karadagly with rockets and grenades for more than an hour from near an Armenian village 600 metres (yards) away demolishing six houses and a

Security forces arriving hours later found the bodies of three men and three women, badly burned and riddled with

bullets from automatic weapons. Tass said. Another woman was taken to hospital with severe burns

and 130 cattle were missing.

The attackers escaped Tass did not identify them.

UN chief to send mission to S Africa: U.N Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced Friday that he will send a fact-finding mission to South African in early August to look at the rapidly developing political reforms there, AP from United Nations says.

Perez de Cuellar made the announcement in a letter to the General Assembly, which was expecting a report from him on South Africa's progress toward abolishing apartheid. He postponed issuing the report until September, citing

the "ongoing developments in South Africa." Perez de Cuellar said he would send envoys to South African in the first half of The decision to send the U.N mission was made earlier

this week, before South African President F.W de Klerk announced on Thursday that Pretoria will sign the 1970 international nuclear non-proliferation treaty. BENEVAL B 11 CO 1 O 1 111 1 Militia shells Sidon, 2 killed: Israel-

backed Christian militiamen traded tank fire with a leftist Sunni Muslim militia in this southern port city Friday, killing two women and wounding nine civilians, a police report said, AP from Sidon (Lebanon) reports. The terse report said the 29-minute artillery exchange

between the South Lebanon Army and Mustafa Saad's

Nasserite Popular Liberation Army along the Kfar Falous hills

east of Sidon dwindled into sporadic machine-gun fire. The police report did not say what triggered the sudden escalation that came three days before the Lebanese government plans to deploy about 3,500 regular army soldiers in the volatile region.

A communique from Saad's militia said, "Israel and its surrogates are out to sabotage the deployment plan."

The South Lebanon Army is a mainly-Christian militia trained and armed by Israel to police a narrow strip along its northern border with Lebanon.

5,000 Soviet Jews to reach Israel: Israel's international airport was a flurry of activity Friday as plane after plane brought in hundreds of Soviet Jewish immigrants before a new Soviet emigration law takes effect, AP says from Jerusalem.

Meir Shitreet, treasurer of the quashi-governmental Jewish Agency that helps transport immigrants told Israel television that 20 planes would bring in 5,000 Soviets by Sunday.

The new law allowing most Soviets to get passports takes effect Monday. While it is meant to allow freer emigration, Israeli officials fear it could slow down Jewish emigres as many other Soviets seek to leave.

"This month, a peak immigration month for this year, 21,500 Soviets will arrive by the end of June," said Shitreet. He predicted a significant slowdown in July as a result of the new law.

41 prisoners reach Kuwait: A group of 41 people held in Iraqi jails arrived in Kuwait on Friday via Saudi Arabia, the Kuwait news agency reported, Reuter from

Kuwait says. The agency said 11 were Kuwaiti citizens and one was Syrian. It did not specify who the others were but hundreds of long-term residents of Kuwait do not have citizenship four-

teen women were in the group. Kuwait has repeatedly complained to the United Nations

that thousands of its residents are still detained in Iraq. Opposition groups banned in Cameroon: The government banned opposition groups from working

together Friday, accusing them of employing terrorist methods that provoked attacks in which security forces killed two pro-democracy protesters, AP from Yaounde (Cameroon) says

An umbrella group for several opposition parties, professional associations and trade unions has called a strike dubbed "operation dead city and deserted country" to force President Paul Biya to hold a national conference to organize democratic elections.

Interior Minister Gilbert Andre Tsoungui, in a statement broadcast on state radio Friday, said the group, the Coordination of Opposition Political Parties and Associations, was banned from organizing demonstrations, or holding meetings because it " pursues an end manifestly against the constitution."

Iraq ordered to show hidden object: The Security Council ordered Iraq on Friday to grant U.N nuclear inspectors immediate access to object hurriedly removed from a military base from which the team had been barred earlier in the day, Reuter from United Nations says.It warned that " any recurrence of non-compliance would have serious consequences " and called for the immediate dispatch to Baghdad of a high-level U.N mission to demand assurances probably from President Saddam Hussein- of future cooperation.

Stapleton made US envoy to China: The Senate Friday confirmed J. Stapleton Roy, a career diplomat, as the next U.S ambassador to China, according to AFP from Washington.

The Senate approved Mr. Roy's nomination to the post in a voice vote just before it adjourned for the Fourth of July re-

Mr. Roy 56, was born in China and served as Deputy Director of the State Department's office of Chinese affairs while President George Bush directed the U.S Liasion's Office in Beijing in 1974-1975. The new Ambassador later served as U.S Counselor in Beijing.

The diplomat has been a Special Assistant to Secretary of State James Baker since 1989. He earlier was U.S Ambassador to Singapore, from 1984-86, and directed the department's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs from 1986-89.

Bid to block sale of US arms to UAE

WASHINGTON, June 29 : A resolution to block the proposed US sale of 20 Apache attack helicopters and 620 antitank missiles to the United Arab Emirates has been introduced by 25 Senators its sponsor said on Thursday, reports

Reuter. Coming just days after the administration called on major arms suppliers to restrain arms traffic this proposed sale makes a mockery of the ad- crat. ministration's alleged efforts to restrain the flow of arms into the always volatile Middle East, Senator Alan Cranston said in a

statement. Paying lip service to arms control is not enough the arms bazar is open and the customers are lining up if we can't

what message are we sending. the California Democrat said.

One of the co-sponsors of the resolution is Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Claiborne Pell, a Rhode Island Democrat.

A similar resolution was introduced the House of Representatives by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Dante Fascell, a Florida Demo-

Both the House and Senate would have to pass a resolution of disapproval to block a foreign arms sale. President George Bush could veto the resolution and it would then take a two-thirds majority vote by both Chambers to stop the UN session on Y'slav 'aggression' demanded

Charred bodies, burnt-out tanks litter Slovenia: 4 army carriers trapped

TRZN (Yugoslavia), June 29: Four federal armored personnel carriers were trapped by slovenian militia, unable to break through barricades of heavy trucks, reports AP.

The Slovenes gave them until 5:00 pm (1500 GMT) to surrender. The federal soldiers seemed unconcerned. Their vehicles were open and some were half leaning out of them.

When the deadline passed. the Slovene guards opened fire. One of the vehicle burst into flame. Neither of its occupants emerged.

Slovenian Interior Minister Igor Baver said four federal soldiers and one Slovene were killed. Twenty wee reported injured.

Fuel seeped out of the burning vehicle and exploded in an inferno that engulfed everything within 50 meters (yards). Even the barricades caught fire.

After the sudden explosion, came to, face down on the ground, covered with blood. The explosion had scattered debris everywhere.

Some locals picked me up and took me to a clinic in this town some 10 kilometers (six miles) northeast of Slovenia's capital of Ljubljana.

My forehead was bandaged quickly, and I got in the car and drove back to Ljubljana, blood pouring down my face and fearing I could again lose consciousness.

I filed my pictures, and then Belgrade-based newsman Dusan Stojanovic took me to inside.



LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia: Local youngsters examine the wreckage of a Yugoslav Army tank destroyed early June 28 by Slovenian forces near the local airport.

the hospital where I got five stitches above my left eye.

Thirteen wounded had been brought there, some from Trzn. Some had gun shot wounds in their legs, others had burned faces and hands. Two armed Slovene guards in bullet-proof vests were posted outside the hospital door. Teams of doctors waited in the emergency ward as one ambulance after another came and stretchers were rushed

Reuter from Ljubljana adds: Charred bodies, burnt-out tanks and the twisted remains of crushed vehicles were strewn across Slovenia after two days of clashes between the small republic's defence units and the Yugoslav army.

The aftermath of battles for the Alpine region's independence was evident from roads across much of Slovenia after jets attacked airports and civilian vehicles and federal troops fought battles with local de-

In one of the heaviest attacks planes strafed and bombed a lined of trucks near the town of Trebnje, south of the capital Ljubjana less than an hour after soldiers said they would be safe, drivers said.

Witnesses said seven people were killed when two jets screamed in repeated attacks over the convoy, trapped on the road since Thursday. dropping bombs and strafing the line of Veliclus with

trucks were trapped between Slovenian defence units and

Another driver said the army had assured the truckers they would be safe, we never even asked whether they would shoot at us, he said.

Ljubljana, two small atreraft lay smashed and a hanger and two other buildings were badly damaged after an air-raid. men from Slovene defence units crouched nearby in camouflage uniform with automatic

Everybody ducked and took cover. They were on us in an instant a Slovene policemen

Another message says: Yugoslavia and its breakaway republic of Slovenia agreed to a ceasefire after two days of fierce fighting but media reports said sporadic clashes were still continuing.

The guns began falling silent after nine pm (1900 GMT) on Friday after an abortive earlier truce unilaterally declared by Yugoslavia's federal authorities.

A European community peace mission which flew in for talks with both sides welcomed the ceasefire and said the bring it about.

"I think it was directly linked," said a senior Italian official with the mission, consisting of the foreign ministers of Italy, Luxembourg and the

The truce was agreed after Driver Simo Bijelic said the a day of intensified fighting in which the Yugoslav Air Force was thrown into the battle against Slovenia for the first time and tank columns blasted their way to seize con-

trois of the frontiers of the Rebel Republic. The three community min-At Brnik Airport, near isters, known as the Troika, were due to report back on Saturday to an EC summit in

They said the community would freeze all credits and bilateral aid to Yugoslavia if the mission failed.

The Troika — Luxembourg Jacques Poos, Italy's Gianni de Michelis and Hans Van Den Brock of the Netherlands had talks in Belgrade with Federal Prime Minister Ante Markovic and Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic.

They then flew to Zagreb, capital of the breakaway Republic of Croatia, which showed its alarm at the federal Government's military onslaught against Slovenia by putting its own security forces on partial alert.

In Zagreb, the EC team had talks with Croatian President Freanjo Tudiman and Slovenian President Milan Kucan.

Slovenia's Prime Minister Alojze Peterle expressed skepticism before the mission reached Zagreb, saying he hoped it would respect "the right of states to decide for themselves".

Rao faces confidence vote, hopes Opposition will back him

NEW DELHI. June 29: Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's minority government will face a confidence vote when India's newly-elected parliament convenes on July 9. and believes it will obtain the opposition support needed to win, reports Reuter.

"We are absolutely confident of getting help from our opposition friends," said Welfare Minister Sitaram Kesari, a senior cabinet figure.

Kesari said differences between the government and opposition over India's quest for a two billion dollar IMF loan, a major issue when parliament meets, would be sorted out through discussions.

"We have differences, but not to the extent that we disagree." Kesari told Reuter. The right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, the largest opposition party, has said it will vote against the government in the confidence motion.

Kesari said the government was looking to help from a



Marxist-led left front and centrist Janata Dal to win the vote, whose exact date has yet to be set.

said the Lok Sabha (lower house) would meet to discuss the annual budget from July 9. the session was expected to continue until September 13.

Rao's Congress party and its India needs the IMF loan. allies, claiming a strength of pending results are the budget begin.

The new Lok Sabha was due to have 543 members but polls were not held in the troubled states of Jammu and Kashmir (six seats) and Punjab (13

The Election Commission cancelled polls for 13 seats because of the deaths of candidates or electoral violence, two members won in two places each and must vacate one of them and the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi means his seat must also be repolled.

Kesari said Rao's minority government would get the An official announcement help of the opposition "through negotiations, cooperation and on issues."

All the opposition parties Congress party sources said have demanded a white paper policy statement from the government to clarify why

The government, in a major 240, will be 15 short of a concession to the opposition. majority in the House which has agreed to give details of will be 508 strong when four the loan before discussions on

Kennedy's version of rape incident disputed

PALM BEACH (Florida). June 29: An undercover police officer who met William Kennedy Smith while checking out a bar hours before the alleged rape of a Florida woman on March 30 contradicts accounts given by Sena tor Edward M Kennedy and his son, according to a sworn statement, reports AP.

Mariellen Norton, a Palm Beach police officer, said in a May 7 statement that Smith and his cousin Patrick Kennedy were still at the nightspot Lulu's when she left at 1:15 am March 30. The statement was released Friday after repeated requests from the Associated Press.

Smith, the senator's 30year-old nephew, was charged last month with raping a 29year-old Jupiter, Florida, woman in the early morning hours of March 30. He met her at another nightspot, Au Bar, near Lulu's.

He has pleaded innocent. The trial is set for Aug 5.

In a sworn statement May Patrick Kennedy said he and Smith returned to the estate from Lulu's before midnight March 29. They had gone to bed when the senator invited them to go to Au Bar, said Patrick Kennedy, a Rhode Island state legislator and the senator's son. In a list of corrections to his sworn statement submitted later, he said he went to bed at midnight, "unless the clock was wrong".

In his own sworn statement, also given May 1, the senator said that Smith and Patrick left the estate with him "around midnight."

Ms Norton, who is listed as a potential prosecution witness in Smith's trial, said she was in an undercover role for the Palm Beach police's organized crime, vice and narcotics unit. She said she was at Lulu's as part of her rounds of bars to watch for illegal activity.

She said she was invited by female friends of the Kennedy family to sit with them and was twice asked by Smith to dance. But she said she never did because she was there to watch "people that seemed local." "I do remember it was about

1:15 am" when she left Lulu's and Smith and Patrick Kennedy were still there. Ms Norton said. Asked for comment Friday

the senator's press secretary, Paul Donovan, said "As I said before, I'm not going to comment on different people's recollections of events that night." The Kennedy family beach-

front estate, where Patrick Kennedy said he and his cousin returned between their visit to Lulu's and their later visit to Au Bar, is a 10-to-15minute drive from the nightspots. The woman who says she

was raped and two friends she accompanied to Au Bar have estimated she met Smith there between 1:45 and 2:30

Ms Norton is not the only potential witness who has placed Smith and Patrick Kennedy at Lulu's well past midnight.

Off the Record

Giant condom over Menem's head!

BUENOS AIRES, June 29: The Argentine Government has filed suit against a humour magazine which in a recent issue depicted President Carlos Menem placing a giant condom over his head, reports AFP. .

The caption under the cartoon in humour magazine read "to save us from contagious ideas : put it on."

Under Secretary of Justice Hugo Rodriguez Sanudo brought the case before Federal Judge Nestor Blondi, complaining the magazine cartoon was an "offense to the office of the Presidency." Humour, a regular target of lawsuits during the 1976-1983

military regime and during the term of former President Raul Alfonsin, has made a habit of sparking controversy with its joking jabs at Argentine politics and society.

"Put it on" is the official slogan of Argentia's AIDS educa-

Mr Menem also had filed suit recently against filmmaker Fernando Solanas and Hebe de Bonafini, President of a humanitarian group, both of whom have been critical of the President.

Both Mr Solanas and Mrs de Bonafini received death threats six weeks ago after those suits were filed. Police have not identified any suspects in those incidents to date.



BEIRUT: Gisele, a 23 year-old Christian belly dancer, performs every night until dawn in "Jimmy's", a well known night club in West Beirut, in front of admirers. Since the Lebanese army took over Beirut and its suburbs, Lebanese cross from one sector to the other after 16 years of - AFP photo civil war.

Hungry Yslav troops want to go home

SENTILJ (Yugoslavia): Tired, hungry and homesick, the crew of Yugoslav People's Army tank no. 19627 have had enough of fighting and would like to get out of Slovenia, reports AP.

"If they let us, we would go home now," said one member of the four-man crew, an ethnic Albanian from the troubled Kosovo province. "I would be at Ljubljana airport in a flash and on the first plane to Pristina," Kosovo's capital.

The crew- which also includes a Bosnian, a Serb from Vojvodina and a Macedonian- parked their Soviet -designed T-72 tank sideways to block the main road just south of Sentilj, Slovenia's biggest border post, just before 9 p m (1900 GMT) Friday.

'Pakistan unfit for human beings'

Sind CM tenders apology to Edhi for mounting terrorism

head of Pakistan's leading charitable organisation has threatened to quit the country unless the government checks growing terrorism and law-

lessness, reports AFP. "This country is becoming unfit for human beings," Maulana Abdul Sattar Edhi said after unidentified terrorists and political activists snatched donations from his volunteers in the southern province of

Sind this week. He said he would quit Pakistan as "there is no room for social work" in this country.

Edhi, 61, runs more than 70 orphanages, psychiatric hospitals and homes for widows as well as a number of other welfare organisations across the country.

"I will go back to India," said the soft-spoken, bearded social worker who came to Pakistan in 1947 after the partition of the sub-continent at the end of British rule. The statement came as hides and skins of cows, goats.

sheep and camels traditionally sacrificed on the Muslim festival Eid-ul -Azha were snatched from his volunteers at gun-The Edhi trust, which depends on donations, also finances its projects from the

proceeds of the hides of the

more than half a million ani-

mals slaughtered. The hides

fetch between three and 12

dollars each. Edhi is perhaps the most respected person in Pakistan and is known to almost every family, observers said, adding that his statement had

shocked the country. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister

KARACHI, June 29: The Nawaz Sharif expressed outrage at the thefts and have vowed to do everything possible to restore order in Sind.

Provincial Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali Thursday went to Edhi's modest home in a southern slum district to "tender his personal apology,"

people dead and injured. saw in him an unforgettable love for mankind," the Chief Minister told reporters.

Edhi told Agence France-Presse that more than 4,000 hides were looted by terrorists. "I don't mind the loss of over the incidents, officials hides but I am really fed up with the humiliating treatment "I have known Edhi since metted out to my workers" 1976 when a building here who are sometimes aged peo-

collapsed leaving hundreds of ple, he said. 20 choked to death in French spa

BARBOTAN-LES THERMES up the bodies. They were as (France), June 29: Stranded in hot water and thick mud, 20 people choked to death on Thursday when deadly fumes turned a French spa where they were taking the waters into a gas chamber, reports

fumes that killed the victims mostly old and handicapped people - at Barbotan-Les-Thermes, 150 km (90 miles) south of Bordeaux, were set off when workmen accidentally said many of the dead were poured a cauldron of boiling tar on to a roof of the spa building they were repairing.

Rescue workers said the

through to the spa's ceiling. starting a fire that released the fumes into rooms where guests had been relaxing in water or mud pools. Barbotan-Les-Thermes Mayor Marc Dero told re-

The tar immediately leaked

black as oil, covered in a sticky substance." About 60 people were in the spa's rooms when the

fumes began to spread.

"Suddenly an employee came

running through shouting as us

to get out," said Lise Balrau,

who was taking the regenerative waters of the spa with her husband. But many of the victims were too old or too handicapped to flee. Rescue workers

found, still in their swimsuits,

in chairs they had been unable

Rescue chief Jacques Vinel

said the boiling tar had accidentally tipped over, pouring into air conditioning pipes and through gaps the tar was supposed to plug.

to leave or in pools.

The sprawling spa building, built four years ago and set in porters: "It all happened so rolling countryside, was seriquickly. I took part in cleaning ously damaged in the fire.