Weizsaecker shows solidarity with asylum-seekers

BOCIIUM (Germany), Oct 5: President Richard von Weizsaecker yesterday visited a hostel for asylum-seekers, making a show of solidarity in which he appealed to young right-wing Germans to cease their attacks on foreigners, reports AFP.

Chairman of Indian Express dead

NEW DELHI, Oct 5 : Ramnath Goenka, the son of a cloth merchant who went on to become the head of a powerful newspaper group and doyen of Indian journalism, died early today following prolonged filness, his family said.

Goenka, 87, Chairman of the Indian Express group of newspapers, died at 3:00 A.M. (2130 GMT Friday) at his penthouse in the western metropolts of Bombay, a family spokesman said .

He had been in and out of hospital after suffering two strokes in April 1989 and January 1991, and last moved back to his residence July 22.

Goenka developed congestion in the chest two days ago and complained of problems Friday evening. He woke up after midnight, and died shortly thereafter.

A former associate of mahatma Gandhi, Goenka became widely known after he pursued a relentless fight against then, who used tear-gas and water Prime Minister Indira Gandhi after she imposed a state of emergency in June 1975.

ternational regulations.

starting, the officials said.

llis visit came a day after neo-Nazis made more than a dozen arson attacks and assaults on asylum refuges in both parts of Germany on the first anniversary of German unification, leaving three per-

sons seriously wounded. Five more incidents were reported early yesterday, including an arson attack on a Polish barge on an eastern the east. German waterway at Ebcrswalde. Two Turkish

adults and three Turkish children were treated for smoke inhalation after a petrol-bomb attack on their hostel in the central town of Seese. Von Weizsaecker, in a onchour visit to a home with 146 asylum- seekers from 13 coun-

the opportunity of helping those weaker than ourselves. "Only when we accept that every man has his own worth

tries, said: Every day gives us

and value can we solve the problem, he said. More than 200,000 persons, mainly from Yugoslavia, Romania and Turkey, are ex-

pected to file for political asy-

lum in Germany this year. Meanwhile, Berlin police reported yesterday that 65 police were injured, five seriously, and 50 arrests were made during overnight rioting in the leftwing district of

Kreuzberg. The violence crupted after 10,000 demonstrated peacefully against far-right violence.

Police deployed 900 men. cannon against a hard core of about 500 anarchists, a spokesman said.

All-out Y'slav war on Croatia: 1,000 killed so far

BELGRADE, Oct 5: The Yugoslav army pounded Croatia by land, sea, and air and, together with Serbian leaders ordered a partial mobilisation to fill its ranks despite a European Community (EC)

peace accord, reports Reuter. Friday's attacks on the breakaway republic stretched from Dubrovnikon, the southern Adriatic coast to Osijek in the fertile Danubian plains in

The offensive could gain new impetus after Serbian leaders and the army ordered a partial mobilisation at a meeting of the Yugoslav presidency on Friday boycotted by non Serb members including President Stipe Mesic a Croat.

The order came shortly after leaders of Serbia, Croatia

and the Serb-led federal army agreed with the EC in the Hague to an immediate halt in hostilities and to talks that could lead to the recognition of republics that want inde pendence.

Croatia agreed to lift the blockade of federal army bases on its territory and the army said it would relocate and regroup its units in Croatia with the assistance of EC monitors.

Croatian President Franjo Tudkman said after returning to Zagreb that he was happy with the agreement and told a news conference it was a big step forward on the political

The participants have agreed to a consesire and we can expect it to take effect, he said. This is what I believed

from the very beginning. Even if the invader continue with his aggression Croatia will be free and independent.

But federal power was shattered in the country after the four pro-Serbian members staged a virtual coup by adopting special powers to take decisions for the eight-man presidency even if their four rivals, led by Croatia, did not appear.

The power grab by Serbia and Montengro earned a swift rebuke from the United States on Friday.

He warned that in such circumstances, the United States does not accept that this rump group legitimately speaks for Yugoslavia.

More than 1,000 people are reported to have been killed so

far in the fighting, which began in earnest after Croatia declared independence last June. Yugoslavia is now close to all out civil war.

The heaviest fighting on Friday was around Dubrovník where troops have overrun Cilipi airport and left the hiswric walled city without water electricity or telephone links.

Radio reports said that about 20 people were killed but no official death toll has been released for this week's fighting.

In eastern Croatia key cities such as Osijek, Vukovar and Vinkovci came under sierce bombardment from navy gunboats in random shellings that are a daily occurrence in the

Soviet Union to withdraw troops from Estonia

MOSCOW, Oct 5: The Soviet Union and Estonia on Friday reached an agreement in principal that Soviet troops will be withdrawn from the Baltic republic, Interfax news agency reported, says AFP.

The accord which was initialed by Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savissar and Soviet Desence Minister Yevgeny Shaposhnikov is the first of its kind to lay down the specifies of a military pullout from any of the three Baltic republics.

A timetable for the removal of Soviet troops is to be set at a later date but troops are to lcave Estonia soon, Savissar and Shaposhnikov agreed.

Assault troops could leave the republic within a month, and Estonian officials told the agency, adding that the withdrawal could be complete within 12 months.

Burmese junta returns Thai army plane

BANGKOK, Oct 5: Burmese military authorities returned a Thai army airplane which made an emergency landing in central Burma last weekend, state-run radio Rangoon said yesterday, reports AFP.

The radio, monitored here, said the Thai aircraft was officially returned to the Thai Ambassador in Rangoon by a senior Burmese air force commander on Thursday. The Rangoon junta said the

emergency landing was not suspicious and their quick decision to return the plane was sign of good relations between the two juntas, the radio said.

The official radio earlier reported that the That L-19 reconnaissance aircrast had landed on a highway near the central Burmese city of Pegu after it ran out of fuel.

The plane left Rangoon on Friday morning for home, the radio said.

Gen Hoar, Aziz hold talks on Gulf situation

RIYADH, Oct 5: The head of the United States Central Command, General Josep Hoar, held talks Thursday with Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister, Prince Sultan Ibn Abdel Aziz, on the situation in the Gulf, officials here said yesterday, reports BSS.

The two men also discussed means of bolstering military cooperation between the United States and Saudi Arabia, informed Saudi sources

Hoar's visit comes about 10 days after the deployment in the kingdom of anti-missile Patriot missile batteries following iraq's refusal to cooperate with United Nations weapons experts investigating the Baghdad government's nuclear and non-nuclear arms capabili-

Hoar replaced General Norman Schwarzkopf who led "Operation Desert Storm, During the Gulf war to oust Iraq from Kuwait.

Off the Record

Gorby earns \$5 lakh

NEW YORK: President Mikhail Gorbachev has sold his 74-page account of the failed August coup in the Soviet Union for a reported 500,000 dollars to the Harpercollins Publishing Company, the New York Times said on Friday, reports Reuter.

The translation of Gorbachev's manuscript is expected to be in stores before the end of October, Harpercollins said. A Harpercollins execu-

tive would not comment on what the Times called widespread industry reports on the size of Gorbachev's advance. It said its Chief

Executive Officer in Britain, Eddie Bell, brought

back the book after a recent visit to Moscow.

"In the book Gorbachev speaks frankly of his own mistakes and oversights, and of the differences and conflicts in the democratic movements, which the conspirators also sought to exploit," Harpercollins said.

One chapter deals with the three days Gorbachev and his family were held in isolation at their holiday villa in the

But many Soviet officials and leading cultural figures say they expect few revelations in the book and view it as Gorbachev's attempt to stamp hits interpretation on the events, the New York Times said.

Direct descendant of Columbus in Washington

WASHINGTON, Cristobal Colon, the 20th direct descendant of Christopher Columbus, is back in the New World for a visit that will include a hallowed native ritual, the Washington cocktail party, reports AP.

Colon, a Spanish naval officer and yachting enthusiast, landed this week to attend Columbus Day sestivities and help launch a year-long celebration of the 500th anniversary of his ancestor's arrival in America.

His commercial flight from Madrid took less than eight hours. It took Columbus 33 days to sail from Spain to America on the Santa Maria.

A trim, diffident man with an easy smile, Colon was celebrating his 42nd birthday Friday with the National Geographic Society, a meeting with the Daughters of the American Revolution and a cocktail reception at the Spanish Embassy.

Colon has visited America nearly a dozen times since 1972, when he first saw Los Angeles as a young midshipmen on a round-the-world cruise aboard the Spanish navy's sailing

He says he has a special feeling every time.

"Of course, I feel very proud when I visit America and think it's more or less the evolution what happened because of my ancestor," Colon said in an interview Thursday after a visit to FBI headquarters. The invited guests include a group of American Indians, who historically view Columbus with bitter resentment as a symbol of Spanish conquest.

Who's Madonna?

NEW YORK: So who's that girl Madonna? If you thought you knew everything, think again, reports

Two unauthorised biographies of the Material Girl came out this week. promising scandalous details of "her tragic child hood, her greatest fears and her string of lost loves," as one news release

The ducling bios, with some material that doesn't overlap, are creating com petition among publishers and confusion among readers.

Intrigued by a claim that Madonna cruised Manhattan's Lower East Side and picked up young

Latino men for flings in her limousine? Consult "Madonna Unauthorised", by Christopher Andersen. Want to read that she used to eat out of garbage cans and

lived in a roach-infested apartment? Pick up "Madonna Revealed," by Douglas Thompson. "She may be Our Lady of Perpetual Promotion, but she does

have her secrets," said Ben Petrone, a spokesman for Carol Publishing, which put out "Madonna Revealed."

Madonna's publicist Warner Bros in New York declined to comment about the books.

Poetic justice

SANTA ANA (California): It was poetic justice on Friday when a judge sentence a man - in verse - to life in prison, reports Reuter.

David Lee Schoenecker, 50, killed his wife after writing in verse what he planned to do to 54 people he believed had

wronged him. Sentencing a downcast Schoenecker for shooting his wife Gail while she slept in her bed, superior court judge Robert Fitzgerald recalled that Schoenecker had threatened in his

poem to: "Come in the night/ Come in the day / And kill each person in their own special way."

The judge's response: "You won't kill in the night/ You won't kill in the day/ All on your list, can go their merry way."

And Fitzgerald added: "You've killed your sweet wife who loved you so dear/ For that, you're being punished, let me make that fact clear/ The

sentence I've chosen to you might seem cold/ You'll pay and you'll pay while you grow old. "One day you will die/ A funeral your warden will hold / For

you will serve your entire natural life and not be paroled." Schoenecker had pleaded not gutlty to murdering his wife by reason of insanity, saying his vision of meting out justice to the 54 people on his list had controlled him so much that he

could not think rationally. knew him, and if such a trans

newspapers reported. Best-selling hoax in America paperback best seller list for

best-selling autobiography of a Cherokee orphan, the same auwas a gun-toting racist, and thor wrote these words for this book is a hoax. Alabama Gov George Wallace: "Segregation now! Segregation

Doug Carter, Asa's brother, told the Birmingham, Ala Post-Herald that Asa used a pen name because, "He was trying to separate the political writer from the creative novel writ-

Asa Carter was a leading advocate of segregation in Alabama in the 1950s. He formed a parliamentary unit of about 100 men known as the Original Ku Klua Klan of the Confederacy. He was arrested in 1957 in connection with a Klan shooting, but charges were dropped.

Carter also wrote speeches for Wallace, but later ran for governor of Alabama against him, saying Wallace had become too liberal.

"The Education of Little Tree" has sold about 500,000 paperback copies, and this year the American Booksellers Association voted it the book

Reports that Forrest Carter was Asa Carter are at least 15 years old. In 1976, The New York Times printed a story that quoted several people who knew Asa as saying he was Forrest.

charges, and Eleanor Friede, Carter's editor at Delacorte Press, stood by him. Several months later, Delacorte published "Little Tree." It did not sell well, and eventually went out of print. Forrest Carter died in 1979 in Abilene,

Texas, where he lived. In the mid-1980s, Friede sent the book to the University of New Mexico Press, which re-issued it after submitting it to two historians for review.

It received little advance readers spread the word. The book has been No 1 on the The New York Times' non- fiction

the past three weeks. The book purports to be

Carter's memoir of his days as the orphan Little Tree, who went to live with his Cherokce grandparents in Tennessee in the 1930s and learned to love the mountains and Indian

"I think the book has strong literary values, and my guess is there's quite a bit of truth in it," she said. "I don't know it's fiction. I don't know what it

"I do not know his past per-

formation of Carter did occur. it would be a miracle." Carter's widow, India, could

not be reached for comment, Friede said Mrs Carter "doesn't feel comfortable using the telephone," but had faxed her a message saying she would not respond to "these diabolical charges."

Professor Carter, who said he may be cousin of Asa Carter, plans to present evidence that Forrest was Asa in an upcoming book on article.

"Carter created a fictitious life for himself and lived it," Clayton said. "In years here, he became Little Tree, I think he just turned his back on his earlier life."

Russia, Latvia establish ties: The Russian federation and the newly-independent Baltic state of transfer power soon Latvia established diplomatic relations Friday at the ambassador level, the official Tass news agency reported, says AFP from Moscow. Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozirev and his Latvian counterpart Yannis Jurgens signed a protocol in Moscow to establish ties and the two countries said they would develop

The report did not say when the two republics would exchange ambassadors. No date set for ME talks: President George Bush said on Friday that no date had been set for a Middle East peace conference and diplomatic efforts in the

ties on the basis of United Nations principles and other in

next few weeks would determine if one could be held this month, reports Reuter from Washington. Bush was asked at a White House news conference about a report from Paris indicating that the long-awaited conference, to be sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union, could take place at the end of the month in Europe.

"No dates have been set and a lot depends on what happens in the next couple of weeks as to whether such a conference will take place" this month, Bush told reporters during the wide-ranging news conference at the White House.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas was quoted as say-

ing he believed the conference could take place at the end of the firm than where we are right now." Anti-smoking drive in US: The US government on Friday launched its biggest anti-smoking programme a seven-year effort with a goal of saving 1.2

million Americans from early tobacco-related deaths, reports Reuter from Washington. Tobacco use is now responsible for more than one of every five deaths in the United States and is the single most preventable cause of death and disease in our society, Dr Louis Sullivan, Secretary of Health and Human services told a news

conference. The programme is aimed at 91 million Americans including nearly 18 million smokers through community based tobacco, control programmes officials said.

Its goal is to help about 4.5 million adult smokers stop

smoking and prevent another two million young people from

France, Belgium withdraw troops from Zaire: France and Belgium announced the withdrawal of about 300 soldiers from Zaire on Friday, and officials said the remaining troops would not be used to prop up President Mobutu Sese Seko, reports AP from Kinshasa.

The withdrawal of 140 Belgian paratroopers and 150 French troops will leave nearly 1,100 Western soldiers in this sprawling central African country. Most of the soldiers are in

Kinshasa, the capital. Opposition leaders have urged France and Belgium to keep their forces in Zaire until Mobutu relinquishes power. In Paris, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said there

was "no possibility" that French troops would "provide a guar-Meanwhile, Mobutu's wife left the family villa near Nice on the French Riviera after a four-day visit. Informed sources

said she was returning to Zaire. Malaysia to launch satellite: Malaysia will launch its first communications satellite worth 120 million dollars by 1995 to keep up with developments in telecommunications, a minister said, reports Reuter from

Kuala Lumpur. "It is time for us to have our very own satellite. We cannot depend on others, local newspapers Saturday quoted

Telecommunications Minister S Samy Vellu as saying. For security and other reasons, it is better for us to have Two private firms have offered to undertake the project.

Malaysia is now paying 45 million ringgit (16.6 million Dollars) a year to rent Indonesia's Palapa and Hong Kong's Asiasat satellites, officials said. The satellite can be launched from three places.... the

United States, China and another country which I will not

mention, Samy said. Nine killed in Ranchi bus mishap: A total of nine persons were killed and 40 others injured as a bus travelling from Gaya to neighbouring West Bengal plunged into a 200-feet deep readside ditch in Charahi valley, near

Hazaribagh Friday, reports PTI from Ranchi.

said that the incident took place about 98 km from Ranchi when the driver lost control due to overloading. While seven passengers died on-the-spot, two others suc-

Official reports reaching the divisional headquarters here

cumbed to their injuries on their way to Hazaribagh Sadar Hospital.

The injured were admitted to nearby hospitals where the telephone interview from condition of 12 persons was stated to be serious.

PERM (Soviet Union): Lithuanian Foreign Minister (L) Yanis Jurces signs with his Russian counterpart Andrei Kozyrew the documents regarding the opening of diplomatic relations between Lithuania and Russia, in the former offices of the central committee of the Soviet Communist Party. - AFP/UNB photo Burmese junta won't

YORK (United Nations), Oct 5: Burmese Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw Friday desended his military regime's timetable for transferring power to elected civil-

He told the UN General

Assembly that in accordance

with Burma's election law,

ians, reports AFP.

some candidates had contrasted the results of the May 1990 polls. The military regime in Rangoon has refused to hand over power to elected representatives in the wake of the 1990 elections which the opposition National League for

Democracy (NLD) won by a landslide. Outlining the military regime's post-election programme Ohn Gyaw said once the election commission had submitted its final report, the military regime would meet

tives to discuss the holding of a national convention. The role of the convention

will be to draw up a new con-He said that once this political process was completed, the military regime "will transfer the reins of the state to a strong and stable government

formed in accordance with the new constitution". Thursday Burmese dissident appealed to the United Nations to impose economic o military sanctions against what they called the illegal "military

regime in Rangoon. Sein Win, Premier of the ri-Taiwan launches

missile frigate TAfPEI, Oct 5': Taiwan launched its first locally-built missile frigate today as part of

Rangoon delegation sitting in Burma's UN scat. In his speech, Ohn Gyaw said that while human rights norms had "an internationally binding character", "maximum

val provisional National

Coalition Government of the

Union Burma (NCGUB), chal-

lenged the legitimacy of the

caution needs to be exercised lest the defence of human rights becomes a platform for encroaching on the essential domestic jurisdiction of states and eroding their sovereignty. lle also highlighted his country's narcotics control ef-

neighbouring countries such as Thailand, China and Laos. He said that between 1975 and 1990, "over 200,000 acres (80,000 hectares) of poppy fields, with the potential annual yield of 940 tonnes of

forts and its cooperation with

efforts to modernise its navy, opium, were destroyed" in

with the elected representareports Reuter. Iranian staff accused of complicity with Shi'ites in Fazle Hag's murder

he was co-author of the Afghan

Jihan (Holy War) against the

pro-Moscow | regime in

PESHAWAR (Pakistan), Oct 5: The son of assassinated former Governor Fazle Haq has lodged a formal complaint with police accusing staff at the Iranian consulate here of complicity with local Shi'ites in the

murder, reports AFP. Pakistani police have already stepped up security around the consulate ahead of the general's funeral here late yesterday.

ered outside Haq's residence and the graveyard where he was to be buried. The mourners included many Afghan refugees who considered him a champion of their cause. Lieutenant-General Haq, 63, who served as Governor of the North West Frontier Province

Thousands of people gath-

for a record seven years until 1985, was shot dead Thursday by unknown assatlants in Peshawar's defence colony dis-Haq, who provided shelter

in his province to more than

two million Afghans, claimed

fore he wrote "the Education

of Little Tree," the sensitive,

tomorrow! Segregation for-

was really Asa "Ace" Carter, an

ardent white segregationist.

according to Carter's brother,

his friends, and historians who

have checked into his back-

this guy really was," Professor

Dan T Carter of Emory

University said Friday in a

Atlanta. "The New Age guru

There's no question who

Forrest Carter, the author,

ever!" reports AP.

NEW YORK, Oct 5: Years be-

reports AFP.

Afghantstan. He had an Afghan bodyguard officials at the consulate late who was scriously wounded Thursday, press reports said. along with his chauffeur in the ambush. The snipers, armed

Sonia urged to contest from

Amethi NEW DELIII, Oct 5 : A state chapter of India's ruling Congress (I) Party has demanded that the widow of Rajiv Gandhi contest the parliament seat of her slain husband, newspapers said today,

The Uttar Pradesh party

chapter passed a one-line

resolution to this effect at a

close-door meeting here

Thursday, urging Sonia Gandhi

to fight from Amethi, the

indian Express and other

with automatic weapons escaped in a car. Dr Adnan Khan, the voungest of his three sons, lodged his complaint against

Iranian Ambassador Javad Mansuri immediately denied any Iranian involvement in the killing which investigators said was the act of well-trained ter-

waves across Pakistan, and police were put on alert to guard Shi'ite centres and mosques. The Tehreek Nifaz Figahe Jaferia (TNFJ), political party

of the Sajid Naqvi minority

Shi'ite sect, which blamed Haq

for the 1988 murder of its

leader Arif Hussain Al-Husaini,

also denied any involvement.

The murder sent shock

Police have not ruled out the possibility that Haq's murder was linked to a sectarian vendetta or family feud.

they most enjoyed selling.

But Forrest denied the

publicity, but enthusiastic

sonal history," she admitted. "I can only speak for the time I