Afghan prayer for SAARC membership rejected

COLOMBO, Nov 5: The foreign secretaries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) meeting here, on the eve of the sixth summit, have decided not to take up Afghanistan's application for membership due to differences of opinion, the Daily Observer reported yes-

terday, reports Xinhua. The paper, quoting 'informed sources," said that as SAARC decisions are based on unanimity, it has been decided to leave the matter for the leaders to have informal

discussions during their re-

However, it is unlikely that they will take a decision this year as India and Pakistan will have to agree on the issue, the

The leaders of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives. Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka will hold the sixth SAARC summit here from November 7

They are expected to have retreat on November 8 in Kandy, capital of the central province of the island country.

Asylum-seekers flee East German city

BERLIN, Nov 5: Scores of asylum-seeking foreigners were escorted back to a church in western Germany on Monday after about 200 hooligans attacked their refuge in the east, authorities said, reports AP.

Police said 35 people were injured in several Sunday night clashes that started after a soccer match in the Baltic Sea town of Greifswald between a local club an a Berlin team.

About 200 hooligans from Berlin attacked local spectators and then went on a rampage at a former military hospital now used to house foreigners seeking asylum in Greifswald, police said.

The hooligans, who are usu-

ally extreme rightists, threw stones and firebombs at the building, smashing windows and trying unsuccessfully to break down doors, before police managed to stop the as-

The attack was the most serious recent incident of violence directed at foreigners, many of whom are from Africa or Third World countries.

Before dawn Monday, the asylum-seekers decided to return to Neumuenster in a bizarre caravan organised by ultra-leftists known as "Autonomen" who have carried out several attacks on rightists recently.



Sharif to join summit tomorrow: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is to leave Pakistan for Sri Lanka

on Thursday for the seven-nation South Asian summit, officials here said, reports AFP from Islamabad.

The three-day meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in Colombo, from Thursday, will be the sixth annual gathering of leaders from Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Sharif is likely to hold separate talks with his Indian

counterpart, Narasimha Rao, on bilateral matters, officials

The two leaders met in Harare during the Commonwealth heads of state meeting in a bid to ease tensions resulting from their dispute over Kashmir.

The Colombo meeting is scheduled to discuss ways and means of promoting trade among member countries.

SAARC's contacts with other international organisations such as the United Nations and the association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will also be raised, sources said.

Pakistan is likely to raise Sharif's June 6 proposal for making South Asia a nuclear-free zone, they said.

Gunmen kill 16 in Lima: seven hooded gunmen with silencer equipped weapons shot dead 16 people and wounded four others at a party in a poor barries in Lima in the bloodiest attack in the capital in a decade of political violence, officials said on Monday, reports Reuter from Lima.

Sources in the prosecutor's office said the killings occurred just 25 metres from a police station and may have been committed by a paramilitary group. They said the victims may have been members of a suspected Maoist Shining Path guerflla cell.

Police said the gunmen entered a house in the barrios Altos district, close to the presidential place, late on Sunday and shot their victims escaping in two vehicles stolen from the Foreign Ministry and the President's office.

The killings came four days after members of an organisation of American states Human Rights Commission expressed concern over the alleged impunity with which Peru's-security forces deal with anti-government guerillas.

Haiti's students boycott schools: Most of Haiti's students boycotted the reopening of schools on Monday to protest against the overthrow of President Jean Bertrand Aristide, reports Reuter from Haiti.

Students turned up at a few church run private schools, but most other schools in the capital seemed deserted except for two or three sleepy soldiers guarding the entrance.

The army would fire on us if we demonstrated in the streets so this is our way to show that we want Aristide back, said Marjorie, 19, a final year high school student, who was hiding inside her home.

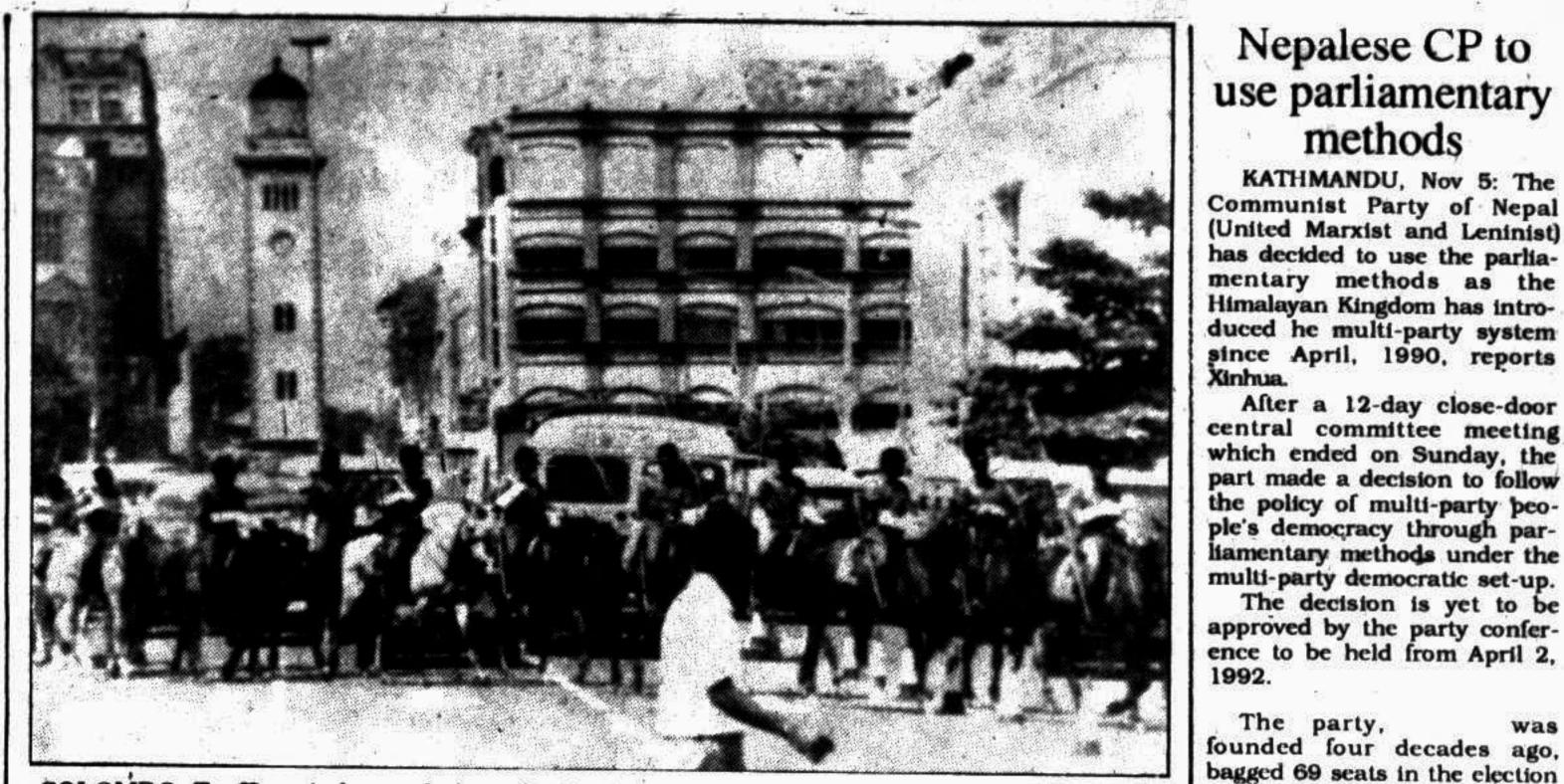
As week-long government campaign to get parents and students to take part in Monday's return to school delayed a month by the September 30 ouster of Aristide, ended late on Sunday with an appeal from Prime Minister Jean Jacques Honorat.

Soviet Navy to open new base: The Soviet navy is to open a new Black Sea base at Krasnodar, in the south of the Russian Federation, to compensate for the possible loss of its base at Sebastopol, in the Crimea, Tass reported Monday, says AFP from Moscow.

The Sebastopol base is to pass under Ukrainian jurisdic-

The loss of the Sebastopol base, where the Belbek military base is also located, would "weaken the southern frontiers of Russia," Tass said.

The Crimea is an autonomous republic within the Ukraine.



COLOMBO: Traffic grinds to a halt as Sri Lankan mounted police perform a routine patrol in preparation for the upcoming SAARC meet to take place on November 7. -AFP/UNB photo

Y'slav Army Commander killed in fierce fighting with Croats

BELGRADE, Nov 5 : The Yugoslav army commander in northern Serbia, General Mladen Bratic, one of the planners of the federal siege of the Croatian city of Vukovar, was killed in action on Monday, the Defence Ministry announced, reports AFP.

Bratic, 58, who was with a tank unit, was killed in a bombardment by Croatian forces, a Defence Ministry statement said. He was the highest-ranking federal army officer to be killed in more than four months of fighting in Croatia.

Bratic was shown at the front outside Vukovar in a Belgrade television report on Sunday with the armed forces chief, General Blagoje Adzic.

WELLINGTON, Nov 5 : The

New Zealand government said

on Tuesday it aimed to attract

25,000 immigrants a year

with a new points system tar-

geted at highly qualified peo-

ple under 35 years old, re-

Birch unveiled two categories-

general and business invest-

ment-under which immigrants

could settle in New Zealand,

which has less what 3.5 mil-

The New system takes ef-

US assistance

to Ukraine

discussed

Assistant Secretary of Defence

Donald Atwood held talks in

Kiev Monday on possible

American assistance in helping

the Ukraine convert military

production lines to civilian

output, Tass news agency re-

Defence Minister Viktor Mor-

ozov and with Defence Indus-

try Minister Viktor Antonov,

He talked with Ukranian

ported, says AFP.

Tass said.

MOSCOW, Nov 5: US

Immigration Minister Bill

ports Reuter.

lion people.

Another report adds : The Yugoslav Air Force carried out 65 missions against Croatian targets Monday as the Serbian dominated armed forces stepped up their offensive on the eve of a critical peace conference meeting in The Hague.

European Community (EC) sponsors of the conference and Serbia appeared to be headed on a collision course as a top Serbian party leader ruled out acceptance of a peace plan for resolving the four month bloody conflict.

Yugoslavia's largest republic cannot accept the new version

of The Hague documents, ruling reformed Communist Socialist Party Vice President

New Zealand to admit 25,000

immigrants annually

Applicants in the general

category would receive points

based on education, age, work

experience and financial

The top scorers would be

Birch said the general cat-

PARIS, Nov 5 : Accusations

that health authorities

Knowingly gave blood contam-

inated with the AIDS virus to

hamophiliacs is fueling an

emotional scandal that has

rocked at the top political

echelons of France, reports AP.

have been charged with failing

to alert recipients in 1984 and

1985 that the blood they re-

ceived may have been contam-

Two senior medical officials

picked to meet a specific

number of approvals in a set

egory points system was the

"key instrument" for attract-

ing young and skilled people.

fect in two weeks.

backing.

period.

Mihaljo Markovic said quoted by the official Tanjug news

Serbs in Croatia could not be part of a "sovereign Croatian state" as Zagreb was "guilty of genocide," he said.

in Brussels EC Foreign Ministers agreed on a list of sanctions to be imposed on Serbia if it refused to accept the plan, which calls for a loose association of republics with a special status for minorities.

British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd said the ministers would decide Friday whether to implement the sanctions if no progress was made at today's plenary ses-

vestment policy, applicants

would have to show that their

investment funds came from

their own business or profes-

sional record for at least three

years. Minimum investment

required was 500,000 dollars

(280,000 US dollars), but this

was subject to investment in-

There was no age limit in

the business category, and the

residence permit could be re-

voked if the money was with-

inated with acquired immune

deficiency syndrome. Two

others, including one charged

Monday, have been charged

with failing to stop the transfu-

they are being unfairly perse-

cuted. They blame politicians

who failed to take measures to

assure that only non-contami-

nated blood was used in trans-

The medical officials assert

Under the business in- drawn in less than two years.

AIDS scandal rocks top

political circles in France

The ministers would also consider ways to compensate Yugoslav republics which accepted the EC plan for the hardship they would suffer from the sanctions.

Nepalese CP to

use parliamentary

methods

KATHMANDU, Nov 5: The

After a 12-day close-door

liamentary methods under the

party,

of the 205-member house of

representative last May to be-

come the largest opposition

The decision is yet to be

German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher said the sanctions were long overdue and would be applied even if Serbia accepted the agreement if at the same time the fighting in Croatia had not stopped by Friday.

In Belgrade, the Serbiandominated federal presidency announced it would attend Tuesday's conference.

On Friday, the presidency which boycotted the last meeting in the Hague on October 25, had said the autonomous status offered under the EC plan for Serbs in Croatia was fundamentally acceptable although the guarantees offered were absolutely unsatisfactory.

In fighting that left at least 12 Croats dead, the federal army mounted its final offensive on the eastern Croatian city of Vukovar, while attacks were also launched against the historic city of Dubrovnik and numerous other targets across the breakaway republic.

The ruling Serbian Socialist Party on Monday rejected the European-community peace plan to resolve the Yugoslav crisis, the official Tanjug news agency said.

40 mutilated bodies of Iraqi soldiers found

NICOSIA, Nov 5: Iraq has found the mutilated bodies of more than 40 of its soldiers buried alive by US forces in the Gulf war, Baghdad Radio said on Monday, reports Reuter.

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said authorities in southern Iraq had found a mass grave on the side of the Nassiriyah-Basra highway, 50 km (30 miles) south of the town of Nassiriya.

The grave contains bodies of more than 40 martyrs, most of them completely mutilated, and others whose corpses were torn apart", the radio

An Iraqi news agency correspondent who visited the site said the bodies were subjected to "the ugliest forms of inhumane crimes", the radio

The US Defence Department said in September many Iraqi troops were buried alive in trenches by US tanks fitted with ploughblades in a key assault in the final days of the

Neither Iraq nor the United States has provided any official estimate of Iraqi deaths during the six-week war.

hero's welcome in a nation the

Marcoscs are accused of plun-

iammed roads, waved flags

chanted "Imelda, we love you"

and detonated firecrackers as

they turned out in the thou-

sands to cheer the woman they

Near-hysterical Filipinos

dering.

Off the Record

Reagan reclaimed
SIMI VALLEY (California): President George Bush and four of his predecessors got together for a historic gathering Monday to inaugurate former President Ronald Reagan's Presidential Library, reports AFP.

The library-museum northwest of Los Angeles already contains 47 million documents and the archive could grow to 55 million part of the permanent exhibit is dedicated to Reagan's youth and his Hollywood

One exhibit contains a larger-than-life size exhibit of the White House Oval office hundreds of videos and photos show the highlight of his administration, such as summit meetings and the low points especially the 1981 attempt against his



life by a deranged gunmen. Amidst thousands of Hollywood dignitaries Bush and his predecessors, Richard Nixon (1969-1974), Gerals Ford (1974-1977), and Jimmy Carter (1977-1981) took turns praising Reagan, who was first elected in 1980 and won reelection in 1984.

Thanks in great part to the strong idealistic leadership of President Ronald Reagan (Soviet ruler Nikita) Khrushchev's grandchildren now live in freedom, said Nixon, despite a hoarse voice.

Ford seconded the praise saying that Reagan was able to articulate the highest hopes and deepest beliefs of the American people.

Jimmy Carter, the only Democrat in the group added, under President Ronald Reagan, our nation stood strong and

Jackson's altered looks under fire

NEW YORK: Jermaine Jackson wrote a song attacking his brother Michel Jackson for altering his looks then softened the lyrics for a new album. The first version is airing, however, on New York and Los Angeles radio stations, reports AP.

The original version of "Word to the Badd" was never officially released but it began playing last week on WQHT-FM in New York and its companion station KPWR-FM in Los Angeles.

The timing seems apropos: Michael Jackson's new single Black and White" from his upcoming "Dangerous" album also was apparently leaked to radio stations last weekend.

It comes on the heels of sister LaToya's poison pen book about the Jackson family, in which she accuses her father of sexual abuse.

Michael Jackson's song is about the irrelevance of skin color. Jermaine Jackson's tune accuses his superstar sibling of being ashamed of being black.

The softer version of Jermaine Jackson's song appears on his new album, "You Said," produced by LaFace and distributed by Arista records.



ROME: An Italian policeman presents the paper knife used in the attack against the former King Zahir Shah of Afghanistan. The King was not mortally wounded in the -AFP/UNB photo attack.

The day a prince sported a frock on the high seas

LONDON: King Edward VIII's youthful frolies in a frock with officers of HMS Repulse have come to light in photographs to be sold at Christie's, south Kensington, this

They show the king with wig and women's shoes in a shipboard one-act farce entitle A Bathroom Door staged as a private entertainment during his tour of West Africa and South America in 1925. The king, then Prince of Wales, played a young woman and four officers from the ship's company took sup-porting roles, with George Ward-Price, a journalist from the Daily Mail, who accompanied the royal party. The trip was immen-sely successful.

Repulse sailed down the west coast of Africa stopping at various colonies en route, arriving in Cape Town in April. The prince then toured South Africa and sailed on to Argentina before returning home in October. The prince visited 45 countries and travelled 150,000 miles on what was described as his last official overseas tour.

The photographs, which have the air of informal snaps taken when Edward was "off duty", are being sold with a programme autographed by the actors printed on stationery bearing the Prince of Wales feathers. The king signs as "Edward P".

They come from woman in Essex whose family has owned them for many years. They are expected to make up to £400 at auction on November 15.

There is a growing market in royal memorabilia, at present much bigger outside the saleroom then inside. Beatrice Boyle of Christie's said: "Collectors will love these pictures because they are so unusual."

Bao Bao to meet

BERLIN: Bao Bao, Germany's only male panda, will soon be off on a two-year honeymoon in Britain to mate with Whipsnde Park Zoo's Ming Ming, reports Reuter.

The mates of both pandas died recently, west Berlin Zoo Director Hans Fraedrich said, adding that the first panda born of the union would belong to Berlin.

UN chief upset by Burma's blocking of visit to Suu Kyi

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 5: UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Monday criticised the Burmese military junta for refusing to allow a UN envoy to visit opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, reports AP.

Mrs. Suu Kyi, 46, winner of

Norway, said Friday.

Burma's military government recently blocked an attempt by a UN Human Rights

Perez de Cuellar said he was Rumours circulated over "decply disappointed and disturbed" by the Burmese govthe weekend that she was seriously ill, but the Burmese Foreign Ministry called them

the UN envoy's visit.

erriment's action. His statement was issued by his spokesman, Francois Giuliani. Only a few weeks ago

Burmese diplomat U Mya Than had told a General Assembly committee dealing with human rights issues that Burma's government would cooperate with

towns in Ilocos Norte before

returning to Manila later today

a sentimental visit to her home

province on Leyte island where

she was born in poverty before

rising to become one of the

Norte, Marcos will visit the

In Batac town in Ilocos

world's richest women.

On Wednesday, she will pay

the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, has been on a hunger strike to Commission investigator, protest conditions of her Japanese professor Yozo house arrest, the Nobel Yokota, to see Mrs. Suu Kyl, awards committee in Oslo. UN officials said Monday. Imelda building power base in Philippines

MOSCOW, Nov 5: Afghan base after a triumphal return from extle in the United States, reports Reuter.

comes ahead of a visit to 3-1/2 years.

Imelda Marcos, 62-year-old widow of the late president tumultuous welcome in Manila on Monday upon her return from nearly six years of extle in the United States to face trial on tax evasion and corruption

Her visit to flocos Norte. her husband's home province

400 km (250 miles) north of the capital, is expected to boost her bid for leadership of the political opposition six months ahead of the Philippine presidential elec-

them into exile.

Aguino has said she will not seek a second term.

Marcos denied she had any political agenda, but asked if she would be a political kingmaker, she told reporters : When the people speak,

> politics, analysts said. Marcos will barnstorm six

family home where the chemically-preserved corpsc of Dona Josefa Marcos, her husband's mother, lies in an air-conditioned crypt The family has refused to

Mantia for a homeland funeral. The former dictator's body lines in a refrigerated crypt in

Hawati where he died in 1989. Imelda Marcos sang, wept and talked her way back into the hearts of many Filipinos on

once-and-not so long agoloved to hate. My god , my god," ex claimed an awestruck and tearful Marcos, driving past

the screaming supporters in

her bullet-proof, black van and

blowing kisses at them. She has dismissed as political harassment the 70 counts of tax evasion and corruption which the government has filed against her. Officials have said they will wait for 48 hours before serving an arrest war-

If convicted, Marcos faces more than 100 years impris-

Najibullah calls for ceasefire

President Najibullah has called for a ceasefire in Afghanistan, urging in an interview published yesterday in Pravda that weapons should be laid down prior to organising general elections under United Nations supervision, reports The ceasefire proposal

Moscow on Wednesday by a delegation of Afghan Mujahideen, according to reliable Soviet sources. The visit was originally due Sunday but was postponed. Weapons should be laid down because on our side we

the Afghan problem, Najibullah "It is necessary above all that all sides ceasefire and then hold general elections under UN supervision."

are not putting up any obsta-

cles to a political settlement to

MANILA, Nov 5 : Imelda Marcos flew today to her famfly's political stronghold in the northern Philippines in a campaign to rebuild her power

in a region where Marcos opponents traditionally scored zeros in elections, the once powerful former First Lady will also pay her respects to the remains of her mother-in-law. which have lain unburted in the Marcos ancestral home for

Ferdinand Marcos, received a charges.

Manila newspapers have

billed Marcos as a possible candidate in next May's election to choose the successor to President Corazon Aquino, the widow who ousted the Marcoses from power in a 1986 popular revolt and drove

Imelda listens. The surging crowds of thousands that welcomed the exile's return on Monday suggested she still had the drawing power that could make her a major player in Phlippine

bury the old woman, who died in 1988 aged 95, until Aquino allows the remains of Ferdinand Marcos to be brought to

Monday when she received a

Ming Ming in UK