#### France keen to sign N-accord with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Jan 29 : Paris is keen on signing a nuclear cooperation agreement with Pakistan for civilian purposes. according to a local press report today, says Xinhua.

The local newspaper The Frontier Post' today quoted a western diplomatic source here as saying the civilian purposes could include spheres of health, medical research, food, agriculture and industry besides other civilian areas.

The source said that such an agreement would prove greatly beneficial to Pakistan. rejecting the view that it would be a 'poor' substitute for the French refusal to honour its commitment of supplying a 900 megawatt nuclear power plant to Pakistan.

French President Francois Mitterrand made the pledge to sell the plant to Pakistan without preconditions during his visit to the country in 1990. Now France has applied the condition that the sale of the plant would be subject to the fulfillment by Pakistan of fullscale safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

#### Turkmenistan sets up own Defence Ministry

MOSCOW, Jan 29: The central Asian republic of Turkmenistan has set up its own Defence Minister, Tass news agency reported on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Turkmen President Sapurmurat Niyazov announced the measure yesterday evening and named as minister a former senior KGB officials Danatar Kopekov.

The ministry will responsible for Interior Ministry troops, the national guard and civil defence. The Ministry will also serve

as a link between former Soviet forces in the republic and the Chiefs of Staff of the Commonwealth Independent States who are responsible for the commonwealth's arms forces.

Turkmenistan is one of the 11 former Soviet republics in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

#### 9 killed in Kashmir violence

SRINAGAR, Jan 29: Nine people were killed and 11 injured in separatist violence in Kashmir, where mysterious fire outbreaks gutted 13 shops, two houses and a shrine. police and news reports said Tuesday, reports AFP.

Paramilitary troopers Tuesday shot dead four suspected militants in a gun battle in the crowded Wanpora district of Srinagar, the state's summer capital and urban hub of the Muslim separatist campaign, police sources here

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

after an argument with two Asians.

tance," it said in a statement.

reports from Washington.

progress in southeast Asia.

normalising ties.

Jarusalem.

Gold told Reuters.

### Yeltsin calls for liquidation of N-arms

# Bush proposes dramatic cuts in long-range N-missiles

WASHINGTON, Jan 29 President George Bush on Tuesday proposed dramatic new cuts in long-range nuclear missiles and said the United States would slash production of B-2 Stealth bombers to only 20 as part of 50 billion dollar in new defence cuts by 1997. reports Reuter.

If Commonwealth states in the former Soviet Union agree to eliminate all of their land based multi-warhead nuclear

missiles. Bush said, the United States will do the same and will also cut its submarine based warheads by one-third.

The proposal, announced in his State of the Union speech to Congress, could eliminate some 2.000 US warheads and about 5.000 Commonwealth warheads on long-range missiles capable of each targeting several cities at once

Bush said the collapse of the former Soviet Union also

Aboard the 'RUSSIA', off Novorossiysk: Russian President B Yeltsin talks with CIS-Army

commander Evgeni Shaposhnikov(R) and Black Sea Fleet commander Igor Kasatonov about

influence at all on us, but it has

only been small," he told a

Switzerland on the second leg

of an international tour, said

Soviet rulers made the mistake

of concentrating on the arms

race while China worked to

Italian demands for China to

release 11 Roman Catholic

bishops and a number of dissi-

dents, but said: "The principle

of non-interference is of pri-

Andreotti, who visited China

last September, handed Li a

Prime Minister Giulio

Li made no reference to

Li. who later left for

news conference.

develop its economy.

mary importance.

Li Peng won't bow to foreign

pressures over human rights

the future of the Black Sea Fleet, during an unexpected visit.

ROME. Jan 29: Chinese

Prime Minister Li Peng, mak-

ing clear he has no intention of

bowing to foreign pressures

over human rights, on Tuesday

singled out non-interference

as the key principle in interna-

visit, he told reporters he was

delighted by the "warm and

enthusiastic welcome" he was

given in Italy, the first Western

"I can't say that (the Soviet

forms had worked.

Ignoring protests over his

relations, reports

was allowing him to cut production by Northrop Corp of the Controversial, radar avoiding B-2 to only 20 bombers form 75 that the united States air force had earlier requested.

His detailed defence plan for the fiscal years 1993 through 1997 will go to Congress on Wednesday.

But they lawmakers are already pressing for defence cuts much deeper than the 50 billion dollar sought by the

president. With billions spent on research, development and construction of the first three-B-28, the cost of 20 bombers would become more than two billion dollar each, making it

the most expensive weapons

programme ever. Bush also announced plans on Tuesday night to terminate development of the so called midgetman' single warhead intercontinental missile and halt purchases of a new advanced cruise missile at 640

He said he would discuss the multi-warhead nuclear cuts with Russia's President Boris Yeltsin at his Camp David, Maryland, retreat on Saturday and that he was optimistic of the outcome.

instead of 1,000

Bush offered to serap all the Mxs, each capable of carrying 10 warheads, and to cut the three-warhead minuteman missiles to only one warhead each if agreement is reached with the Common wealth. That would eliminate 1.500 of the 2.000 US land-based warheads.

He also offered to reduce the estimated 3,400 submarine-based US nuclear war heads by about one-third.

In return, Bush asked the Commonwealth republics to get rid of their big SS-18s. SS 24s, SS-19s and other landbased, multi-warhead missiles. The defence department says they carry a total of more than 5,000 warheads.

The Bush proposal would apparently not affect about 300

be "immoral to talk to the

Chinese only about business

without raising the issue of

well run and is extremely im-

portant for Italy." Sergio

Pinafarina. President of the

Employers Federation Con-

findustria, said after meeting

Li. We want to pursue both

political and economic links

of the giant state holding com-

pany lri, the state energy

of the car giant Plat, the agro-

industrial group Ferruzzi and

group Eni and representatives

Li also met the presidents

with China."

tyre-maker Pirelli.

"China's economy is very

freedom and human rights."

mobile, single-warhead \$8-25 missiles in the former Soviet

The deep weapons cuts are part of the Pentagon's plan to slash the defence budget by eliminating or reducing arms programmes instead of making additional cuts in troops beyond previous plans to reduce the two million-member armed forces by 400,000 by the end by 1995.

Bush made no mention in his speech of the US navy's seawolf attack submarine programme, but administration officials said earlier that the white house planned to cut back or scrap that programme. It was originally designed to build some 30 boats at a cost of one billion dollar each.

The first seawolf is under construction at general dynamics corp electric boat division in Groton, Connecticut.

AFP from Moscow adds Russian President Boris Yeltsin Wednesday called for the worldwide " Liquidation' of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction". responding to arms control proposals outlined by US President George Bush.

He also said Russia will comply with all disarmament agreements concluded by the former Soviet Union.

Yeltsin had earlier told journalists he was satisfied with proposals for further nuclear disarmament put forward by Bush in his State of the Union Address on Tuesday.

Rafsanjani wants

to improve ties

with neighbours

NICOSIA, Jan 29: Iranian

President Hashemi Rafsanjani

said Tuesday Iran was ready to

do all it could to assist Muslim

countries, and called for im-

proving relations with his

neighbours, the official Islamic

Republic News Agency re-

meeting with his foreign min-

ister. Ali Akbar Velayati, and

Iranian ambassadors in Tehran

Iran, employing all her poten-

tials, is ready to assist Muslim

countries specially those in the

region," IRNA quoted him say-

countries are constantly at-

tempting to hinder the pro-

cess of expansion of relations

between Iran and the Persian

Arab Gulf states over their

support for Iraq in the 1980-

88 Iran-Iraq war. Tehran's re-

lations with these countries

FIS chief

spokesman

arrested

ALGIERS, Jan 29: Algerian

security forces, increasing

pressure on the Islamic

Salvation Front (FIS) have ar-

rested another top leader of

the fundamentalist party that

was poised to win parliamen-

tary power tow weeks ago, re-

FIS sources said Rabah

Kebir, who was effectively the

party's chief spokesman after

the arrest of provisional leader

Abdelkader Hachani last week,

was seized at FIS headquarters

in central Algiers on Tuesday

Kebir was working at FIS

headquarters despite warnings

ports Reuter.

began improving last year.

After years of conflict with

Gulf states," he said.

"Global enemies of Muslim

for consultations, IRNA said.

Rafsanjani spoke during a

The Islamic Republic of

ported, reports AP.

# Off the Record

#### Affluent boredom

BONN: Germans have so much free time on their hands they don't know what to do with it, says Reuter. A survey released on Tuesday said 33 per cent of West

Germans, living in one of the world's most affluent societies, admitted to being bored at least once in the last four weeks. In former East Germany, where economic hardship offsets leisure time, only 20 per cent complained of being bored in the last month, the Authoritative Wickert Institute survey

A staggering 26 per cent of West Germans and 21 per cent of their compatriots in the east said they had too much free

#### Dewi Sukarno denies champagne glass assault charge

ASPEN. Colorado: Dewt Sukarno, wtdow of Indonesta's first president said on Tuesday she will file a countersuit against a New York socialits who alleges that Sukarno attacked her with a champagne class at an Aspen dinner party earlier this months, reports Reuter,

The dispute began on January 2 when Sukarno and Osmena attended a dinner party hosted by Austrian Prince Heinrich Hanau Schaumburg.

Osmena, 43 filed a lawsuit against Sukarno claiming 10 million dollar.

Sukarno has denied attacking Osmena, saying she only grabbed the woman by the arm when a champagne glass

The two women live in the same in New York apartment In her statement Sukarno said for years Osmena has tried

to become a member of that society that I am a part of. My friends and I positively rejected her and are revolted by her attempt at social climbing. My attorneys will clear this up.

#### Hardship won't stop Albanian beauty contest

TIRANA, Albania: To the accompaniment of pounding Euro-pop music. 25 young women in mini-skirts are learning to saunter down a catwalk in preparation for Albania's first beauty contest, reports AP.

The participants, from 15 to 23 years old, are contestants in Miss Albania 1992 this weekend - if it's not delayed by one of Tirana's frequent power outages. The Congress Palace in downtown Tirana has never seen

anything quite like it. Formerly the somber meeting place for the now-deposed Communists, it now glitters with the pageantry of beauty contests long banned by the Stalinists.

That's not the only reason Miss Albania seems out of place. Albania is teetering on the brink of anarchy. Food and other basics are in extremely short supply. Even electricity and running water are now at a premium in Europe's poorest country.

The organizers have supplied no cosmetics, requiring the women to buy those smuggled in from abroad. Dresses - borrowed from a television drama studio - look

theatrical. Valbona Selimilari, 19, pointed out that all 25 contestants

have only three mirrors to share. The prize money amounts to 300,000 leks (600 dollar) the equivalent of three years' average wage.

The hope of travel is most seductive. Only two of the contestants had previously been abroad. All feel that the chance to take part in Miss Europe - wherever it is held - is worth the frustrations.

#### Love ends in death

FRESNO, California: A couple married for 63 years died within minutes of each other, both apparently of heart attacks, relatives said, reports AP.

Kelly Thomas found his wife, Hazel, dead on the floor of their home Friday, and the trauma apparently triggered a fatal heart attack, said a son, Jack Thomas.

"They were a couple like you don't see anymore," said daughter Marian Blum. "They worked out their problems, and they loved each other."

Both were 80 years old, and had been together since they started dating in Los Angeles at the age of 15. Mrs Thomas had a mild heart attack in August.

They celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary Jan 14.

#### Bored chimp goes bananas

CAIRO: A depressed chimpanzee caused panic in an Egyptian zoo when she attacked her keeper and escaped from her cage, an Egyptian newspaper reported Wednesday. reports Reuter.

Al-Akhbar newspaper quoted the keeper at Alexandria Zoo as saying the chimpanzee, Nacema, had been given 10 pills for depression on Monday.

She woke up in a rage on Tuesday, attacked the keeper and fled through the cage door. Police and keepers recaptured her four hours later.

## Imelda arrested, freed on bail

Union's collapse) has had no MANILA, Jan 29: Former first lady Imelda Marcos was freed on bail today after being arrested and held for three hours by police on charges of violating Philippine currency regulations, reports reuter.

> Tears ran down the face of the 62-year-old widow of ousted president Ferdinand Marcos as she was fingerprinted after being escorted by a 10-man arrest team from her luxury hotel to Manila's San Juan police station.

> Judge Jose Hernandez later ordered her release when her lawyer posted 30,000 pesos (1, 130 dollars), bail.

Her arraignment was set for February 25.

- AFP/UNB photo

list of clergymen and political

prisoners on Monday and

mixed promises of economic

cooperation with pleas for

China to respect human rights.

spokesman responded that

Betting regarded any attempt

to raise human rights issues as

interference in China's inter-

Li met a succession of busi-

ness leaders who praised the

way China was running its

economy and spoke enthusias-

tically about the prospects it

ing Christian Democrats.

Arnaldo Forlani, said it would

But the leader of Italy's rul-

offered for Italian exporters.

nal affairs.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry



a popular revolt in 1986 is among 10 candidates running to succeed President Corazon Aquino in presidential elections scheduled for May 11.

She faces 54 cases of corruption and tax evasion.

She was arrested at her hotel. where she lives in a 2,000 dollar-a-day suite, after failing to post bail on the three counts of contravening Philippine currency regulations requiring central bank permission for opening a foreign bank account.

The Swiss government has frozen Marcos accounts worth 356 million dollars in Swiss Banks.

## 520 Lankan leftists on hunger strike at detention camp

COLOMBO, Jan 29: About 520 Sri Lankans at a detention camp for left-wing rebels are on hunger strike to demand they be released or charged, opposition parliamentarians said on Wednesday, reports

Some have been kept for many years without a trial. Others have been recommended for release but have not been, said opposition parliamentarian Mahinda Rajapakse.

The Human Rights Task Force, set up by the government to monitor conditions in the 16 detention and rehabilitation camps around the country, went to Pelawatte camp in the south on Wednesday to assess the situation, a Task Force spokesman said.

There are 4,475 detainees held for their alleged involvement in a left-wing uprising which threatened to topple the government three years

Some were arrested under

a section of the law which permits indefinite detention. others must be brought before a magistrate or released within six or nine months.

AP adds: Tamil rebels ambushed an army patrol in north central Sri Lanka Wednesday, killing at least 18

#### Kim Jong may become army marshal

SEOUL, Jan 29 : Kim Jong Il, the mysterious son of North Korean President Kim Il Sung. will likely become army marshal in April in another step toward the Communist nation's transfer of power, news reports said Tuesday, reports AP.

Major Seoul newspapers quoted a government official as saying the younger Kim is likely to replace his father as army marshal on April 25, the 60th anniversary of the founding of the army.

Sinhalese soldiers, military officials said.

They said a platoon of 35 to 40 soldiers was patrolling a village when it was attacked by the rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, said the officials at the Joint Operations Command.

The guerrillas escaped after a 1 1/2-hour gun battle in Singapura, 190 kilometers (120 miles) northeast of Colombo, said the officials who cannot be identified under briefing rules. There were no immediate reports of rebel casualties.

During the past week, the rebels have carried out a series of attacks on soldiers and Stnhalese civilians, which military officials claim is to disrupt the return of Tamil refugees from India.

Twenty soldiers were killed Jan 21 in the northeastern Trincomalee district, a day before the first batch on 614 Tamil refugees returned to the Trincomalee port.

### Libya lures Russian nuclear scientists

HAMBURG, Jan 29: Libya is trying to employ Russian nuclear scientists and is offering them annual salaries of dollars 100,000 the German magazine Stern reported Tuesday, says

Germany, the United States and other Western countries have been increasingly concerned about reports that Libya and other Third World nations seeking to develop their nuclear potential are trying to hire scientists from the states that once formed the Soviet Union

Hans-Dietrich Gnescher has proposed setting up an international fund to finance a programme that would give jobs to nuclear scientists from the former Soviet Union. The German government has indicated that it will tie aid

German Foreign Minister

clear arms reduction agree-Stern said the Libyan em-

to the former Soviet republics

to their compliance with nu-

bassy in Moscow had offered scientists from the Kurchatov Institute



SAN SALVADOR: Salvadoran guerilla commander Ramon Medrano(R) announced at a press conference the official dissolution of the FMLN general command and its conversion into a political party as part of the FMLN's integration into civil life. The party's leadership will be formed by the five commanders of the FMLN. - AFP/UNB photo

#### country to invite him since the 1989 military crackdown on pro-democracy students. Clearly relishing the contrast between the Soviet Union's disintegration and China's stability. Li said laughingly that a simple look at the state of shops in Moscow and Beijing proved that China's re-

Palestinians make a mistake:

Israel: Israeli officials said Palestinians had only harmed

themselves by staying in the corridors of the Middle East

peace talks in Moscow on Tuesday, Reuter reports from

"It is certainly not a setback for Israel. Palestinians are re-

We are moving forward in the regional discussions. "This is

alising they made a mistake", said Ehud Gold spokesman for

not something that requires full participation of Palestinians,"

Police arrest 13 youths in Italy:

Italian police arrested 13 youths on Tuesday after a gang

attacked a hostel housing 200 Asian immigrant workers, a

have alarmed Italian public opinion, took place on Monday

break into the hostel in Cisterna di Latina, south of Rome,

The attack, the latest in a series of racist incidents which

Youths armed with iron bars, knives and chains tried to

A police spokesman said most of those arrested were aged

Racist violence is on the increase in Italy. Two homeless

north Africans who were sleeping outdoors in Rome were

US-Vietnam talks to normalise ties:

The United States and Vietnam will hold a new round of talks

on normalising relations Wednesday in Washington, the State

Department said on Tuesday. Reuter reports from

sular protection, financial claims and humanitarian assis-

"We expect that among the issues discussed will be con-

The United States announced in October that Vietnam's

support for the peace agreement ending Cambodia's civil war

and its help in settling cases involving soldiers missing from

the Vietnam war enabled the two countries to begin

US to sell radarplanes to Thailand:

The Bush administration said on Tuesday it has notified

Congress of its intention to sell three E-2c military radar

warning aircraft to Thailand for 382 million dollars, Reuter

(AWACS), use by US Navy aircraft carrier fleets, are built by

which the Pentagon said would improve the security of a

friendly country that is an important force for economic

Grumman Aerospace Corporation of Bethpage, New York.

The small Airborne Warning And Control System planes

Congress is not expected to raise objections to the sale,

police spokesman said. Reuter reports from Rome.

under 20. No one was seriously hurt in the attack.

badly beaten by a group of skinhead youths last week.

Reuter.