BANGKOK, Mar 12: Thailand has proposed that six additional border passes be opened for the repatriation of more than 300,000 displaced Cambodians by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), starting on March 30, Xinhua re-

The local newspaper, The Nation' today quoted Maj Gen Surapon Kamol-At, Chief of supreme command's centre for the relief of Cambodians, as saying Wednesday Thai government negotiators were discussing with their UNHCR counterparts the possibility of using two more border passes in Prachin province, and one each in Si Sa Ket, Chanthaburi and Trat province.

The proposal has yet to be considered by the UNHCR headquarters in Geneva, Surapon said during a lecture repatriation of on the Cambodian refugees from Thatland.

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 12:

Irag's deputy Prime Minister

Tareg Aziz on Wednesday

pleaded for understanding

from Security Council mem-

bers for his country's plight

since the Gulf War and accused

the United States of trying to

Reuter.

Under the memorandum of understanding agreed upon by Thatland, Cambodia's supreme national council and the UNHCR, only the border pass at Tambon Klong Luck of Prachin Buri's Aranyaprathet district was to have been used for UN organized repatriation. According to the Major

General, the proposed six additional passes - Chong Sa Nagam in Sisaket, Chong Chom in Surin province, Ta Pharaya and Klong Hat in Prachin Buri, Pong Nam Ron in Chanthaburi and Suk San in Trat - would cut short the transport routes to take the refugees back to their resettlement sites in

The UNHCR reports that some 310,000 of the 350,000 Cambodians currently in refugee camps in the country have made known their decision to go back to their home

Cambodia.

land under the UNHCR arrangement. US trying to blackmail

Baghdad: Tareq Azız sion as the council required. But he said long-term moni toring of Iraq's arms potential and the destruction of some equipment used to make Scud missiles must be accomplished "on the basis of respect to

Iraq's sovereignty and dignity

blackmail Baghdad, reports and of non-infringement upon its national security." Aziz, addressing the council Aziz proposed that the UN special commission in charge for the first time since of scrapping its weapons and Iraqi officials as well as Security Council members go over all the outstanding issues

Baghdad invaded Kuwait 18 months ago, said Iraq had destroyed all its weapons of mass destruction except for those now under UN superviand prepare a status report.

Nepalese PM to visit China: Nepalese Prime Minister Cirija Prasad Koirala will pay a six-day goodwill visit to China from 16 March at the invitation of China's Premier Li Peng, the Foreign Ministry announced Wednesday, AFP reports.

During the visit. Prime Minister Koirala and Premier Li will hold talks on bilateral, regional and international matters. it said.

The Nepalese Prime Minister will meet President Yang Shangkun and General Secretary Jiang Zemin of the central committee of the Chinese Communist Party, it said.

In the course of the visit, Koirala and his entourage will visit development projects in China and places of historical and cultural interest in Beijing, Xian, Guanghou and Shenzhen.

India stops exporting iron ore: India has decided to stop exporting iron ore. Xinhua reports from New Delhi.

According to local press report Thursday, Indian Prime Minister Narashima Rao told the parliament on Tuesday that under the new economic policies, the industrial situation in the country had improved. Therefore, the Indian government would no longer export quality raw minerals.

India used to export the minerals of high quality just because the country did not have the technology to process

Canada to send troops to Y'slavia: Canada will send about 1,200 troops to Yugoslavia in early April as part of the United Nations peace-keeping force there. Canadian Defence Minister Marcel Masse confirmed Tuesday, Xinhua reports from Ottawa. Brigadier-General Lewis Mackenize of the Canadian Armed

Forces has been appointed Chief of Staff for the UN force. Masse said.

The Minister said that the Canadian troops, from the Canadian mechanized brigades in the bases of Lahr and Baden-Soellingen in Germany, will be deployed there for one

Oscar winner Brooks dead: Richard Brooks, who directed the classic Hollywood dramas "The Blackboard Jungle" and "In Cold Blood" and won a screenwriting Oscar for "Elmer Gantry." died Wednesday. He

was 79, AP reports from Beverlky Hills, California. Brooks, who died at home, had been seriously ill for a month, said publicist Warren Cowan. He suffered numerous ailments. The official cause of death was listed as congestive heart failure.

The director known for his crew-cut hairdo and gruff style was brought up in the old Hollywood studio system. He made his mark with social melodramas and hard-boiled fare that reflected the macho style of leading men like Humphrey Bogart and Burt Lancaster.

187 drug traffickers held in NZ: New Zealand police made 187 arrests during three big operations to combat drug trafficking in three major cities of the country this week. Xinhua says from Wellington.

The dawn raids Wednesday by police resulted in 90 arrests in Rotorua, 45 arrests in Auckland and 52 in Dunedin, police

sources confirmed Thursday. Shortguns, pistols and ammunition were seized from the raids, local media reported. The drug seized also showed

there was a growing trend in the use of hallucinogenic drug popular during the 1960s.

The Auckland operations provided evidence that quantities of A-class controlled drug, Bromo-DMA, which police had not seen in New Zealand before, might have been made in New Zealand. Equipment believed to have been used to make drug was also setzed.

lliescu appeals for restraint

President Ion Iliescu said in a speech broadcast Wednesday that Romanians should not make territorial claims on Ukraine or become involved in ethnic fighting in neighboring Moldova, AP reports from Bucharest, Romania

Iliescu was responding to opposition calls for Romania to side with Moldova's ethnic Romanian majority, which is fighting a secessionist attempt by ethnic Slavs in the Trans-Dneister region.

Some Romanians also want to take back regions of Ukraine that belonged to Romania before they were seized by the Soviet Union in 1940 as part of a Soviet-Nazi pact. The areas - Bukovina and parts of Bessarabia - no longer have an ethnic

Romanian majority. in the speech to a meeting of political leaders Tuesday night, lliescu said, that if the Romanian government were to claim Ukraine territory "it would be supported by no one (and) become isolated... unable to count on even its closest friends." Excerpts of the speech were broadcast Wednesday.

Democratic Senators criticise Pentagon's strategy

# US won't retreat from its role as world leader: Bush

WASHINGTON, Mar 12 President George Bush said Wednesday the United States would not retreat from its role as world leader despite Americans' preoccupation with domestic problems and the state of the US economy, reports AFP.

"I think the United States has a burden to bear, but we have worked effectively through multilateral organization," the President told a news conference.

But he played down press stories on a leaked Pentagon report implying the United States was more interested in the role of being the world's sole superpower than collective security.

"Please do not put too much emphasis on leaked reports, particularly ones I haven't seen, because I can't comment on it," Bush said.

"The President stressed the role of cooperation in the Gulf war and in returning peace to Cambodia."But we are the lead ers and we must continue to lead, we must continue to stay engaged," he added.

"Now, that does not preclude working closely with multilateral organizations."

He said Washington would not compromise on UN security council resolutions against Iraq, and warned that if Iraq did not comply fully "we will contemplate all alternatives."



about a memorandum by former President Richard Nixon that was reported to have criticized Bush for providing pathetically inadequate" aid to the former Soviet Union and ignoring a historic opportunity to secure democracy there.

Where we might have a difference is that we're living in a time of constrained resources," said Bush.

There isn't a lot of money around. We are spending too much as it already is. So to do the things I would really like to do, I really don't have the money for that.

Bush called 'a plan to create a fund to help stabilize the Ruble good idea," but said he would not decide if the United States would participate until after he receives a recommendation from his top advisers. Asked to comment on

Wednesday's announcement that a British general election would be held in April, Bush praised British Prime Minister John Major as a "superb leader but refused to comon the election prospects, saying he did not wish to intervene.

Xinhua adds: Democratic Senators Thursday continued their sharp criticism of the Pentagon's strategy to uphold the United States as the world's sole military super

According to a New York Times report over the week-

end, a draft version of the Pentagon defense planning guidance asserts that the country's future military mission is to 'prevent the reemergence of a new rival in western Europe, East Asia and The former Soviet Union.

Commenting on the plan. Senator Robert Byrd, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committees, said it is the clearest expression yet of a new vision of pax America, a new concept of world police man, uncle sam, the enforcer of a new world order.

Senator Alan Cranston said that under the Pentagon's strategy, huge military spending would go on and on despite the deficit that is crippling our society and undermining our economy, and despite the cry ing need to restrain excessive military spending so we can begin to invest in what we so desperately need domestically, Cranston said.

Senator Joseph Biden, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on European Affairs, also said yesterday that the Pentagon's document wants to justify a large defense budget'.

### China to keep reform policy unchanged for 100 years

BEIJING, Mar 12: Top officials of China's ruling Communist Party rallies behind senior leader Deng Xiaoping's call for bolder economic reform and warned against being too leftists. official news reports said Thursday, reports AP.

The party leaders vowed not to change the reformist policy "even for 100 years." said the state-run Xinhua News Service.

The decision came at a meeting Monday and Tuesday of the party Politburo, a powerful 20-member body. It would appear to make Deng the winner in a prolonged struggle

the path of Chinese socialism. Deng. 87, who introduced

with hardline ideologues over

market-style economic reforms in 1978 that have dramatically raised Chinese living standards, feared the hard-liners would undo his achievements in the name of protecting China from bourgeois con tamination.

The hard-liners maintained the reforms were leading China toward capitalism and that the "open-door policy" of maintaining contact with the West was bringing in drug use. low-brow Western culture and

Xinhua said the Politburo

decided, "to judge whether a move is 'socialist' or 'capitalist' will depend mainly on whether it will benefit the development of the productive forces under socialism, the enhancement of the comprehensive national strength of our socialist country and the promotion of the living standard of the people."

Deng stepped down from his last party and government posts in 1989 and 1990, and was not mentioned as attend ing the meeting. It is more likely that he conveyed his views through party General Secretary Jiang Zemin or other Politburo members.

# US, India to hold N-talks

WASHINGTON, Mar 12: India and the United States will hold bilateral nuclear talks in eight weeks, reports PTI.

Foreign Secretary J N Dixit disclosed this today after meeting admiral Jonathan Howe, Deputy National Security Adviser, and Undersecretary of Defence Paul Wolfowitz at the State Department.

The date and venue will be decided later. This dispenses the earlier US insistence on holding the five power nuclear conference to denuclearize South Asia in March or April. After the first day's talks, Dixit had told Indian correspondents, that India would not attend the five power talks. But today he shifted his ground saying, no five power talks,

This indicates that there is no point discussing it when in the forthcoming bilateral talks

### Pakistan to represent Iran in US

ISLAMABAD, Mar 12: The government of Pakistan has agreed to diplomatically represent Iran and look after its interests in the United States, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Thursday, reports AP.

Iran and the United States severed diplomatic ties following the 1979 Islamic revolu-

Algeria had acted on Tchran's behalf in Washington. But the spokesman said relations between the two countries deteriorated with the Algerian crackdown on Islamic fundamentalists and Tehran asked Pakistan to act as its representative, he said.

Pakistan and Iran are both Islamic republics and share a common border.

the Americans have first to tell India what exactly they have in mind, what the parameters, are and what Indian concerns in the region are and

The future of the five power talks, which cannot be

whether they have any sug-

gestions on how to meet them.

held without India, will depend on how the bilateral indo-American talks go. The Dixit talks have estab-

lished a linkage between Indian participation in any five nation or larger conference and the bilateral discussions on what it is all about.



Files: Edward Shevardnadze, the former Soviet Foreign Minister, attends a reception shortly after his return to Tbilisi March 8. Shevardnadze was named president of the provisional Georgian parliament in Tbilisi.

-AFP/UNB photo

#### US plans to sell \$ 2.5b arms to Kuwait

WASHINGTON, Mar 12 The US defence department plans to sell 2.5 billion dollars worth of Patriot Missiles and other arms to Kuwait to help boost its defense system. Pentagon source said Wednesday, reports AFP.

Congress is expected to approve the sale, which includes six Patriot anti-missile systems, 450 Patriot missiles and six Hawk missile batteries, the source said. The administration is re-

portedly considering other arms sales to Mideast countries in the wake of the Gulf War, including a five billion dollar sale of F-15 fighter planes to Saudi Arabia. Bahrain. The United Arab

Emirates. Qatar and Turkey have also asked to purchase Patriots, which were used during the Gulf conflict to defend against Iraqi Scud missiles.

### Filipino troops kill 14 rebels

DIPOLOG, Philippines, Mar 12: Government troops, backed by helicopter gunships, killed 14 Communist guerrillas in a 12-day assault on a rebel camp in the southern Philippines, the military said Thursday, reports AP.

Col. Emillo de Leon, chief of the army's 101st Brigade, said eight soldiers were wounded in fighting that ended Monday in the town of Katipunan in Zamboanga del Norte province, about 720 kilometers (450 miles) south of Manila. De Leon said soldiers faced

stiff resistance when they began the assault on the "Camp Uno" of the Communist New People's Army.

### Imelda is a liar, says Ramos

MANILA, Mar 12: Former Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos on Wednesday branded fellow Philippine presidential candidate Imelda Marcos a liar after she called him a coward, as personal attacks began tainting the campaign, reports AFP.

Ramos, a leader of the 1986 uprising that toppled the government of Imelda Marcos' late husband, Ferdinand, denied the former first lady's charge that the ducked out of a trip to Libya in 1976 after a plane they were flying received a bomb threat. "I think Imelda Marcos is a

liar, or absent-minded," Ramos told journalists.

## Off the Record

Vanessa wants to close Miss America chapter

NEW YORK: Vanessa Williams says she looks forward to the day when a story about her doesn't contain the words 'Miss America', AP reports.

"I think in time it will definitely be behind me," she says of her 1984 beauty crown and its subsequent forfeiture because of nude photos published of her. In fact, just the other day, what did I see? It was one of those rags - it said "Pop Star Vanessa Williams." So it's happening, slowly but surely.

Williams, 29, who has since launched a career as an actress and singer, says in the April issue of McCall's that her victory in Atlantic City - making her the first black youknow-what - brought her hostility from blacks and whites

#### Carlson's imagination was a mistake

DULUTH, Minn: It was just his imagination running away with him, AP says.

How else to explain Minnesota Gov Arne Carlson's creative spelling demonstration for a group of fifth-graders Tuesday? After encouraging the children to read more, work harder in class and use their imaginations. Carlson wrote on the

blackboard: "IMMAJINATION," Realizing the word was misspelled, he changed the "J" to a "G" but didn't notice the extra "M"

Teacher Joan Setterlund went easy on the grading. "He recognized he made a mistake and he attempted to correct it," Mrs Setterlund said later. "He just made a mistake, that's all."

### Chernobyl gift

LONDON: Six-legged piglets and two-headed calves were among many deformed animals born after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, a Ukrainian scientist said Thursday, Reuter

Such sights were rare before the accident six years ago at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station, near Kiev, Dr Vladimir Tikhii, Adviser to Ukraine's Environmental Protection Ministry, told a conference at Bristol in western England. He said most of the deformed animals were born dead,

adding: "we have no statistics, but these occurrences are now numerous. In general you can say, yes, it is caused by Chernobyl. In some Ukrainian districts, contamination from the de-

stroyed plant was now two to three times higher than before the disaster, Tikhii said.

### Sutherland couldn't see sun for six months

KEARNEY, Neb: Former hostage Thomas Sutherland says the sun was the last thing he saw before he was kidnapped, and it's a sight he now welcomes each day with new appreciation, AP reports.

Sutherland said he remembers glancing at the sun just befare a bag was pulled over his head June 9, 1985. "That was the last I saw of the sun for 6 2 years." Sutherland said, who was released last November.

Sutherland, 60, was dean of the American University of Beirut when he was kidnapped.

He spoke Tuesday at the Fort Kearney Cattlemen's banquet in Kearney.

### Mulroney goes bananas over satire writer

OTTAWA: Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has said he wanted to shoot or strangle the author of an item in a satirical magazine about his daughter, Reuter reports.

Frank Magazine, modelled on Britain's Private Eye, published a mock advertisement last September for a contest to deflower Mulroney's 17-year-old daughter Caroline.

Mulroney, speaking in a television interview to be aired on Wednesday evening, said he wanted to shoot or strangle the person responsible for the joke.

"When a trash magazine puts on the cover an incitement to gang rape in daughter, I wanted to take out a gun and go down there and do serious damage to these people," he said on the Canadian Broadcasting Crop's contact programme.

"If you ask me whether I lost my temper, you're bloody right I lost my temper," he said, according to a transcript of the interview. "If I had that little guy within striking distance. I'd like to choke him... that's the kind of thing that drives me bananas," he said.

A spokesman for Frank Magazine called Mulroney's reaction "frightening and intimidating."

He said the publication had wanted to satires the Prime Minister for using his attractive daughter for political gain last summer when polls showed his popularity was falling.

"All of sudden she started appearing in public. She accompanies him to the G-7 (group of seven nations) conference in London and at the Tory convention", Frank spokesman Ron McGregror said.

### Allies planned to capture Saddam during war

ROME Mar 12: The United States and Britain had a plan to capture Saddam Hussein and his top aides during the Gulf War, but postponed it due to weather and other factors, an Italian newsmagazine reported, reports AP.

·Europeo said in this week's edition that a commando force from the elite British Special Air Service was to carry out the strike. The plan called for groups

of 12 to 20 men, protected by US aircraft, to penetrate the bunkers sheltering Iraq's top five political and military leaders. The soldiers would capture or kill them, the magazine reported in the edition due out Thursday.

hands of the political leaders." an unidentified source told Europeo. "We were reedy to capture (Saddam) so that he could be tried as a criminal of war, or to eliminate him." Quoting another unidenti-

fled officer reportedly involved

in the operation, the magazine

said that while the French.

Italians and Saudis were aware

of the plan, only American and

British troops were to take

"We put this decision in the

According to the magazine. the operation was postponed several times.

On February 26, two days after the land offensive began, the special commando force was ready to strike.

Significantly, the Bose fam-

# Honour that comes too late to satisfy Netaji's family

NEW DELHI, Mar 12 India's government is faced with the embarrassment of having the nation's top civilian award turned down by the family of controversial independence herd Subhash

Chandra Bose, AFP reports. The honour bestowed posthumously has also reopened a painful riddle - is "Netaji" (leader) Bose alive or

Bose's family said Wednesday the Bharat Ratna (Jewel of India) had come too late - 45 years after freedom from the British, whom he fought alongside Japanese troops in World War 11.

"We feel it is an insult to his

memory," said Pradip Bose, nephew of Netaji, whose supposed remains have been preserved at the 400-year-old Renkoji temple in Tokyo since he was believed to have died in a mysterious 1945 plane crash.

"It is quite unnecessary, he does not need it," he said of the award no one, including Nelson Mandela and Mother Teresa, has turned down before.

Three members of the Nehru-Gandhi family, which the Bose's accuse of having tried to downgrade Netaji's achievements, were conferred Bharat Ratna earlier - first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, his daughter Indira

Gandhi and her son Rajiv. Rajiv received it last year after his assassination while campaigning for re-election as prime minister. The British-educated

Pradip Bose, 63, a former journalist, said Netaji's only direct descendent, daughter Anita, B Bose Pfaff, had rejected the award the government of Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao amnounced in January.

wrote she had been ap-

Bose-Plaff, 50, Economics Professor at the Augsburg University near Munich, whose social-democrat husband Martin is a member of the German Bundestaag,

proached by New Delhi to accept the award. While accepting that those

who selected Netall for the honour had good intentions, she has refused to be a party to an act which may well be interpreted as a slight to his stature.

"Anita has failed to understand why it has taken nearly 45 years for the government of India to recognise Netaji's achievement and contribution to India's struggle for freedom," Pradip Bose said.

He reached an understand ing with axis powers to help overthrow the British after refusing to collaborate with what the British in India. He formed the Indian

he called the "super Nazism" of

National Army (INA) which fought the British in World War 2 and his death is not accepted as a fact by many of his admirers.

"By according the (award) posthumously, the government has raised the controversy as to whether Netaji is dead or alive," Chitta Basu, a leader of the Leftist Forward Bloc, said recently.

years old were he alive.

Even the state chapter of India's ruling Congress (I) Party was reported to be unhappy at the belated recognition Netaji, who would be 95

ily noted, the award was conferred on Bose after the death of Rajiv Gandhi, which was seen by many Indians as the end of the Nehru-Gandhi era. Pradip Bose said the Nehru family had been responsible for

deliberately playing down Netaji's achievements and accused Nehru of having harboured an "inferiority complex' vis-a-vis his uncle. In 1939, Netaji defeated

"Mahatma" Gandhi's candidate for presidentship of Nehru's Congress party. "Nehru cold not even imag-

ine anyone could oppose Mahatma Gandhi," Pradip Bose said.