Minehane next

Commander of

UNFICYP

Brigadier-General Michael

Minehane of Ireland will be-

come the commander next

month of the 2,150- member

UN Peace-Keeping Force in

Cyprus (UNFICYP) and will be

promoted to the rank of

Major-General, the United

Nations said on Thursday, re-

General Clive Milner of Canada

who has held the post since

He will succeed Major-

ports Reuter.

April 1989.

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 27:

#### Ukraine to remove all technical N-arms

NEW DELHI, Mar 27 President Leonid Kravchuk Friday affirmed Ukraine will remove all its tactical nuclear weapons this year, and said his country is drawing up the papers to endorse the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, reports AP.

Ukraine has suspended the shipment of its short-ranged nuclear weapons to Russia, where the transfer of its 1,275 tactical weapons was to have been completed by July 1.

At a summit of the Commonwealth Independent States in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev a week ago, Kravchuk insisted that the removal of weapons be supervised by an international commission.

Suspects to remain at Arab League disposal

UN court begins hearing on Libya's petition

NICOSIA, Mar 27: Two Libyans whose extradition is sought by Britain and the United States will remain in Tripoli at the disposal of the Arab League until the world court returns its verdict on the issue, a Libyan diplomat was quoted as saying Thursday, reports AFP.

The Libyan ambassador to Belgium, Mohammed Sharaf Edin Alfaituri, who will represent his country before the International Court of Justice in the Hague, was quoted by radio Monte Carlo-Middle East in a broadcast monitored here.

The court on Thursday began hearing Libya's petition for protection from British and American measures for failing to hand over two Libyans suspected in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Scotland.

Meanwhile, Reuter reports from Cairo: Libya has offered to hand over two suspects to a United Nations inquiry into the Lockerbie airliner bombing and says it is ready to invite the

world body onto Libyan territory to probe charges that it supports terrorism.

North African diplomats in Tunis said Libya, which earlier agreed to surrender the men of the Arab League, was now offering to hand them over to the UN provided a pre- trial inquiry does not take place in the United States

or Britain One diplomat closely involved in negotiations with Libya on a way out of the crisis over the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jumbo over Lockerbie, Scotland, said late on Thursday: "Libya is now saying 'yes' to handing over the to suspects to the UN.

But he added that the pre-trial investigation inquiry should be outside the United States and the United Kingdom and should be conducted by the United Nations or a UN body.

Britain and the United States, demanding that the suspects are tried in their courts, are thought certain to reject Libya's conditions.

The UN-Security Council scheduled private consultations to put the final touches on a resolution for sanctions against Libya.

Several members of the 15-member Security Council said they expected to meet on Monday instead of Friday to take a vote on banning civil air links with Tripoli, scaling down diplomatic representation and halting

Libya's Arab League envoy Ali Treiki arrived in Cairo from Tripoli on Thursday night carrying what one Arab diplomat said were positive proposals to defuse the crisis.

Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdel-Maguid told Reuters on Thursday night that Treiki had requested a meeting with him, but did not mention any new proposals.

There are plans to meet but not tonight. We will get in touch tomorrow and arrange a meeting," said Abdel-Maguid, who led a sevennation Arab League committee to Tripoli which

fatled in a last- ditch attempt on Tuesday night to arrange a deal that would avert UN Security Council sanctions against Libya.

Asked if Treiki had told him he was carrying

any new proposals, Abdel-Maguid said: 'no, he only the asked to see me'.

Arab League said it would continue to seek a solution to the Libyan crisis, but Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa who was on the League committee said he did not believe it would take any further action.

Diplomats said the Arab League negotiators who had talks with Libyan leaders this week had told them that western powers were demanding any commitment for a handover be

put in writing. Earlier on Thursday, Libya urged the International Court of Justice to issue an urgent ruling barring the US and Britain from taking military action to make it to surrender

Minehane's appointment was disclosed in an exchange of correspondence between Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghalt and the Security Council, which gave its assent.

### Interim govt in Kabul by April likely

KABUL, Mar 27: Residents of Kabul reacted with cynicism and hope today after hearing that the Soviet-installed government of President Najibullah would go - not in three months, but in four

weeks, reports AFP. "O.K. new government, if no fighting," said one elderly householder, two of whose sons were among the more than one million Afghans who have died since the 1979

Soviet invasion. Reacting to the radio announcement Thursday that instead of a new government in July, the United Nations would try to "facilitate a UN dialogue" to enable an interim neutral government to step in at the end of April, a government spokesman said "the government of Afghanistan welcomes this."

No press conference was called to announce the government's endorsement of the sudden announcement.

Diplomatic sources confirmed that Najibullah, during

reports from New Delhi.

excesses, abuse of powers.

involved in such acts."

reports AFP from Moscow.

a visit here Tuesday by UN negotiation Benon Sevan, endorsed the idea that three months be shaved off the UN

timetable for the installation of

a neutral government. Under the UN peace plan, the new government would serve in an interim capacity, drawing up election laws, a new constitution and perhaps a law on political parties, until elections can be held in this war-torn country.

"It was necessary to be very fast," said Anwar Argandewal, an academic and justice minister in the pre-war years who could have, but did not, join the five million Afghans who have fled the country in the past 13 years.

"You say," so fast. I say, why postpone?" But Argandewal echoed a worry voiced by many other Afghans, most of whom are enduring freezing temperatures without electricity or heating fueled during Ramzan, Islam's holy month of fasting, due to a cutoff of Soviet sup-

BRIFE

India blasts Amnesty: India blasted

amnesty International on Thursday for alleging widespread

police torture and killings in the country, and accused it of

overlooking brutalities by Sikh and Muslim militants, AFP

said here. There are sweeping generalisations about police

ing allegations without substantiation, and added that New

Delhi had not been given enough time to look into specific

jail, alleging hundreds have died from beatings in recent

Libya invites Ghali: Libya on Thursday

invited UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to visit

Libya in person or send an envoy to investigate charges that

Cyprus, quoted a source at the Libyan Foreign Ministry as

denying Tripoli was "involved in terrorist acts" and saying

Libya is "ready to severely punish anybody who is proved to be

Pravda to reappear soon: Pravda, the former official mouthpiece of the Soviet Communist Party.

written off as dead when it ceased publication temporarily

two weeks ago, is to reappear, possibly from Saturday,

according to a report in the Sovietskaja Russia newspaper,

Soviet Union became a focus for Conservative and Communist

opposition to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, said the paper

Polish paper Tribouna republished by the Russian daily, said

an unidentified bank had granted the paper the credits it

Selezniov was unable to guarantee its appearance on Saturday.

Pak MPs meet Miyazawa : A

parliamentary delegation from Pakistan met Japanese Prime

Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Thursday to seek support for

proposals for a meeting to discuss South Asian nuclear issues,

The delegation, led by Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad,

The proposal calls on the United States, China, Russia,

Miyazawa was quoted as telling the delegation he hoped

Pakistan and India would sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation

India and Pakistan to hold consultations on nuclear issues in

asked Japan to try to persuade India to attend the meeting

that Pakistan proposed in June, the Japanese officials said.

needed to resume publication of three issues per week.

would be back on the streets from March 21.

officials said, AFP reports from Tokyo.

Executives at the paper, which after the collapse of the

Pravda Editor Gennady Selezeniov, in an interview with

The paper had not however yet received the money and

A statement from the Libyan news agency Jana, received in

Tripoli is involved in terrorism, reports AFP from Nicosia.

years. It said police also regularly raped women in prisons.

Amnesty said Indian police routinely torture suspects in

cases cited in the report released Wednesday.

"It is a totally one- sided report," an official spokesman

He accused the London-based human rights body of mak-



MOSCOW: Russian Presi-dent Boris Yeltsin grimaces as a television technician fits a microphone shortly before a tapping of an American TV address in Moscow. The tapping is in response to a " Democracy" award given to the President by Hollywood and which is to be presented on March 30. -AFP/UNB photo

### Proposal for \$ 20b cut in US defence budget

WASHINGTON, Mar 27: Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and Joint Chief of Staff Chairman Colin Powell Thursday unveiled military cut aimed at shrinking the defence budget by 20 billion dollar over five years, reports AFP.

The proposal calls for reductions in 830 national guard and reserve units, axing more than 140,000 jobs this year and next year.

The list is subject to approval by Congress, and even before it reached Capitol Hill, opposition was mounting from some legislators whose home state districts were targeted to take the hits.

The plan calls for trimming 125,000 posts in the army national guard and reserve units. 10,500 from the navy reserves, 2,700 from the marine reserves and 740 from the air. force reserve.

The Pentagon estimates the cuts will save 2.1 bullion dollar the first year and that the potential savings could swell to 20 billion dollar over five years.

"If you want to get down to the level of defence spending reductions, you have to buy this reduction of guard and reserve units," Chency said, noting that some 46 per cent of the defence budget went to personnel.

But he added, "the guard and reserve will continue to be an absolutely vital part of the forces."

The national guard is made up from state-run militias which are called out for a variety of emergencies while the reserve is used to reinforce troops on active duty during wartime or national emergen-

the men.

One fifth of the reserve troops were deployed during the Gulf War.

#### Warrant against former Union Carbide chairman

BHOPAL, Mar 27: A court issued an arrest warrant Friday for the retired chairman of Union Carbide Corp., the US based multinational, who is charged with homicide in the world's worst industrial disaster, reports UNB.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Gulab Sharma ordered the extradition from the United States of Walter Anderson, who was Union Carbide's chief executive when lethal gas leaked from the company's Bhopal plant in 1984. The company is based in Danbury Conn.

The orders come nearly three months after the magistrates court charged Anderson with "culpable homicide not amounting to murder" and or dered him to appear in court February 1. Anderson did not show up.

# Off the Record

### Suicide only way to deal with distress

WASHINGTON: Nearly one in six Native American adolescents has attempted suicide, a rate four times that of other US teenagers, according to a study that found alarming health problems on Indian reservations, reports AP.

American Indian youth are more likely to come from broken homes or abuse drugs, and 20 per cent describe their health as poor, said the report published Tuesday by the American Medical Association.

This is the most devastated group of adolescents in the United States," said Michael Resnick, a University of Minnesota researcher who helped conduct the study.

Many American Indian youth know friends or family members who have killed themselves, so suicide has become the way for them to deal with the distress and hopelessness that pervades their lives, the researchers said. Indian teenagers are twice as likely to die during their

youth as non-Indians, the study said "Native American youths have a familiarity and intimacy

with death and loss within families comparable to few other young people in our society," the study said.

### Forced to conceive baby they don't want

WASHINGTON: Millions of the world's women are being coerced into having children they don't want, and the number is growing, a Worldwatch Institute study says, reports AP. The study, "Coerced Motherhood: The Global Dimension,"

says relatively few women have access to safe abortions, with unsafe abortion and pregnancy complications the major cause of death among young and middle-aged women across the Southern Hemisphere.

"Todays, women's basic human rights are under siege in virtually every country," Jodi L Jacobason, author of the report and senior researcher with the nonprofit global policy research institute, said Thursday. Worldwatch is funded by private foundation grants.

### She's ready for shuttle

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla: Departing NASA Administrator Richard Truly has urged his successor to quickly put another school teacher on a space shuttle, reports AP.

The only school teacher and first private US citizen ever on a space mission, Christa McAuliffe of Concord NH died with six astronauts when shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff on January 28, 1986.

Truly, said Idabo elementary school teacher Barbara Mogran, McAulifte's backup, is the one for the job.

She's ready, the space shuttle is ready and the American people are ready," said Truly, who was forced to resign under White House pressure. He made his remarks Thursday at the National Congress on Aviation and Space Education in Oklahoma City, NASA released excerpts of his speech.

Morgan, 40, who teaches third grade in McCall, Idaho, said Thursday night she's eager to conduct classes from orbit. "People remember Christa and they always will. They re-

member Christa as an inspiration and a great teacher and they want that to continue on," she-said.

### Non-aggression pact

## Koreas fail to narrow differences

SEOUL, Mar 27: North and South Korea again failed to narrow their differences over how to implement an historic pact of non-aggression and reconciliation, a South Korean official said today, reports

Reuter. "No progress was made at today's Panmunjom meeting because of the North's insincere attitude," the officials of the South-North dialogue office said.

North and South met at the truce village of Panmunjom on the border to reconvene a political committee set up to thrash out practical details of the accord.

Millions of Koreans on both sides of the border hope the treaty forged in December will

NEW DELHI, Mar 27: A

popular Hindu politician

Thursday urged Muslims to

give up their claims to a site in

northern India where Hindus

want to replace an ancient

mosque with a temple, reports

Behari Vajpayee said Muslims

should appreciate the strong

sentiments of the Hindus and

hand over the disputed place

at Ayodhya, the press Trust of

India (PTI) reported.

Member of Parliament Atal

eventually lead to unification of the peninsula divided for 47

The two Koreas were able only to agree on a date for the next meeting, set for April 23, the official said.

In the three-hour meeting, the Southerners repeatedly proposed the two Koreas put forward a series of step-bystep measures ranging from the prompt establishment of North-South liaison offices, improvement of political and diplomatic cooperation to an end to cross-border slander.

The committees, have so far failed to make headway, underlining the many differences that remain between the two

He said Hindus believed

that a temple of their god

Rama existed at the Ayodhya

site, and it was demolished by

Moghul Emperor Babar in the

16th century and replaced by a

Hindus now wanted to re-

build the Rama shrine. That is

the reality and I would there-

fore make a dispassionate plea

to the Muslim leaders to re-

solve the dispute amicably,

Vajpayee told reporters in the

southern Indian city of

#### sides, still technically at war principle to since the 1950-53 Korean War.

Euphoria greeted the nonaggression pact but hopes have been overshadowed in recent weeks by bitter disputes over Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions.

The hardline Stalinist North, which insists its atomic projects are for peaceful purposes only, has agreed in

permit International Atomic Energy Agency inspections of its

No dates have been set, prompting concern in Seoul and among its allies, which believe the North is only months away from building a nuclear bomb, that Pyongyang is deliberately stalling.



BAGHDAD: The head of the UN inspection team Derek Boothby answers journalists in Baghdad, after returning from his inspection visit outside Baghdad.

### Cory appeals not to vote another Marcos

MANILA, Mar 27: Philippine President Corazon Aquino appealed to voters on Thursday not to forget abuses under the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and to reject candidates who would restore his legacy of one-man rule, reports Reuter.

"It is as if we have forgotten the violence we experienced during the dictatorship. Aquino told a rally in nearby Antipolo town while campaigning for former Defence Chief Fidel Ramos, her chosen candidate in the May 11 presidential election.

Let us remember all the evil and loneliness we experienced during the (Marcos) dictator-

Aquino warned Filipinos not to vote for former first lady

Imelda Marcos 62-year-old widow of the dictator, and business Tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco.

### 11 shot dead in Punjab

Eleven persons, including seven in one village in Majitha police district and a militant, were killed in Punjab since

of Majitha police district late last night.

ing between eight to ten and attired in police uniforms went from house to house in the village on the pretext of searching them for arms. Then, they collected all

the fields of the same village.

### Lanka will compensate June Husseini accuses Israel of executing wanted Arabs tragedy victims

the South Asian region.

Treaty.

COLOMBO, Mar 27: The Sri ankan government has agreed to pay 5.25 million rupees (about 123,500 US dollars) as compensation for families suffered death, injury and property damage in the Kokkadicholai incident on June 13 last year, reports Xinhua.

Speaking at the weekly news briefing today, cabinet spokesman W J M Lokubandara said the cabinet has accepted the recommendation of compensation from a presidential commission's final report on the incident, and decided to pay compensation to the affected persons accordingly. The tragedy, which oc-

curred at Kokkadicholai in the country's eastern province, resulted in the death of 67

# JERUSALEM, Mar 27 : Palestinian Leader

Faisal Al-Husseni on Thursday accused Israel of Husseini said. summarily executing wanted Arabs in the occupied territories and demanded UN Protection, reports Reuter. The accusation is that the Israeli authori-

ties, the occupation authorities, instead of arresting people that they believe are activists. they are simply killing them." Husseini told a news conference in Arab East Jerusalem. Husseini, overall head of the Palestinian

team to Middle East Peace Talks begun last October, demanded the United Nations provide protection for Palestinians. He presented a list of 18 persons headed;

"executed by Israel undercover units and other members of the security forces since December 9, 1991. Husseini demanded the undercover units be

disbanded, an independent investigation of the deaths of the 18 persons on the list and an end to "summary executions" "We are not going to discuss the peace pro-

cess now in this place but we are saying that

such a thing can harm the peace process."

Vajpayee urges Muslims to

give up Babri Mosque site

The army on Thursday again denied summarily executing Palestinians waging an uprising against Israel's rules in West Bank and Gaza Strip since December 1987.

Bangalore.

"Absolutely not on the one hand there has been a dramatic rise in the use of weapon fire (by Palestinians) and on the other hand they are shouting more Palestinians are being killed," the army spokesman said. "At the least it's hypocritical, at the most

it's a sheer lie," the spokesman said. He said attack against army forces with petrol bombs, grenades, explosive devices and guns were up from 26 in December 1991 to 86 in January 1992, 89 in February and, thus far

in March, 140. The Israeli army acknowledged for the first time on June 21, 1991, that it used undercover units to fight a Palestinian uprising, but it denied it assassinated wanted men.

Official had previously denied the existence of undercover squads. Reports on them were quashed by the military censor.

The US Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, Richard Schifter, noted in the section of his report on Israel for 1991 that. "In 1991 nonuniformed security personnel

are known to have killed 27 Palestinians, many of whom were unarmed but were generally either wanted, masked, or fleeing from authorities after writing graffiti." Husseini said someone refusing to surren-

der a gun or actually using it was not the issue. "Killing someone simply because he is wanted, this is what we are talking about," Husseini said AFP reports from Nicosia: The head of the

Arab League blasted his counterpart at the United Nations on Thursday for saying Israel could not be forced out of occupied Arab Land. Arab League Secretary General, Esmat Abdel Meguid, criticized UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, for saying last Thursday that UN Resolution 242 was "not binding," ac-

Cyprus."

cording to a radio broadcast monitored in

Nations, prompting his spokesman to issue a clarification later the same day. "It should be understood that the Resolution (242) is not enforceable since it was not adopted under Chapter VII," said spokesman

Boutros-Ghali's statement stirred contro-

versy among Arab diplomats at the United

Francois Giuliani "Nothing allowed Boutros-Ghali to say that Resolution 242 is not binding and to thus give

Israel a pretext not to respect the resolution,"

Abdel Meguid said in an interview broadcast by radio Monte Carlo's Middle East service. His comments came after the Arab league on Sunday asked the United Nations not to impose sanctions on Libya as a punitive measure for its refusal to extradite two terrorist

suspects to the United State or Britain. Abdel Meguid said "every member state of the United Nation must apply the UN security council resolutions," and that "binding character (of resolution 242) is evident from the fact of the unacceptability of maintaining occupation by force.

# CHANDIGARH, Mar 27:

last night, reports PTI. Militants shot dead seven persons in Gahari Mandi area

According to an Amritsar report, the militants number-

male members from their houses and shot them dead in Three members of one fam-

ily were shot dead by militants at their house in village Bhagwanpur