UN Council to maintain sanctions on Iraq

India ready to join ME talks:

India is ready to participate in the Middle East peace talks, Indian ministers told a visiting Israeli diplomat, AFP repots

Officials said the Indian government's decision was con-

veyed to Israeli Foreign Ministry Deputy Director-General

Moshe Yegar during his meeting with External Affairs

Minister Madhavinh Sonlaki and his deputy, Eduardo Faleiro

fully" to the talks, said officials who attended the meeting.

New Delhi would "contribute constructively and meaning-

New Delhi was not a participant at the first round of peace

Bush to meet Gonzalez, Cossiga:

President Bush will meet in early April with two prominent

European leaders, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez of Spain

and outgoing President Francesco Cossiga of Italy, the White

global trade negotiations in Geneva, the struggles of the

former Soviet republics, democratic reforms in Central

America and the Middle East peace process, said Bush

and bilateral relations with Cossiga, who is leaving office this

Clashes claim 20 in Y'slavia: some

20 people were killed in Bosnia-Herzegovina's worst

euthenic clashes, prompting the Yugoslav republic to appeal

for urgent United Nations help to stop a slide into civil war,

Artillery, mortar and gunfire battles raged into Friday.

Jets of the Serb-led Yugoslav army, out of action in conflict

The army said one plane crashed nearby in an accident but

zones since a European Community helicopter was shot down

denied earlier Croatian police reports that it had rocketed a

18 kidnapped in Russia: Gunmen took

18 hostages in an attack on a bus in southern Russia and were

demanding a plane to fly them to Iraq, Itar-Tass news agency

miles) to the city of Mineralnye Vody. Authorities there were

negotiating with the men, who were armed with machine-

Cuba, Armenia set up ties: Cuba and

Armenia established diplomatic relations on Friday in a con-

tinuing campaign by the communist-ruled island to formalise

ties with members of the Commonwealth of Independent

States, the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina said, reports

delegation has toured the former Soviet republics and agreed

to establish formal relations with Ukraine, Moldova,

formalised diplomatic ties with the Baltic states of Estonia

Myanmar troops fire

on Thai town

Over the last few weeks a high-level Cuban government

Havana already had an embassy in Moscow and in January

It said the gunmen drove their prisoners about 15 km (10

Night in the northern town of Bosanski broad on the Sava

river border with newly-independently Croatia.

said on Friday, Reuter reports from Moscow.

guns and grenades and refuse to leave the bus.

Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan, it said.

in early January, roared over the Beleaguered town.

Local residents cowered in shelters.

On April 7, the president will discuss world developments

The April 2 talks with Gonzalez are expected to cover the

House said Friday, AP reports from Washington.

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 28 : The Security Council decided Friday to maintain its crippling economic sanctions against Iraq because Baghdad has yet to satisfy all conditions of the Gulf War ceasefire, diplomats said, reports AP.

The decision was made without a formal meeting or vote, they said. Every two months, the council reviews compliance with its demands that Iraq destroy all weapons of mass destruction and return Gulf War prisoners.

UN inspectors currently are in Iraq to verify Iraqi destruction of ballistic missiles and to destroy buildings associated with Baghdad's nuclear weapons programme.

Talks are under may in Vienna about arrangements for

from New Delhi.

in New Delhi.

talks in Madrid.

spokesman Marlin Fitzwater.

summer. Fitzwater announced

Reuter says from Belgrade.

factory.

Reuter from Havana

MAE SOT, Thatland, Mar

28: Myanmar troops, Angry

that Thailand is blocking some

attacks on their Karen rebel

enemies, opened on fire a

That market town with mor-

tars and machineguns at mid-

the town of Rim Meei, Thai of-

bombs were fired from the

Myanmar town of Myanwadi at

midnight" -- an eyewitness told

Reuter in they early hours of

bombs landed, Myanmar sol-

diers sent more than 200

rounds of machinegun fire into

the crowded town - 300

houses on the bank of the bor-

Witnesses said that after the

night on Friday, reports

More than 500 people fled

"At least three mortar

and Latvia.

Reuter.

ficers said.

der river Moei.

a possible Iraqi oil sale to f nance purchase of food and humanitarian supplies, but Iraq has not formally agreed to sell oil, saying the Security Council wants too much control over

Kurdish rebel leaders say they'are being attacked by Iraq forces in violation of Security Council resolution demanding humanitarian treatment for all Iraqi citizens.

The sweeping economic sanctions which ban all trade with Iraq, were imposed after the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. They were main tained after the Gulf War to ensure that Iraq met all conditions of the cease-fire.

Only purchases of food, medicines and humanitarian supplies are permitted. Iraq says its people are suffering.



Members of the Muslim Students' Association march in favour of Palestine and protesting -AFP /UNB photo. against Israeli policies in Washington on March 27.

pants in the sessions of Fatah's

Central Committee and the

throughout the week in Tunis.

The meeting were held

Military Council.

Tunisia.

Kurds to wage all-out war against Turkey

BARR ELJAS, Lebanon, Mar 28: A leader of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) vowed Friday that Kurdish separatists will wage an "all-out war" against Turkey until it lifts its "siege" of southeastern Anatolia, reports AFP.

The official known only by his Nom-de-Guerre, Kani, said at a PKK training base in east ern Lebanon, that "1992 will be the year of blood for the Kurdish insurrection."

The PKK, he said, 'will wage an all-out war against the central government in Turkey.

Operations will be launched from now on all over Turkey until the siege imposed by the Turkish army on Kurdistan (Southeastern Anatolial is removed." Kani

Born with open skull

Off the Record

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida: A Florida state appeals court on Friday barred the parents of a dying baby born without a brain from donating her organs to help other sick infants, reports Reuter.

The baby, Theresa Ann Pearson, was born last Saturday with an open skull and a rare disorder in which the brain did not develop beyond its stem. The brain stem is a small bud at the top of the spine that controls basic functions such as the heartbeat and breathing.

Theresa is expected to die within days, but by then her oxygen-deprived organs will be useless for transplants for other sick babies, according to her doctors.

Televised pictures showed Theresa's parents rocking her in the hospital, her tiny body clad in a white T-shirt, diaper and turban around her head. The baby was able to kick her feet and wiggle her fingers, although doctors said she had no mental abilities.

The anguished parents, Laura Campo and Justin Pearson, had hoped to win the right to end Theresa's life so that her organs could be given to sick babies waiting for a heart, liver, kidneys and other organs.

His interest in boys infected them

PHILADELPHIA: Police have arrested a man with AIDS who may have had sexual relations with hundreds of teenage boys, the district attorney said Friday, reports AP.

The man, whose name wasn't released, may have had oral and anal sex 'for several years' with boys ranging in age from 15 to 19, District Attorney Lynne Abraham said.

The man, known to the teenagers as 'Uncle Eddie' or 'Uncle Ed,' was arrested Wednesday night and arranged Thursday on charges of involuntary deviate sexual intercourse sexual abuse of children, indecent assault and corrupting the morals of a minor, she said.

Bail was set at dirs 3 million. Abraham urged any of the boys who may have had contact with the man to contact authorities.

"We were told by the defendant and his attorney that this man has AIDS and has had full-blown AIDS for at least one

Abraham told reporters, 'This means that at a minimum this man has been infected with the HIV virus for a period of at least one to two years before the onset of AIDS."

She said he would invite the boys to his apartment, and they went willingly.

They still lead a secret life

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina: The law is still stacked against homosexuals in this conservative, Roman Catholic nation, but activists say police now seem less inclined to abuse it, reports

Technically, the morals squad can arrest anyone at a gay bar. Police edicts forbid a man's "disguising himself" in the clothes of a woman. Or a "known pervert" from associating with people under age 18.

"A known pervert, that's me, for example," Rafael Freda says with a nervous laugh. The 43-year-old past president of the Argentine Homosexual Community has been arrested once and fired twice. He teaches literature at a high school. In this and other Latin American countries, homosexuality

is a sensitive topic. in Chile, gays have virtually no public presence. The appearance of transvestites in a recent fashion show at the

Fine Arts Museum in Santiago caused a scandal. There is a generation gap", said Santino, a co-president of the Homosexual Community, which has about 50 members

and counsels about 200 others a week. "Most gays in Argentina lead secret lives," she said. "There

are a lot of people who the whole time lead double lives mothers, fathers, sons, daughters. They come here at age 50 and say, 'I can't do it anymore'."

Columbus' letter on auction

Madrid: One of the world's extremely rare copies of the first Latin edition of Christopher Columbus' letter on the discovery of America will be auctioned in Paris on March 30, it was learned here, reports Xinhua.

In this letter, Columbus informed the Catholic king and

queen about the discovery of America. The copy of the first Latin edition, contained in a book published in Rome in 1493, belongs to the private collection of a well known French collector who prefers to remain

anonymous behind the initials M C. A copy of that book was sold over 10 years ago for 650,000 francs (about 120,000 US dollars) Today in New York, another copy is offered in a famous catalogue at the price of 650,000 US dollars.

Amnesty challenges Indian government

LONDON, Mar 28: Amnesty International on Friday challenged the Indian government to "deal seriously" with its charges of widespread police torture and killings, dismissed

United States," he said in an

and Muslim militants.

abuse of powers."

sponded to a report we haven't written."

by Delhi on Thursday, reports

The Indian government responded to Amnesty's report on Wednesday, India: "torture, rape and deaths in custody", by accusing the London-based human rights watchdog of overlooking brutalities, by Sikh

An official spokesman said, "it is a totally one-sided report. There are sweeping generalisations about police excesses,

Amnesty said Friday, "the government has in fact re"The government's re-

*sponse deals with issues of armed insurgency, but ignores what the report is about the pressing problem of torture that takes place in the cause of normal policing in every one of Indias 25 states.

The government had accused Amnesty International of "strident unfairness and glaring inaccuracy" but had not pointed out a single inaccuracy, it said.

Amnesty said Indian police routinely tortured suspects in jail, alleging hundreds had died from beatings in recent years, It said police also regularly raped women in prisons.

Arafat, during meetings that The criticism was led by lation, it said, weakened ended Friday, according to Khaled and Hant Hassan, Fatah's control over the sources who attended, reports members of the Central Palestinian Liberation Committee who have served as Arafat, initially furious at the Arafat's leading political adviscriticism, promised to "re-Excerpts of the memoran ers since 1963. The brothers dum were made available to evaluate the organizational were alienated within Fatah structure" of his Fatah faction.

after publicly opposing Arafat's support of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein during the the Gulf War. In a 10- page memorandum

distributed to the 18-member Central Committee, the Hassans said Arafat's "political miscalculations" during the Gulf War "has pushed the PLO. the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people into a catas-

rienced old hands within Fatah' surrounding himself instead with adviser from other factions. That miscalcu-

They complained that Arafat

refused "to listen to the expe-

The Associated Press by several sources, interviewed by telephone from Tunts on condition of anonymity. In a rapidly changing inter-

national climate, calls for a democratisation process are growing.

The PLO lost its traditional Eastern European allies with the collapse of communism. And the Gulf War left isolated in the Arab World.

cess, in which the Palestinians are represented by non-PLO personalities from the Israelioccupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, also has marginalised its Known for their close ties to the Saudi leadership, the

The Middle East peace pro-

Hassans had advocated an outright denunciation of Saddam's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Instead, Arafat backed Saddam, infuriating the Saudis.

and their Gulf allies and depriving the PLO of a monthly financial allocation of dlrs 43 million from these oil-rich

In addition to the suspension of cash, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have been expelled from the Gulf, in-creasing the financial burdens.

em states to define steps Libya

had to take more concretely to

meet these demands. They

point to several subjective el

ements in Gulf War ceasefire

resolutions against Iraq that

perpetuate a trade embargo

Morocco have all at one time

or another questioned the le-

gality of the resolution or

whether an unusual precedent

council was united in dismay at

Libyan Leader Muammar

Gadaffi for rebuffing Arab

League mediators earlier this

week and are disregarding

comments from Tripoli that

are not formally presented in

Bush may attend

Earth summit

in Brazil

Washington, Mar 28

President George Bush will at

tend an 'earth summit' in

Brazil only if it produces a

treaty serving US interests, a top White House official said

on Friday in rejecting a key

Clayton Yeutter, the newly-

installed chief of domestic pol-

icy at the White House, said Bush would attend the June

United Nations conference on

environment and development

in Rio De Janeiro if it was

productive for him to partici

tive meeting is whether it's ir

the best interests of the

interview with wire service

"The definition of a produc

proposal to fight global warm-

ing, reports Reuter. .

But diplomats said the

India, Zimbabwe and

indefinitely.

was being set.

Libya will have to comply with all UN demands by April 15

Arafat under fire for PLO mishaps

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 28: Security Council members reached tentative agreement on Friday to give Libya until April 15 to comply with all UN demands on airline bombings or face punishing trade and diplomatic sanctions, reports Reuter.

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Mar 28:

PLO members angry about po-

litical and organizational

mishaps in the organization

blasted their chief, Yasser

and offer recommendations for

reform at the next meeting in

early April, the sources said on

rected at the Palestine

Liberation Organization chief

by members of Fatah were

reminiscent of those voiced by

Syrian-backed Fatah mutineers

who tried to unseat him in

1983, according to partici-

The harsh accusations di-

conditions of anonymity.

A sanctions resolution was revised several times to meet objections from Non-Aligned nations some of whom are uneasy about measures demanding Libya extradite two agents accused of bombing a US airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988.

But the new draft, sponsored by the United States, Britain and France, is expected to be adopted on Monday or Tuesday at the latest by a large majority, following scrutiny of the text in capitals of the 15 Council members.

The April 15 deadline means Libya would have to comply with all demands listed in a January Security Council resolution before that date or face a ban on air travel, arms deals and a cut in diplomatic representation abroad.

Originally the west wanted a 24-hour deadline for the sanctions to be applied after adoption of the new resolution but yielded to several countries who wanted time for foreigners in Libya to decide whether they would stay.

Council President Diego Arria of Venezuela said nonaligned states intended to tell Libya's UN ambassador late on Friday that the resolution would pass for sure and he should take that into consider-

While the United States, France and Britain believe they have enough votes for adoption, they want a large major-For this reason diplomats

said Washington put unusual pressure on China, whose foreign Minister has publicly declared opposition to the sanc-

Strong representations were made to the Chinese government in Beijing after China at one point considered using its veto power for the first time in decades to kill adoption of the measure, the envoys

They were reminded there would be consequences beyond the resolution," said one envoy. in an apparent reference to preferential trade agreement with the United States.

But he said elements of the resolution were changed at China's suggestion and Beijing would probably abstain in the The council is demanding

Tripoli hand over to the United States or Britain two men accused of the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people. France is also demanding

Libya's cooperation in the investigation of a 1989 bombing of French UTA Flight 772 over Niger, in Africa, in which 171 people died.

In addition Libya has to "commit itself definitively " to stop all forms of terrorist action and demonstrate "by concrete actions" its renunciation of terrorism. Fearing sanctions could go

on forever, several council members have asked the west-



them from Gurara to Walda camp where some 30,000 Ethiopians have already been resettled after fleeing tribal fighting. Twenty one trucks brought 1,680 people to Walda camp on -AFP/ UNB photo.

reporters. nic minorities that have long "That's the judgement cal south autonomy. Yangon's army that we have to make, and is mounting a major dry-season we'll do it on those grounds, attack on their bases in southsaid Yeutter. east Myanmar. Last week Thai artillery and "Hopefully what's in the ground forces fought off rebest interests of the United peated attempts by Myanmar States is also in the best intertroops to cross through Thai ests of the world, but we have territory at several points to to make this judgement call on attacks Karen fighters from Three Ethiopian children refugee look out from the back of a truck on March 26 taking whether what's going to happen or not happen in Rio is in

the rear. At least 80 Myanmar soldiers were killed, Thai offi-March 26.

Subic Base SUBIC NAVAL BASE, Mar 28: The United States removed the second of three drydocks from its Subic bay Naval base in the Philippines today, heralding the imminent closure of its ship repair yard, reports Reuter.

The 772-foot (235-meter) long floating drydock, worth 130 million dollars, was towed out of Subic Harbour for the 45-day voyage to pearl Harbour

in Hawaii. Pearl Harbour will take over some of the duties of Subic in repairing and refitting ships of the US seventh fleet, which patrols the Asia-Pacific region.

MOSCOW, Mar 28: Iran

says it has won agreement for a fragile ceasefire in the disputed enclave of Nagorny-Karabakh to be extended for about two weeks despite accusations of an Azeri attack on an Armenian plane, reports Reuter.

Thai border officials rushed

to Myanwadi to seek an expla-

nation for the firing. They said

Myanmar soldiers told them

they were retaliating for the

use by Karen guerillas of Thai

territory north of Myanwadi as

Buddhist Myanmar are the

most powerful of a dozen eth-

The Karen, Christians in

a base for attacks.

Armenian officials accused Azeri forces of trying to down. one of its airliners on Friday in an incident which appeared to jeopardise hopes of prolonging the truce due to expire on the same day.

But Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi, who reported winning an agreement to extend the ceasefire,

said he was not too worried. This happens with any

ceasefire and it does not mean that just because someone shoots someone the ceasefire is broken" he said

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi said the ceasefire would now hold for about two weeks until a planned summit between the combatants and Russia.

"Both sides told ... Iran that they agreed to extend the period when the ceasefire is in force until a final statement is adopted by (Armenian and Azeri) heads of states," an Iranian statement said.

Armenian officials in

Nagorny-Karabakh said Azeri forces had tried to shoot down an airliner travelling from the enclave's capital Stepanakert to Armenia, a move which it said 'flagrantly violated' the ceasefire.

They said the plane a Yak-40 jet capable of carrying 30 people, was hit by anti-aircraft fire which knocked out one of its two engines and started a fire. Ten people were hurt but the plane landed safely in the Armenian capital Yerevan. At least 1,500 people have been killed in four years of bitter fighting over Nagorny-Karabakh, a largely Armentanpopulated enclave administered by Azerbaijan.

The conflict is one of the toughest problems facing the new Commonwealth of Independent States, which replaced the Soviet Union late

But a war of words between Russia and Ukraine, in evidence again at a meeting of Commonwealth parliamentary heads in Kazakhstan, is a more fundamental threat to its sur-

ITAR-Tass news agency said the Ukranian delegation had ignored talks on creating an inter-parliamentary assembly, aimed at helping coordinate work between legislatures.

Ukraine, increasingly dubious about whether to stay in the Commonwealth, is wary of what it sees as any attempt to recreate Russian-dominated centralised structures.

the best interests of this

country", he said.

Inside Russia, politicians jockeyed for position before a key meeting on April 6 of the supreme legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies, to pass a constitution giving the country a new legal start after 70 years of communism.

The session will pit President Boris Yeltsin's team of radical young reformers against a largely conservative assembly bewildered by soar ing prices and growing hardthe country's push towards a free market economy. Apparently playing for

ships which have accompanied

right-wing support, Yeltsin gave a highly-publicised show of solidarity with his Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi, a former moderate communist who has become one of the most vociferous critics of the reforms

Yeltsin and Rutskoi paid a joint visit to an agricultural cooperative outside Moscow, where the smiling Russian President denied that he had given Rutskoi the unpopular agriculture portfolio last month as a sign of disfavour.

US removes 2nd Ceasefire extended for two weeks in Nagorny-Karabakh "Klerk, Mandela have similar have similar problem" PORT ELIZABETH, South

Africa, Mar 28: Nelson Mandela said Friday he and President FW de Klerk had a similar problem; trying to convince their constituencies of the need for change, reports Mandela, president of the

congratulated de Klerk for reforms that have led to negotiations on giving full political rights to the black majority. 'He is a courageous man... to

African National Congress,

abandon apartheid and embrace democratic values, Mandela told the South African Press Association.