BRAN

Arafat in Tripoli: PLO leader Yasser Arafat,

who survived a plane crash in the Libyan desert last week,

returned to Tripoli on Friday in a show of solidarity with

Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi in defying the West over the

"I must stand beside Libya and my brother Gaddafi," Arafat

He urged Arabs to help Libya overcome United Nations

"Arabs should play an active role and must not leave an

sanctions imposed when Tripoli refused to hand over for trial

in the West two Libyans accused of the 1988 bombing of a US

Arab country to stand facing the problems along," said the

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman, whose

support of Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait harmed his

Turkish clash leaves 31 dead: Thirty

"terrorists" and one gendarme were killed near the south central Turkish town of Savour during a bid to free six soldiers and militiamen kidnapped Wednesday by Kurdish

rebels, the Anatolia news agency said Friday, reports AFP

The semi-official agency said the body of a non-commisstoned officer abducted in the same area on Tuesday was recovered in the operation, but gave no details on the fate of

A total of about 30 militiamen, one officer and a dozen sol-

diers are currently being held by the Kurdistan Workers Party

(PPK) in camps in northern Iraq, according to local sources.

Johnson to visit Y'slav states: sec

retary of State James Baker is sending a top aide to the

republics that used to be part of Yugoslavia to see leaders of

newly independent states on establishing full diplomatic

relations, the State Department said Friday, reports AP from

in Bosnia Saturday and will visit Croatia and Slovenia later.

Deputy State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said

Johnson will confer with the leader of each country on their

economic and security policies and willingness to abide by

Baker announced US recognition of those states on April

Jhonson may try to enter Bosnia on one of five planeloads

of US emergency aid consisting of food, blankets and

ICRC relief to Karabakh: The Inter-

national Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has made its first

delivery of relief supplies to the trouble enclave of Nagorno-

Karabakh in the Former Soviet Union, a spokeswoman said on

Inter-ethnic fighting has long plagued the enclave, popu-

ICRC spokeswoman Karen Saddler said two land cruisers

On Friday, one of the vehicles carried on to the town of

lated mainly by Armenians but inside the republic of

Azerbaijan, and has prevented relief supplies from crossing

full of medical supplies arrived on Thursday in the regional

Serbs capture more land: Serb-led

forces captured more of strife-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina on

Friday, and UN envoy Cyrus Vance warned that time was

running out in efforts to end ethic conflict there, reports AP

said finding peace in Bosnia would be a "very, very difficult

Serbs against Muslims and Croats, since the latter groups

voted for independence on Feb 29. Serbs, about one-third of

Israel recognizes Croatia: Israel has

officially recognized the former Yugoslav republics of Croatia

and Slovenia, urging Croatia to confront anti-semitism the

Foreign Ministry announced in Jerusalem Friday, reports AFP.

thorities, appealed to them "to take all necessary steps to

combat anti semitism in their country," a ministry spokesman

Croat Fascists and the Nazis during the Second World War,

Foreign Minister David Levy, in a message to Croatina au-

He urged Cvheatia not to forget the collaboration between

United States recognized Bosnia's sovereignty last week.

After meeting Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, Vance

Several hundred people have been killed in classes pitting

Fighting intensified after the European Community and the

Deputy Assistant Secretary Ralph Johnson is due to arrive

The figures could not be officially confirmed.

NEW DELHI, Apr 17: Indian agents caught a Pakistani high commission (embassy) official here Friday while he was allegedly receiving classified documents form a local contact, officials said here, reports

Pakistani official Arshad Ali was caught with top secret documents he had received from the contact near a crowded south district city mosque and was taken in for interrogation, one official said.

in Islamabad, an official statement said Ali was detained, beaten and injured by police in New Delhi.

Ali was taken to a police station by plain clothed policemen from a market where he was shopping, the statement said

The Pakistani high commission in New Delhi had lodged a strong protest with the Indian External Affairs Ministry, demanding an immediate investigation and action against the

Lockerbie affair, reports Reuter.

organisation.

from Ankara.

the others.

Washington.

medicine.

international agreements

Friday, reports Reuter from Geneva.

Shousha, in Azeri hands.

capital Stepanakert, the chief Armenian town.

the population, oppose Bosnia's statehood.

told reporters on his arrival from Tunisia.

culprits, the Pakistani statement said.

Police handed over Ali to Delhi-based Pakistani diplo-Delhi said, adding that the two had been under police surveillance for months. ports AFP.

All is likely to be sent back to Pakistan by the embassy,

Police refused to disclose the contents of the classified documents with which Ali was opment. reportedly caught, but said he paid Hanti 77 dollars for the

Pakistani diplomats were not immediately available for comments.

Reuter adds: More arrests were likely as investigations continue into a Pakistani spy network, it added.

Pakistan lodged a protest

### US, Russia to back Palestinians' participation

# Israel threatens to boycott talks

JERUSALEM, Apr 18: Israel will boycott multilateral Middle East peace talks next month if Palestinians from outside the occupied territories attend. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir warned in an interview published Friday, re-

Multilateral working groups are to convene from May 11-13 in Brussels and from May 13-15 in Ottawa to discuss refugees and economic devel-

But Shamir told the Jerusalem Post that if a representative of the Palestinian Diaspora was present, "we won't be there, so it won't be

Israel has steadfastly opposed the participation of Palestinians who do not live on the occupied west Bank and

Gaza Strip at the peace table. The United States and Russia, co-sponsors of the

that they would back the participation of Palestinians from the diaspora in the working groups, but that stance has not been officialised.

Hanan Ashrawi, spokes woman for the Palestinian delegation, said Monday that for the first time Palestinians not living in the territories would take part at the two working groups.

Israel has blocked any role for the Palestine Liberation Organisation at the peace table but Palestinian negotiators take instructions from the

They met in Cairo this week

with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, prompting a warning here that legal proceedings could be taken against them on their return to Israel, where the organisation is outlawed.

Shamir denied to the Post that Israel would skirt the is sue. "It must be investigated."

We have to see if it happened and on what scale. We don't turn a blind eye."

With general elections due on June 23. Shamir also hit out at the opposition Labour Party's scheme for Palestinian autonomy within a year.

"I'm almost sure a Palestinian state would result," he said. "A Likud-run agreement would not result in the existence of a Palestinian

He also told the Englishlanguage daily that Washington had promised Arab leaders it would not provide loan guarantees for Israel to absorbe new immigrants unless building was halted on the occupted territories

"No doubt about it," Shamir said. "there was some kind of promise. The Arabs say so. It was conditional upon the total freeze of the settlements"

Israel refused to stop new construction and President

George Bush blocked loan guarantees of 10 billion dollars.

The state department dismissed reports in the Israeli press last week that Bush had promised Saudi Arabia a year ago that Israel would never be granted the loan guarantees tf the Arab nations entered the

peace process. Shamir described US Israeli ties, which have chilled over the issue, as based on "identical interest."

We have a common interest with the United States because Israel is the only factor in the entire area that will always have interests identical with those of the United States," he explained

Bush had unfinished business with Middle East radicals Shamtr added

"Iraq is still a threat. Libya is a threat and the Iranian threat is advancing," he

### BJP denies temple damage

NEW DELHI, Apr 18: A 15member BJP delegation led by the party Vice President Sikander Bakht which visited Ayodhya recently denied that many temples were destroyed while levelling the ground in Avodhya, reports PTI.

Bakht who led the delegation soon after the visit of the all party delegation, told newsmen here yesterday that structures which were removed were not temples or places of worship, and were

really in the nature of dwelling places."

## Pan Am bombing

# US pledges fair trial of suspects

WASHINGTON, Apr 18: The United States pledged Friday that the two Libyan agents suspected of carrying out the 1988 Pan Am jetliner bombing would get a fair trial if extradited to the United States but said it had received no extradition offer, reports AFP.

Meanwhile, Reuter adds, the United States, saying it wants to resolve the conflict with Libya, said on Friday that two Libyans suspected in the Lockerbie bombing would receive due process under US law if handed over for trial.

But States Department Spokesman Richard Boucher said the United States had not received any offer for the two Libyans to stand trial in the

SEOUL, Apr 18: South and

North Korea failed at a border

meeting on Saturday to settle

differences over attempts to

reunite 10 million Koreans

separated from their families

by four decades of cold war,

Seoul officials said, reports

meeting. The two sides could

not agree on anything, an offi-

cial at Seoul's north-south dia-

Nothing came out of today's

Reuter.

logue office said.

1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, in which 270 people were killed.

Libyan Lawyer ibrahim Lagwell told Reuters on Thursday night that his clients would be prepared to stand trial in a foreign country, including Scotland or the United Stats, if they could be guaranteed fair trials.

Boucher said: "We have not been contacted by anyone with an offer for the two suspects to stand trial in the US or the UK".

But he attempted to ad dress the concerns the Libyans' lawyer had raised, saying: "in a trial, of course they would be afforded all the due process guarantees provided

Talks fail to reunite Koreans

He said the two Korean del-

egations met in a joint ex-

change and cooperation

committee for nearly three

hours at the border hamlet of

Panmunjo, but the talks were

southern proposal to allow

some separated families from

both Koreas to meet as an ini-

tial step, the spokesman said.

KABUL: Chief of staff of the Afghan Air Force General Jamil (L) discusses the situation

with his deputy, Mohammad Halem Raziz at Kabul's military airport on

The delegations agreed to

deadlocked over details.

reconvene on April 27.

by US law and available to all defendants regardless of na tional origin or the nature of the crime

In an indication that Washington would like the current impasse to be brought to an end, Boucher added: "We would like to resolve this situation and we would welcome serious steps on the part of

He noted that over the weeks that the crisis has been developing. Libya had advanced a number of proposals but they have not been serious.

Libya has been virtually isolated from the outside world since Wednesday, when UN sanctions came into force begause Tripoli had refused to

North Korea was still insisting

that detailed measures be left

to the Red Cross officials, he

economic information office be

spokesman said. The north

agreed, he said.

53 Korean conflict.

The north turned down a but further details could not be

set up in Panmunio, the

was not opposed to the idea

The two Koreas, still tech-

nically at war since the 1950-

South Korea suggested an

hand over the men Abdel Baset Ali Mohamed Al-Megrahi and Al-amin Khalifa Fhimah.

The UN resolution ordering the sanctions also calls on Libya to cooperate with an investigation into the 1989 bombing of a French airliner over Niger. A total of 441 people were killed in the Lockerbie and Niger bombings.

In the interview, Lagwell said he believed the Libyan authorities would not object to a voluntary surrender by the two suspects.

"My clients feel that they are innocent and they would accept a fair trial in any place where they have a guarantee,

#### Kuwait recovers a territory from Iraq

KUWAIT CITY, Apr 18: Kuwait expressed delight vesterday over its recovery of a swath of oil-rich territory from Iraq, announced Thursday by a UN commission charged with demarcating the Kuwait-Iraq

border, reports AFP. Kuwait's delegate on the United Nations border commission, Tareq Razuki, described the decision to over the 200-kilometre (125-mile) long border by 600 metres in the Emirate's favour as a

"magnificent achievement." Speaking to the Kuwiati News Agency KUNA at the United Nations in New York, Razuki went on. "It is a historic triumph for Kuwaiti law, which the Iraqi regime had tried to wipe out."

The special commission. set up by the security council under resolution 687 which imposed on Iraq the terms of a ceasefire in the Gulf War in April 1991, comprised experts from Kuwait, Iraq. New Zealand and Sweden.

Iraq did not take part in Thursday vote, which gave back to Kuwait several of wells, including the Rumailla fields, and part of the port city of Umm Qasr, Iraq's only port with access to the Gulf.

## Tribute to AIDS victim LONDON: Film star Elizabeth Taylor flew in to London to-

day to make a special appeal for the fight against AIDS at a memorial tribute to one of the disease's best-known victims, queen lead singer

Off the Record

Reuter I will be asking people to be more aware and take more precautions," Taylor said at London's Heathrow airport.

Freddie Mercury, reports

"I want to make people realise that it's a disease that can kill anyone," she told reporters after arriving from New York with husband Larry Fortensky. Taylor, president of the

American foundation for AIDS research, will be among a galaxy of stars at Monday's open-air rock concert at Wembley stadium, billed by organisers as the biggest memorial tribute in history.

More than 20 acts including David Bowe. Elton remaining Liz Taylor John and members of queen.

performer to raise awareness of AIDS and funds for the fight against the disease.

Organisers estimate the potential worldwide television audience at one billion in some 70 countries. Mercury died of AIDS last November, aged 45.

#### Acrobat survives 6,600-foot fall

HONG KONG: An acrobat whose parachute failed to open operly during a show last week in Shanghai survived a 6,600-foot (2,000-metre) fall, an official news report said Saturday, reports AP.

The China News Service reported that the 20-year-old man, identified only by his surname. Che, encountered wind current problems after jumping out of a plane at 6,600 feet (2,000 meters). It said Che fell more than 3,000 feet[900 metres) before being able to slightly open the parachute. He landed on a house and then rolled to the ground, the staterun news agency said.

Che suffered a concussion, a fractured lumbar vertebrae, an injured right shoulder and damaged left eye socket. His injuries were described as serious but not life threatening.

The China News Service said the accident occurred during the Lunghua Temple Fair Parachuting Show on April 11.



PHILIPPINES: Mario Castro, is carried away by devotees to a hospital after collapsing while nailed to a wooden cross on Friday. Castro a 40-year old bus driver was crucified for 13 consecutive years as part of his personal vow to reenact Jesus Christ's crucifixion. AFP/UNB photo

#### Clash on abortion

BUFFALO, NY: Those for abortion and those against it confronted each other with angry taunts just days before a new, prolonged protest aimed to shut down the city's abortion clinics, reports AP.

Both sides expect thousands to come to Buffalo for the latest showdown over the politically volatile issue of abortion. The protests, beginning Monday, are patterned after those last summer in Wichita, Kan, which lasted 46 days and re-

sulted in 2,600 arrests and thousands of dollars in police On Friday, about 100 abortion-rights activists tried to disrupt a church service where Randall Terry, founder of the

anti-abortion group Operation Rescue, spoke. No arrests were Terry urged about 500 followers to turn out at clinics de-

spite vows from abortion-rights demonstrators to keep them

"Some People here are going to get spit on, you're going to be cursed at," Terry said. "Be like Jesus, and just take it."

# Call to remove Indo-Pak tension

ISLAMABAD, Apr 18: Pakistan and Indian politicians have appealed for a constructive and purposeful dialogue on all vital issues to remove tension between the two countries, reports Xinhua.

The appeal was made by prominent politicians of the two countries at the second round of non-governmental India-Pakistan dialogue which opened here Friday under the aegis of the Institute of Strategic Studies of Pakistan (ISSP).

They held there was ur-

gency for such kind of dialogue and the tension between the two countries could be removed only through peaceful contacts.

Speaking on the occasion, Pakistan Awami National Party Leader Khan Abdul Wali Khan said, "we don't have any option but to sit across the table and sort out the differences."

Former Indian Foreign Minister IK Gujral said there was a need to change the situation and create a cooperative atmosphere.

2 Chinese accused

## Power grab in Peru predicted

the spokesman added.

private report predieted a power grab in Peru two years ago, including the possibility that a democratically elected president could welcome a coup to disguise his failure to solve Peru's many problems,

reports AFP. The study, ' Sendero Luminoso and the future of Peru", was done by the Rand March 1990, and argued that the only pertinent question coup in Peru, but when. Mujahideen preparing for final showdown with Kabul forces KABUL, Apr 18: Prayers for peace and cheap bread rang out from mosques across the encircled city of Kabul yesterday where Afghans waited in fear and hope for the end of 14 years

of civil war, reports Reuter. Row upon row of shops on the edge of the city were shuttered and boarded up. Streets were mostly deserted.

Rumours spread of how Mujahideen guerillas were tightening their grip around Kabul, preparing to meet government forces in a final

"The mullah is praying to God for peace and cheaper bread", said a 44-year-old shopkeeper in the old bazaar surrounding the Puli Kishty mosque in central Kabul.

Bread has almost doubled in price in recent days because of wheat shortages and fears of mass bloodshed if frantic negotiations involving

the United Nations, the government and various rebel groups break down.

President Najibullah's overthrow by members of his own government this week may have delighted some, but this is far outweighed by their sense of fear.

"Of course we are afraid. People are really weary of war", the shopkeeper said. Nearby beggars with limbs blown off by mines lay on rags. Children cried for alms in

the crowded grounds of the mosque. "We have no work, no money. What is our future? We're afraid," said Karim, a young unemployed man on his way to Friday prayers. "Najfbullah never kept his promises," a Sikh

stallholder said. Sandbags were piled beside a white marble statue of a mother and child outside UNICEF offices. Around the corner government troops lolled on an armoured personnel carrier, nursing a machine-gun.

"The situation is normal inside the city." Foreign Ministry spokesman Wahid Qayoumi

-AFP/UNB photo

However, the situation was rather "special" beyond the city limits, he said. No one seemed quite sure of where those limits are after a series of Mujahideen victories and defections by government forces.

Who is fighting whom was equally confusing and many Afghans listen to the British Broadcasting Corporation and Voice of America to try to keep up with shifting alliances.

Kabul airport was manned by government officials, government soldiers and militiamen who only recently had turned against Kabul to join the rebels.

and turbans, the militiamen looked incongru-

Carrying submachine-guns and shoulder rockets and wearing traditional baggy trousers

ous beside soldiers in neat green uniforms. Both sides said the militiamen were under

the orders of militia commander general Rashid Dostum, who last month abandoned Najibullah and cast in his lot with the Mujahideen guerillas in the northern city of Mazar-I-Sharif.

With Naifbullah's fall, Dostum apparently feels able to mend fences with the Kabul government.

Reporters who drove south out of Kabul reported scattered shelling, believed to be coming from government forces and intended as a warning to the Islamic fundamentalist. Hezb-I-Islami guerillas who are approaching Kabul.

The shelling could be heard in the distance - at least by some. "Booms? No I haven't heard any, said a taxi

of raping BEIJING, Apr 18: A fiveprovince hunt for two Chinese

men accused of murdering 22 people and raping eight women has ended, with one of them shot dead by police and the other captured the Legal Daily reported Friday, says AFP. Li Gang was shot and killed

province on March 2, while his accomplice Tang Yanping fled only to be captured April 14 at his home in northeastern Jilin province, the newspaper said. In the first three months of

by police in northern Shanxi

the year, Li and Tang went on a rampage across at least three driver who said he stopped listening years ago. provinces.

# 2 years ago

WASHINGTON, Apr 18: A

Corporation for the State and Defence Departments in was not if there would be a

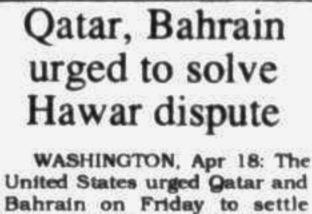
#### mats, but arrested his contact, Mohammad Hantf, on charges of spying, the officials in New

consignment.

with the Ministry of External Affairs.

anything."

peace process, said in January



Islands peacefully, reports "We would like to see the dispute settled peacefully in order to remove one of the most persistent obstacles to Gulf Cooperation Council,"

State Department spokesman

their dispute over the Hawar

"Neither party should resort to force or the threat of force," he said.

Richard Boucher said.



take a walk with an unidentified companion on the grounds of the Chilean embassy in Moscow on

# AFP/UNB photo