

BRIEFLY

Kohl faces political crisis : A key member of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition called for a Cabinet reshuffle Wednesday, after two days of political feuding triggered by the resignation of Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, reports AP from Bonn.

The new nominee for foreign minister came under fire, and some German newspapers said Kohl was facing his worst political crisis ever.

Finance Minister Theo Waigel, head of the Bavarian Christian Social Union that is the sister party of Kohl's Christian Democrats, said the image of the government had suffered.

"It would be good ... to think now of pushing through a complete change," he said in a television interview.

Son Sann wants UN forces to stay : Cambodian leader Son Sann said Wednesday he would like UN peacekeeping forces to stay in his country for several years if his party wins elections scheduled for 1993, reports AP from Canberra.

Son Sann, President of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, said he was concerned that the Khmer Rouge would need a long time to abandon its old habits. He said he would ask for the UN forces to stay perhaps five more years.

Hundreds of thousands died under the Khmer Rouge regime, which lasted from 1975 until it was overthrown by Vietnamese troops in late 1978.

The Khmer Rouge and Son Sann's front are two of the four Cambodian factions that signed a peace accord last year, paving the way for the United Nations peacekeeping operation.

24 hurt in Guatemalan blast : A bomb exploded at a crowded downtown bank on Wednesday, injuring 24 people and seriously damaging the building, reports AP from Guatemala.

None of the injuries at the National Mortgage Bank were serious, said Fire Department spokesman Amarildo Herrera.

The blast was preceded by anonymous phone calls to the area warning of explosions at the bank as well as the courthouse, the Bank of Guatemala, City Hall and other buildings. No other bombs were found, Herrera said.

None of the rebel groups active in Guatemala claimed responsibility for the attacks. A coalition of leftist guerrilla groups have been fighting for power for more than three decades.

Two Palestinians shot dead in WB : Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinians in the northern part of the occupied West Bank Wednesday, Israeli and Palestinian sources said, reports AP from Jerusalem.

Ilalil Nader Hassan Hamissa, 23, was killed during a clash in Alaymoun village and Jawad Assad Rahla, 25, died in a separate clash in Arab village, they said.

The deaths bring to 893 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli gunfire since the uprising began in December 1987, according to a toll based on Palestinian sources.

7 illegal immigrants held in UK : British police in the southern English Port of Dover held seven suspected illegal immigrants Wednesday after they were discovered in the back of a camper-van arriving from Ostend, Belgium, reports AP from London.

A Home Office spokesman said six of the men were believed to come from the Indian sub-continent and the seventh was from Turkey.

EC men face trouble in Bosnia : European Community negotiators face an uphill struggle Thursday to persuade the battling Serbian, Croatian and Muslim communities of Bosnia-Herzegovina to sit down at the same table in Lisbon and talk, reports Reuters from Lisbon.

EC negotiator Jose Cutileiro began separate talks with the delegations on Wednesday.

"Cutileiro will try to make everyone see this war is in vain and if he succeeds he'll gather them all together," said Mate Boban, Deputy leader of Bosnia's Croatian minority. "But I don't think there will be a plenary session this time."

Emergency declared

Two killed as violence erupts in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, Apr 30 : Rioting erupted after four white police officers were acquitted of all but one assault charge in the beating of a black motorist. Two people were killed and dozens injured, reports AP.

Mayor Tom Bradley declared a state of emergency Wednesday night and Gov Pete Wilson sent in the National Guard, as looters ravaged stores, motorists were beaten and buildings set ablaze.

A videotape of the beating which prompted the police brutality trial had shocked the nation. Wednesday's acquittals shocked many leaders, even as they appealed for calm.

Violence was scattered throughout various parts of the city, but most occurred in Los Angeles' predominantly black south-central area. Demonstrators also clashed with officers at the downtown police station and at the Police Department's Foothill Division, where the four officers worked.

Mary-Schnack, spokesman for Daniel Freeman Memorial Hospital, at least 72 were treated for injuries. One person died of gunshot wounds and another of traumatic injuries, said Daniel McClain, another hospital spokesman.

Pillars of smoke could be seen across a wide area of the city. Fire companies were called in from other cities as police with shotguns guarded firefighters.

"They are out of control," police spokeswoman Sharyn Michelson said of the rioters.

Wednesday's verdicts came after a year of political uproar sparked by the graphic amateur videotape of the beating, which had been broadcast nationwide. The backlash brought down the Los Angeles police chief.

"My client and I are just outraged," said Steve Lerman, the lawyer for Rodney King, the man who was beaten by police. "It sends a bad message. It says it's OK to go ahead and beat somebody when they're down and kick the crap out of them."

While appealing for calm, Bradley, who is black, blasted the jury's decision.

"Today, the system failed us," he said. "Today, this jury told the world what we all saw with our own eyes wasn't crime. Today, that jury asked us to accept the senseless and brutal beating of a helpless man."

US State Department says

Aid stoppage to Pakistan remains in effect

WASHINGTON, Apr 30 : Despite signs of improving relations, the US aid cut off to Pakistan prompted by the South Asian country's development of nuclear weapons remains unchanged, the State Department says, reports AP.

Wassim Sajjid, visiting chairman of the Pakistani Senate, has discussed the issue at the State Department. The US position is that sanctions ordered against Pakistan in 1990 because of the nuclear issue remain in effect, the State Department said Wednesday in a statement.

The two governments were reported in closer agreement on developments in Pakistan's neighbour, Afghanistan, after collapse of the Kabul government and takeover of the capital by a coalition of guerrilla groups.

Secretary of State James A. Baker III on Tuesday and continued his talks Wednesday with Arnold Kanter, undersecretary of state for political affairs. His schedule also included meetings with an array of US lawmakers.

Sajjid and Kanter agreed that the Afghan situation remains basically fluid, the State Department said, and that it would be in the interest of both Pakistan and the United States for Afghanistan's problems to be resolved in a "broad-based settlement process by and for Afghans" and to support United Nations efforts for a peaceful transition.

Sajjid told Baker that he warmly welcomed the return to Kabul from exile of Sibgetullah Mojaddedi to head the new ruling council of

guerrilla groups and that the cease-fire in the capital is basically holding, the department said.

Pakistan has channelled major assistance to the pro-Iranian, Muslim fundamentalist guerrilla faction of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, accused of firing rockets into Kabul until Tuesday in its struggle against more moderate mainstream groups that finally took over.

Reports from Islamabad said Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif recently halted assistance to Hekmatyar after former Soviet Muslim republics now cultivated by Pakistan warned against an Afghan takeover by fundamentalists.

The State Department said Sajjid also discussed the situation in Kashmir, where India

accuses Pakistan of supporting terrorism, and Prime Minister Sharif's proposal to bring the United States, China and Russia into Indo-Pakistan talks on regional nuclear non-proliferation.

The United States in 1990 froze deliveries of \$1.5 billion worth of aid to Pakistan declaring President Bush could no longer meet the requirements of US law to certify that Pakistan possessed neither a nuclear explosive device nor its components.

Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shauhrat Khan acknowledged here last February what his government had long denied, that Pakistan had the components and technology for assembling an atomic bomb. He pledged that it would not explode a bomb or sell nuclear technology abroad.

Delhi blast toll rises to 25

NEW DELHI, Apr 30 : The death toll from a series of powerful blasts Wednesday in a crowded Delhi bazaar rose to 25 today, after 12 more fatalities were recorded overnight, fire department officials said, reports AP.

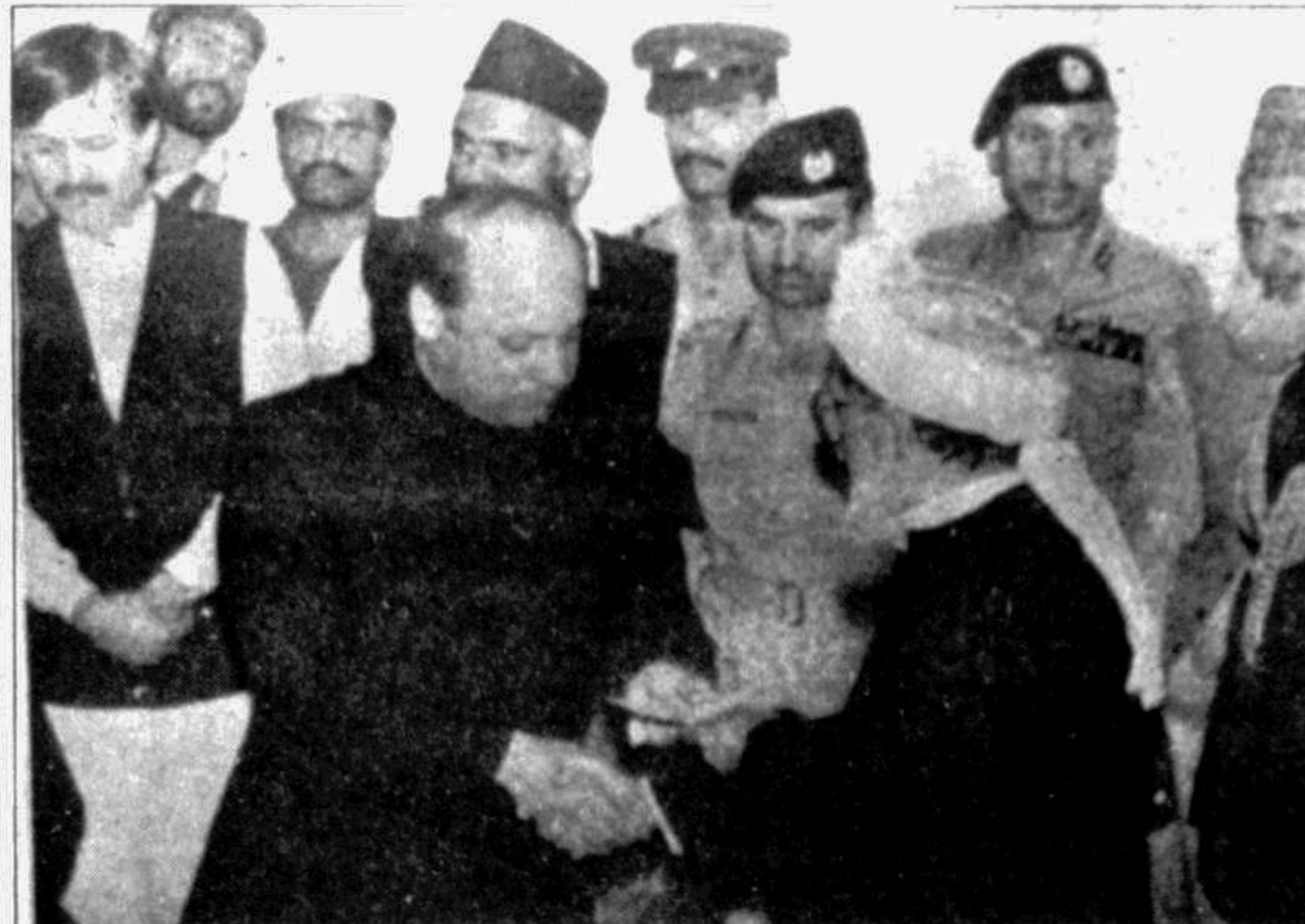
It was not clear if the latest victims had been dug out from under the rubble of the three buildings that collapsed in the blasts, or if they were among the scores admitted to hospitals with injuries.

Hospital sources said 24 of the almost 100 injured in the Naya Bazaar explosions were "battling for their lives," while firefighters continued digging through tonnes of debris.

"More bodies may still be inside the rubble," a source at fire department headquarters said.

Mishandled drums of chemicals have been blamed for the blasts, which also set nearby buildings on fire.

The blasts flattened three multi-storied buildings and gutted two more with fire. They also toppled satellite dishes and water tanks.



KABUL: Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif (front L) presents a cheque of 250 million rupees (10 million dollars) to Afghanistan's interim Pre-sident Sibgetullah Mojaddedi (front R) during Sharif's brief but emotional trip to the Afghan capital April 29. Sharif is the first head of government to visit Afghanistan since the Mujahideen formally took power April 28.

Armenian troops kill 20 Azeris

BAKU, Azerbaijan, Apr 30 : About 20 Azeris died and at least 20 were wounded Wednesday in clashes with Armenian forces in the troubled enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, the Azerbaijan Defence and Interior Ministry said, reports AP.

The dead included fighters and civilians, the ministries said here in the capital of Azerbaijan.

About 10 people died earlier Wednesday when Armenians attacked Kosalar, an Azeri village in the Shusha

region of the mainly Armenian enclave.

Late in the day the village was still surrounded, the Defence Ministry said.

Shelling of Shusha, the last Azeri stronghold in Nagorno-Karabakh and Fizuli, to the southeast, left three people dead and eight wounded, the Interior Ministry said.

An attack by Armenian forces backed by armoured vehicles on the Azeri village of Naryshlar killed "six fighters" of a self-defence battalion and wounded another 12, authorities said here.

Earlier, in Moscow, officials Armenian sources said Azerbaijan artillery fire on Stepanakert, the main city of troubled Nagorno-Karabakh, claimed 13 lives and wounded several people.

Three Armenians and 10 Azerbaijanis were among the latest dead, according to the Armenian representation in the Russian capital.

Azerbaijani forces backed by armoured vehicles also attacked the Armenian-populated village of Karintag from bases near Stepanakert Wednesday, sources added.

Continuous shelling forced people in Stepanakert to seek shelter for much of the day, with hunger and epidemics setting in. Itar-Tass news agency said quoting the Nagorno-Karabakh Interior Ministry.

The fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave in Azerbaijan, pits the majority Christian Armenian population there against the surrounding Muslim Azeris. The Armenians in the enclave are fighting for independence and close links with Armenia.

Germany a model of democracy for whole world: Bush

WASHINGTON, Apr 30 : President Bush lauded Germany as "a model of democracy for the whole world" and assured President Richard von Weizsacker on Wednesday the United States will not shrink from its commitments to defend Europe, reports AP.

Weizsacker got a 21-gun military salute and full military honours Weizsacker on his first state visit abroad since Germany was united 18 months ago.

Bush said the two countries stand ready to help Russian and the countries of Eastern and central Europe, just as the United States helped Germany build its democracy after World War II.

"Today we see the fruits of that decision, United Germany, a model of democracy for the whole world, and certainly a reliable friend and partner for the United States," said Bush.

"Once our adversary," he said, Germany is "now our partner in leadership."

He credited Weizsacker's "firm, moral leadership" with helping his countrymen "come to terms with the twin catastrophes of dictatorship and division that befell Germany this century."

Weizsacker, moved by the



welcome, assured Bush and the American people that Germany will never forget the untiring and generous assistance we have received from all of you.

Germany was "determined to continue...our reliable part-

nership," he said.

Weizsacker went to the White House with Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher, who threw the government into turmoil Monday with a surprise announcement he plans to resign.

In their talks, Bush "stressed our intention to maintain a strong presence in Europe," White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater said afterwards.

Bush, at the colourful ceremony on the White House lawn, said, "The United States is firmly committed to remaining a world leader. He will play an active role in securing peace, security and prosperity in Europe and in our transatlantic community."

Bush also renewed his call for breaking the deadlock in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, an attempt by 108 nations to lower barriers to free trade.

Bush was host for a state dinner in Weizsacker's honour Wednesday night.

Barre flees to Kenya

NAIROBI, Kenya, Apr 30 : Former Somali dictator Mohamed Siad Barre has fled to Kenya with an entourage of about 1,200 people, more than a year after rebels drove him from power and ended his 21-year presidency, officials said Thursday, reports AP.

Siad Barre crossed from Somalia into Kenya on Wednesday and remains in the nation's northeast town of Wajir, said Foreign Ministry spokesman James Simani.

An official in Kenya's regional headquarters at Garissa, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Siad Barre was staying at an army barracks.

Simani said Kenya would offer Siad Barre assistance in moving to a third country but would not offer asylum to the octogenarian.

"As much as we'd like him to leave, we will not throw him out just like that," said Simani. "There must be a country willing to take him and it will take some time to arrange."

Siad Barre's flight to Kenya comes a week after his forces reportedly tried to move on Somalia's war-ravaged capital,

Off the Record

Nancy not a good mom

NEW YORK: The estranged daughter of former President Ronald Reagan says former first lady Nancy beat her but that her father refused to believe her, reports AP.

"Yes, there was abuse in the family, Patti Davis said in a television interview to be aired Thursday. There was emotional abuse. There was hitting. There was substance abuse. That's what went down."

Davis, 39, has not spoken with her parents in several years and said the abuse began when she was very young and continued through college.

Davis, who is about to release her fourth book, entitled the way I see it, said her father never believed her when she told him of Nancy's abuse or of her habit of taking five to six tranquilizers a day.

"He said I was lying and he said I was crazy and I remember feeling like there were miles between us, she said. I think it was the first time I really realized I was never going to know what it would feel like to have a father."

We have always loved all of our children, including our daughter Patti, the Reagan said. "We hope the day will come when she rejoins our family."

Artificial method to beat the heat

SEVILLE: Expo '92 designers have fused state-of-the-art technology with ancient techniques to beat the heat at the fair site where summer temperatures so often exceed 40 degrees C (104 F), reports AP.

Planners have deployed thousands of plants as well as fountains and computers to keep visitors cool during the six-month exposition that opened this month.

Along the way, they may have cut new ground in the field of environmentally sound climate control.

"This is the most important bioclimatic project that has been carried out," said James Wines of the New York architecture firm SITE. "I think it will have an enormous influence on the way to urbanize communities."

Along European Avenue, home to the pavilions of the 12 European Community nations, a dozen cooling towers equipped with a complex microprocessor system automatically capture hot air when temperatures rise and cool it off with cold water, releasing a fresh, moist breeze.

And cold water runs continuously in pipes under the sidewalks to keep pavement temperatures down.

Sexual harassment equal to prison terms

PARIS: The cabinet approved Wednesday a bill that would make sexual harassment in the workplace a crime punishable by prison terms. Backers say it would be the toughest such measure in Western Europe, reports AP.

Widely supported by labor unions, management and women's groups, the proposed law would punish offenders with fines of 2,000-20,000 francs (1 franc 360-3,600) and imprisonment of up to one year.

Secretary of Women's Rights Veronique Nieritz, who submitted the bill to the weekly Cabinet meeting, said it would increase public awareness that sexual harassment is a crime.

The bill strengthens existing labor laws and is expected to be passed by Parliament during the current session. It applies to both physical and verbal forms of sexual harassment.

According to a recent survey, 21 per cent of the French working population has been sexually harassed at work.

Biological parents lose the daughter

SAARASOTA, Fla: The biological parents of a girl parents of a girl switched at birth failed in a legal bid Wednesday to wrest the child from the man who raised her, reports AP.

Earnest and Regina Twigg's motion to be awarded custody of 13-year-old Kimberly may was rejected by Circuit Judge Stephen Dakan, who ruled the couple is still bound by a 1989 agreement to seek visitation only.

The Twigg's attorneys say they will pursue a full custody trial in July.

Kimberly has been caught in an emotional tug-of-war for nearly four years between two families who unknowingly raised the other's child. The story was made into a network television mini-series.

Libya-West crisis

7-man Arab League body to help find solution

CAIRO, Apr 30 : Arab foreign ministers today authorized the Arab League seven-man committee to continue efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Libya-West crisis.

In a resolution adopted early this morning after two-day closed sessions, the Arab League Council said it hoped a reasonable solution could be found so as to avoid the escalation of the crisis and dispel its negative impacts on Libya and the Arab Nation.

It called on all sides to continue consultations and have dialogue, and urged the League Secretary-General to maintain contacts with the UN chief for a peaceful solution to the problem acceptable to all parties concerned.

UN air, arms and diplomatic sanctions against Libya took effect on April 15 to punish it for failing to hand over to the US or Britain for trial two suspects accused of blowing up an American airliner over Scotland in 1988 in which 270 people were killed.

Libya has agreed to surrender the two Libyans to a neutral country like Malta or Egypt for trial but refused to extradite them to the United States or Britain.

The resolution expressed

deep concern over UN Security Council Resolution 748 which was based on chapter Seven of the UN charter, describing it as "compulsory measures."

The sanctions have a negative impact on the Arab world and do not help resolve the problem, but only do great harm to the Libyan people, it added.

However, the resolution condemned all forms of international terrorism and praised Libya for accepting Resolution 731 and denouncing terrorism.

Sixteen foreign ministers and several representatives attended the 97th ordinary session of the Arab League Council here. The resolution came out in the small hours of today after two days of heated closed-door debate over the Libya-West dispute.

Police, muggers trade fire in Manila: 3 killed

MANILA, Apr 30: Three people, including a prominent show business figure, were killed here today in a shootout between police and armed muggers, authorities said, reports AP.

Stray bullets fatally hit Rey De La Cruz, a talent scout and manager for sex movie stars, as he stepped out of his home in Qnapo district to investigate the commotion outside, Manila Mayor Gemiliano Lopez told reporters.

A policeman and a suspected raider were also killed and another male bystander wounded in the gunbattle, hospital officials here said.

The police had arrived on the scene as the armed men were mugging a passerby.

12 killed in Punjab violence

CHANDIGARH, Apr 30 : Twelve persons, including an assistant sub-inspector and seven militants, were killed in Punjab since last night, police said, reports PTI.

Militants entered the house of Sarpanch Suresh Singh at village Dhangar in Ludhiana district and shot dead A S I Jarnail Singh and a civilian.

They also shot dead home guard Jagraj Singh, brother of Jagbir Singh.

Court orders seizure of Carbide's Indian assets

BHOPAL, Apr 30 : A court on Thursday ordered the seizure of all Indian assets of Union Carbide Corp., which is charged with homicide in the 1984 gas leak that killed more than 4,000 people, reports AP.

Bhopal's Chief Judicial Magistrate Gulab Sharma accepted a government plea to acquire "all movable and immovable property" and shares owned by Union Carbide in India.

The Danbury, Conn.-based multinational owns 50.9 per

cent shares in its Indian subsidiary Union Carbide India Ltd.

In an 11-page verdict, Sharma asked Indian federal police, Central Bureau of Investigation, to inform UCC about the decision to prevent it from transferring UCCIL shares from India.

UCC had said earlier this month it plans to sell the shares to raise up to \$175 million for a hospital in Bhopal for the gas victims. Critics said it was a ploy to prevent the

government from taking over the assets.

"It appears UCC somehow wants to transfer its 50.9 per cent shares in UCCIL to avoid criminal proceedings. Therefore, there is no alternative except to attach assets of UCC in India and compel UCC to appear in court," Sharma said.

Carbide has the option to appeal against the verdict in a higher court, but it appears unlikely after having so far refused to attend court proceed-

ings to contest the criminal charges. Carbide claims it is not answerable to Indian courts because it is a US company.

Sharma also asked the central Bureau of Investigation to find out details of UCC's assets in India. He directed India's central bank to prevent any bid by UCC to transfer the shares.

Last month, Sharma issued an arrest warrant for Carbide's former chief executive, Warren Anderson, charging him with "culpable homicide not

amounting to murder." Anderson has not responded to the court's order to the charge, which is equivalent to manslaughter.

Anderson was the Carbide chairman when methyl isocyanate gas leaked from UCCIL's pesticide plant in Bhopal on December 3, 1984. More than 4,000 people have died of exposure to the gas. About 20,000 people were injured.

Most of the victims were poor labourers living in shanties around the factory.