Ghali's help to free Suu Kyi sought

PARIS, May 28: The main Myanmar opposition leaders have appealed to UN Secretary-General Boutros-Boutros Ghalt and other world leaders for help in ending repression by the Yangon military junta and gaining the release of Nobel prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, reports AFP.

The opposition figures, who included elected politicians prevented from taking office by the military and leaders of the country's rebellious ethnic minorities, appealed in a letter for a meeting of the UN security council on the situation in Myanmar. A copy of the appeal was made available here.

The letter called for strong and decisive action against Yangon unless it halts military attacks on opposition-held territory, releases Aung San Suu Kyl and other political detainees and permits democ-

The politicians accused the military regime in Yangon of large-scale human rights abuses

statement.

reports from Fla.

Wellington.

Kanter.

Salvador.

years of civil war

from Jerusalem.

southern Lebanon.

reports of injuries.

No negotiation at gunpoint : Bosnia

Lisbon peace talks end in failure

LISBON, May 28: Bosnia Herzegovina's Muslim leaders called a dramatic halt to European Community-sponsored peace talks on Wednesday in protest at a Serb mortar attack in Sarajevo which killed 16 people and injured 110, reports Reuter.

There is no negotiating under pressure and at gunpoint", said the republic's Muslim Foreign Minister. Haris Silajdzic, after the second round of Lisbon peace talks ended in failure.

Silajdzic satd Bosnia's Muslims, who control the government, could not resume negotiations until Serb fighters opened Sarajevo's airport, lifted roadblocks and withdrew their artillery from around the Bosnian capital.

EC negotiato Jose Cutilero said he had no idea when or where the peace talks could be reconvened.

Bush meets Jerusalem Mayor

President Bush met Wednesday with Jerusalem Mayor Teddy

Kollek and praised the mayor's longtime support "for

fostering a climate of reconciliation," in the tempestuous city,

was unchanged, "namely that Jerusalem must never again be a

divided city and that its final status should be decided by ne-

gotiations," Bush's press secretary. Marlin Fitzwater said in a

Religious leader convicted: A jury

Wednesday convicted black religious sect leader Yahweh Ben

Yahweh and six followers of conspiring to kill, maim and burn

to enforce discipline and intimidate non-members. AP

Some of Yahweh's 15 co-defendants were acquitted of con-

Chief US District Judge Norman C Roettgar declared a

mistrial on the deadlocked counts. Prosecutor Richard

Quake shakes NZ capital : An

earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale shook the

New Zealand capital for about 40 seconds Thursday and there

were initial reports of some damage, Reuter reports from

been damaged in Wellington and in Nelson, on the northern

tip of the country's south island. There were no immediate

Bid to ease US-Vietnamese ties:

Senior United States and Vietnamese officials expressed hope

during a State Department meeting that the two countries

will be able to establish normal relations, a spokesman said

Vietnamese Vice Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co reaf-

firmed Hanoi's commitment to cooperate in providing infor-

mation on American servicemen still unaccounted for and in UN efforts to help bring peace and stability to Cambodia,

Tran Quang Co, who is here for a conference at a local uni-

versity, met Tuesday with Undersecretary of State Arnold

Salvadoran rebels rejoin COPAZ:

Lestist rebels on Wednesday rejoined the multi-party

commission monitoring El Salvador's peace accords, ending a

week-long boycott called after one of their bodyguards was

seriously wounded in a gun attack, Reuter reports from San

of candidates for director of the national civilian police force

which is being created under peace accords that ended 12

rebels pulled out of the peace commission (COPAZ) last week

to protest the start of an alleged "dirty war" against its mem-

But they immediately entered into a new row over the list

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN)

Rebel leader Joaquin Villalobos said the FMLN was rejoin-

ing COPAZ after receiving assurances from President Alfredo

Cristiani that the gun attack on Tuesday would be fully inves-

4 killed in Lebanon violence : Arab

gunmen ambushed an Israeli convoy in south Lebanon on

Wednesday killing one soldier. Soldiers returned fire and

killed three guerillas, the military command said, AP reports

The troops were in a convoy headed to an outpost at

The convoy was hit by gunfire and rocket-propelled

The statement came as Israeli artillery pounded Hezbollah

The army said the Lebanese Resistance Front claimed re-

grenades, the army said. It said Sgt. Israel Matuf. 21, was

targets in south Lebanon in a week of intense Israeli air raids.

sponsibility for the ambush and said it was carried out by

guerillas connected to the Marxist Popular Front for the

Beaufort Castle, a Crusader for trees over looking Israel and

Deputy State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

The New Zealand Press Association (NZPA) said there had

Scruggs said he may seek a new trial on those charges.

spiracy and racketeering. Jurors, who had reported confusion

and disagreement during five days of deliberation that fol-

lowed a five-month trial deadlocked on other counts, includ-

ing a racketeering charge against Yahweh.

Wednesday, AP reports from Washington.

in addition. Bush stated that the US position on Jerusalem

the White House said, reports AP from Washington.

The attack on Sarjevo this morning was dreadful, at the same time it showed the absolute need for a political solution for Bosnia Herzegovina through negotiations, he said.

The Portuguese diplomat told reporters he had received assurances from Radovan Karadzic leader of Bosnia's Serb minority, that he would make an effort to stop the

Karadzic made a similar pledge on May 1, when Cutilero adjourned the first round of Lisbon talks and sent him home to ensure the withdrawal of Serb artillery

Wednesday's bloody attack on civilians queing for bread and ice cream proved the guns ,had not been withdrawn.

Karadzie blamed the attack on the Muslims, saying it was a Clynical ploy to undermine peace talks by Muslim President Allija Izethegovic.

Local polls a

referendum on

Nepalese govt

Riot police patrolled Kath-

mandu as Nepalese voted today

in two-stage local polls widely

seen as a referendum on the

performance of the Himalayan

country's year-old government,

tended to prevent the kind of

violence that erupted in some

areas in last year's general

elections, the first open

Surya Prasad Shrestha said vot-

ing had been suspended in

elections for four of the 2,030

village development commit-

tees at stake in voting sched-

uled to be completed on Sun-

sions resulted from noisy rows,

apparently featuring charges of

attempted vote rigging, be-

tween supporters of the ruling

Nepali Congress party and the

Unified Marxist and Leninist

(UML) party, the main opposi-

tion group.

He told Reuters the suspen-

Election Commissioner

Security measures were in-

reports Reuter.

polling in 30 years.

KATHMANDU, May 28

who feared proposals to divide Bosnia into to three autonomous regions would deprive Muslims of their power

They have already said they don't want to continue this conference and for that sake they bombed those people, he told reporters, the Muslim side is tricking the EC."

Karadzic added that Muslim leaders in Bosnia had already decided on Tuesday to with draw from the Lisbon negotia-

Stlaidzic said the decision to pull out of the talks was taken after a bloody attack on a Bosnian maternity hospital on Tuesday but had not been communicated to high until Wednesday.

In two rounds of negotia tions lasting a total of 13 days. EC mediators have failed to get Bosnia-Herzegovina's warring Serb, Muslim and Croat com munities to sit at the same

table and talk.

Now the war is going to get bigger, said Mate Boban, leader of the Croat community, which along with the Muslims voted for independence from Yugoslavia in a march referendum. The Serbs, one third of the population of 4.3 million,

boycotted the vote. Since then, more than 2,300 Bosnians have been killed, around 18,000 wounded and one million uprooted from their homes in what has become Europe's worst refugees crisis since World War Two.

We cannot go on negotiating while people are being killed, driven from their homes, to death, said Silajdzie, who accused the Serb irregulars, blamed by the west for most of the violence, of turning the peace talks into a cruel farce.

But none of the three war

ring communities though EC sanctions on trade with Serbia and its ally Montenegro announced on Wednesday would dramatically relieve Bosnia's suffering.

Boban said only military intervention would put an end to Serb aggression.

The sanctions are just a warning, they will not end the war, you can only stop a military force with another with military force, he told re-

Karadzic warned the EC that sanctions would only harden Serbian resolve.

Sanctions have no purpose and Serbian people are going to gather and stand with pride against these sanctions, which are really unjust, he said. Serbia should not be punished for anything that is happening in Bosnia- Herzegovina."

Yeltsin won't contest next

MOSCOW, May 28: Boris Yeltsin, declaring he would step down from the prest dency in four years, has highlighted deep uncertainty in Russia over his succession, re-

A year after his election as Russia's first democratically chosen president, Yeltsin remains unrivalled. Extremists of left and right plough what is for the moment a barren fur-

No liberal reformers can match his popular authority.

I can say for sure that I will

"We've never had anything like this in Russia before...for this reason 'chance' people

anti-missile capability now and

may be interested in expand-

The fledgling proposal

comes at a time when

Congress is raising major ques-

tions about the need for SDI

and its costs. The

Congressional Budget Office

said Wednesday it looms as the

most expensive weapons sys-

tem in history, and would cost

nearly eight billion dollar an-

nually - far above administra-

tion estimates - if funded over

tional security policy, empha-

sised that the idea was still in

the formative stages when he

spoke on the issue before a

House of Representatives panel

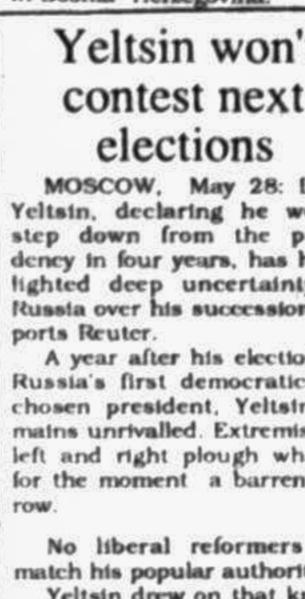
America's long-established de-

In an apparent reference to

Stephen Hadley, Assistant

the next five years.

recently.



Yeltsin drew on that knowledge telling workers in Siberta on Tuesday he would not

stand again for president. He spelt out the message on Wednesday that he would not be deflected from his reforms by popular discontent. He did not need votes.

not be a candidate at the next elections when my term expires, he told Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper. You know, there are physical and other limits to the powers of one

'My main task now is to open the way for the next period. Yeltsin said a decision had already been taken on the training of future leaders.

sometimes spring up," he said.





for its leader, Gorbachev" Speaking at a news conference to mark the publication of the book, Ligachev, 66, blasted the present Russian leadership and said that only a return to socialism would save the country from Ruin.

Off the Record

Gorbachev enigma

in Russia, reports AFP.

our country and inglorious

leader.

"I believe we need to return the country to the course of socialism, of democracy, and then we can decide", how to carry out reform, Ligachev said, adding: "we need calm in society, we need stability."

Ligachev, was among the former high ranking Soviet communist party officials present Tuesday when the Russian constitutional court announced it was to put the party on Trial and ordered Gorbachev to represent the defence.

Psychological cinema festival

BRUSSELS: Brussels is to welcome in June a psychological cinema festival that will feature a previously banned American film on insane asylums, reports AFP.

The festival from June 9-12 will present 230 films on psychiatry. It will include an American film by documentary artists Fredrick Wiseman that has been banned for 24 years in the United States and never show in Europe, the organizers

> Great great grandson kidnapped

RIO DE JANEIRO: Some 200 civilian and military police have been called out to hunt for the kidnapped 13-year-old grat great grandson of Brazil's last March, sources said Wednesday, reports AFP.

Pedro Thiago De Orleansy Braganza, a descendant of emperor Pedro II, was abducted Tuesday near his home in Petropolis near Rio De Janeiro but so far police have no leads on the case.

All roads into Petropelis have been blocked by police, who have extended their search into Baixada Fluminense between Petropolis and Rio De Janeiro and known as one of the most violent areas in the state.

The boy's family has refused to speak to the press and has had little contact with the police who have attempted to question them about the case.

Police sources and press reports have said the kidnappers Tuesday night demanded five million dollars in ransom from the family, which has asked for proof that they are holding the boy before continuing negotiations.

Caesarean operation on monkey

KUNMING, A pregnant langur monkey, which was writhing in pain, was recently rushed to a hospital and its life was saved by a caesrean operation performed by a local doctor, reports Xinhua.

A sad note, however, is the male baby monkey died, ac-

cording to a local newspaper. The langur which was seven months' pregnant fell ill on May 14 after it had eaten candy thrown to it by tourists at the Yuantognslan 200 in Kunming, capital of Yunnan province,

southwest China. Shortly thereafter, the langur rolled on the ground and wailed incessantly, according to the Yunnan daily. The monkey was rushed to the Yunnan provincial Red

Cross Hospital where doctors from the department of Gyne-

cology and obstetrics decided on operating. Dr Liu Guipang, 60, completed the surgical procedure.

Bush wanted to be

'education president'

ATLANTA, May 28: President George Bush yesterday took on the nation's education problems at a campaign stop in Georgia, calling for a greater role for parents in their children's schooling, reports

When he was running for president four years ago. Bush said he wanted to be the nation's 'education president.

During the 1992 reelection campaign, he has found himself under fire for not spending enough time or energy on the nation's education system, which Americans feel is many

In past weeks, the President has made it a point to meet with students. parents and teachers as he travels the country.

He stopped at the mount Paran Parochial school in Atlanta yesterday to defend

his 'America 2,000' plan to improve the country's muchcriticized public school system.

Judges condemn child pornography

WASHINGTON: A federal judge has declared unconstitutional provisions of a child pornography law that required elaborate record-keeping for sexually explicit images of adults, AP reports.

in three years that judges have found such record-keeping of tion.

statute were led by the American library Association and supported by artists, including the National Association of Artists Organizations.

-AFP/UNB photo councils. US for global defence group

WASHINGTON, May 28 : The Bush administration is proposing to friendly nations, including Russia, the creation of a global defence group to protect against any future nuclear ballistic missile attacks,

reports AP. The administration hopes to win Russian acceptance of the idea when President Bush meets with President Boris Yeltsin in mid-June, a senior Pentagon official recently told

Congress. Administration officials believe Yeltsin will be receptive, but some private arms-control experts predict the Russians will see little in it to benefit

The administration acknowledges that with the former Soviet Union as a strategic and diplomatic partner, there is no immediate nuclear threat to either superpower from any

country. But it claims that in the future, Russia, particularly, could be threatened by emerging nuclear technology in several nations, including China, Iran, Iraq, India, North Korea, Syria and Pakistan.

The idea, if put into practice, could accomplish at least three major goals of the administration:

Free the US anti-missile ef-

fort, the Strategic Defence Initiative, from the legal constraints of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty. As long as the ABM Treaty is kept in force, no large-scale SDI system could be built.

Provide a new opening for persuading Congress to go be yond the immediate aim of building a ground-based antimissile system to protect only

American territory. The ad ministration wants to put anti missile weapons in space, too, and give US commanders the capability to shoot down missiles anywhere in the world. Strengthen the new strate-

gic partnership with Russia. which is to become the sole custodian of the nuclear weapons of the former Soviet Union. Russia has a limited

Mujahideen won't lose peace to 'Satan' Defence Secretary for interna-

KABUL, May 28: Convinced that it was divine aid that

last month.

national army - one of the few

gans of government. Such as a

'Satan', reports Reuter.

to establish the most basic or-

Already it is harder to buy a

way, they will be.

Kalashnikov assault rifle. "When a woman works alongside a male stranger, 'Satan' sits with them," one mullah told a gathering of guerilla commanders in Kabul's

concrete policies promised by the coalition is to make Islamic Sharia law the basis of the new Afghan legal system. can of beer in Kabul than a

former royal summer palace, gutted in the fighting between rival guerilla factions which followed Natibullah's overthrow

brought them victory in their 14-year "holy war," Islamic fundamentalists among the Afghan Mujahideen are determined not to lose the peace to

One month after guerilla armies seized power, no drinkers of alcohol have been lashed and no adulterers have been stoned to death in the streets of Kabul. But if hardline factions in the new ruling guerilla coalition have their

In a shattered country yet

fence relations with the NATO allies, Hadley said, "key allies ... would have concerns if these established ties were to be undermined by" a global antimissile regime. Jack Mendelshon, Deputy Director of the Private Arms

Control Association, said in an interview that while the global defence idea is likely to be a major topic of discussion at the Bush-Yeltsin meeting, it won't go far.

HIV infection reaches epidemic proportion in India He says he cannot do much about the first Gilada said about eight per cent of those who BOMBAY, May 28: A string of condoms

hung round his neck, one man trails through Bombay's sleazy red light district about 10 times each week urging prostitutes and their clients to take up safe sex, reports Reuter. Using a hand-held loudspeaker, Dr Ishwar

Satyanarain Gilada, Bombay's foremost author-

killed and another soldier was slightly wounded.

Liberation of Palestine headed by George Habash.

ity on AIDS, preaches the importance of contions in India". doms to shabby men standing outside brothels. The government says it has tested 1.2 mil-Thousands of people Throng Kamatipura district, many to visit its lines of dirt-infested brothels where sex can come as cheap as five rupees (less than 20 cent).

About 100,000 prostitutes work out of Kamatipura and adjoining areas. It is India's largest red light district. They entertain about four times that number of clients each night. Otlada says that on an average night 600 of those prostitutes and their clients will contract the deadly HIV virus. Within 10 years,

most will die of AIDS (Aquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). On holidays and weekends, add 20 per cent to each figure, he said.

"The situation is frightening," he said. "We are doing little to control it. "AIDS was spread by b'nod, semen and ignorance," he said. "Now, it is also being spread by negligence". He estimates one million Indians are HIVpositive and the number will double each year

if nothing is done to control the situation. The World Health Organisation puts the figure at between 300,000 and 400,000 and says HIV infection "has reached epidemic propor-

lion people in high-risk groups, including prostitutes, homosexuals, blood donors and drug users, and found 6,319 HIV -positive cases. About half that number contracted the virus heterosexually, it says. Gilada says he believes a third of Bombay's

bases his figures on sample testing of about 2,000 prostitutes in Kamatipura and says the estimates are conservative. The risk of contracting the virus through unprotected heterosexual sex is usually about

100,000 prostitutes are HIV -positive. He

one-tenth of one per cent. It increases many times if either partner has a genital disease, and India has the highest incidence of sexually transmitted diseases in the world, he says.

Professional blood donors, who donate blood or plasma, are also a high-risk group,

donate only blood are HIV -positive, but the number is as high as 80 per cent for those who. give blood that is re-injected into them after plasma has been separated. Driving toward Kamatipura, he pointed to a

group of ragged, emaciated men squatting on the pavement, "that is a group of donors," he said." And when they get paid, they blow the money on sex or drugs. Blood testing is only conducted at blood banks in the main cities of Bombay, Madras,

town, sells his blood and comes back, all within a few hours. Earlier this year, an upmarket Delhi clinic that caters mainly to the wealthy and foreigners resident in India's capital, said it received samples from a blood bank contained with the

Calcutta and Delhi, he said. A donor who is HIV

-positive slips out of Bombay to a neighbouring

The bottles were scaled with a note saying the blood had been tested and found pure. The government has announced an inquiry. Gilada says screening of blood donors and

AIDS virus.

promoting the use of disposable syringes and condoms are the best ways of scaling down the epidemic.

two, but hopes his condom-promotion tours will bring results. Brothers, this is a disease for which there is no cure," he tells one group of men, "be

protected." Some men smirked. Most avoided eye contact. No one accepted the condoms that Gilada offered free. A policeman wandered over and tried to shoo away the audience.

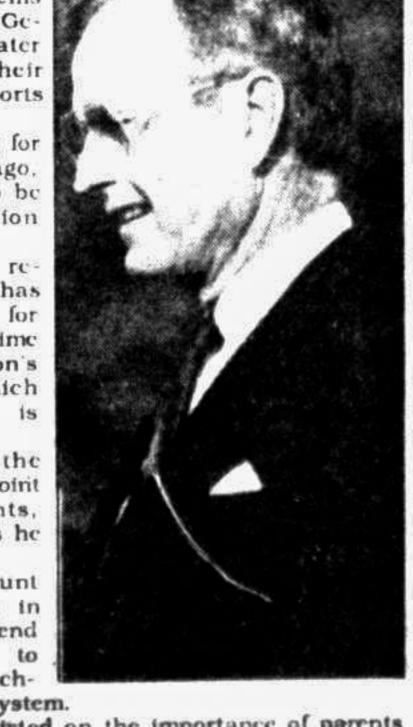
Some of the many watching prostitutes took up to 30 packets each. "We don't allow anyone who isn't wearing it to touch us," said Parveen, "a pockmarked

young woman dressed in a skirt and a short cotton top". She said most of her clients did not mind. An inmate of a transsexual brothel across the street signalled that some condoms would be welcome there too. Vinay Kumar, a volun-

teer helper who works with Gilada, dodged

past lumbering trucks and smoke-spewing

vans to hand them over. "We hardly reach 10 per cent of all prostitutes in the city," he said. "But we are making a beginning." He point to used condoms discarded in the gutter outside the brothels.



The U.S president insisted on the importance of parents in education and defended "family values."

U.S District Judge Stanley Sporkin's decision, reached Tuesday and released Wednesday, marked the second time

adult activity violates the First Amendment to the Constitu-Both successful legal attacks on the federal pornography