Pindi ready to talk with Delhi

LONDON, June 18: British Prime Minister John Major said on Wednesday Pakistan would have a crucial role to play in helping former Soviet Central Asian republics develop democracy and market economies, reports Reuter.

A high commission statement said Sharif said Pakistan was prepared to engage in bilateral talks with India on this.

Major, speaking as host at a Downing Street lunch for Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, also accepted an invitation to visit Pakistan, although he did not mention a

The Prime Minister told Sharif he believed Pakistan had a significant regional role to play and growing influence in the newly independent Asian republies, whose culture and traditions he said were trampled on for 70 years under Communist rule.

Sharif, who arrived in Britain on Tuesday for a fiveday stay, briefed Major on a Pakistan government proposal to initiate a five-nation nuclear non-proliferation pact in southeast Asia, the Pakistan high commission said.

headlined "Absurd Decision."

Reuter from United Nations.

phase of the peace plan.

(metres).

crash.

from London.

his yacht.

trailer.

news agency reported.

in full.

OIC wants tougher action against Serbia

UN bid to open airport postponed

BELGRADE, June 18: Artillery fire and street fighting continued early today in Sarajevo and local journalists said tormented inhabitants wanted to take up arms in a desperate last bid to break a Serb siege.

More than 5,800 people have been killed and over a million civilians driven from their homes- many at gunpoint by marauding irregularsin Bosnia's ethnic conflict, the worst in Europe since World War Two.

A blitz of artillery, mortar and machinegun fire ended a two-day ceasestre in Sarajevo on Wednesday, pinning down U. N. peace-keepers and indefinitely postponing their attempt to open an air corridor for desperately needed sup-

*People don't want to live any more in a bombarded ghetto and die of starvation. Desperation is growing every day now that this latest ceasefire has been ruined Sarajevo Radio Editor Zoran Priolic told Reuters by telephone.

*People feel the city must be opened now and they talk about grabbing any weapon they have, like rifles," he said after an orgy of fighting between Serb and Muslim-Croat defence forces on Wednesday

BRIFFIY

China rebukes US SC: China rebuked the

US Supreme Court on Thursday for ruling that the American

government may kidnap criminal suspects from abroad in

principles of international law when dealing with criminal

offenses between states," a Foreign Ministry statement read

(Renmin Ribao), denounced the ruling in a commentary

dence is a basic principle of international relations," it said.

Marrack leaves for Cambodia:

Marrack Goulding, the UN Under Secretary-General in charge of Peacekeeping, leaves for Cambodia Thursday help

get the peace process back on track, diplomats said, reports

factions, have continued sporadic fighting for territory in vio-

Akashi, Head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia

(UNTAC), for refusing to take part in the crucial second

lation of a major peace pact to end decades of warfare.

Guerillas with the Khmer Rouge, one of four Cambodian

The Khmer Rouge has been sharply criticised by Yasushi

The second phase requires the Khmer Rogue group its

fighters in cantonments and disarm themselves along with

12 killed in copter crash: A helicopter

carrying medical aid to the Georgian region of South Ossetia

crashed on Wednesday on the Russian side of the border,

killing an estimated 12 people on board, Itar-Tass News

(BBC), said the helicopter flew into a cliff at Rogskiy Pass in

Russia's North Ossetia, scattering bodies over 200 yards

North Ossetian city of Vladikavkaz but he died on the way.

The plane was unable to recover any other bodies due to deep

2 sons of Maxwell held: Kevin and lan

Maxwell, the two sons of the late publishing tycoon Robert

Maxwell, were arrested Thursday morning, the British

national news agency Press Association reported, says AP

police working with the Serious Fraud Office, Press

Association reported, quoting police sources.

17, police said AP reports from Cairo.

Maxwell adviser Larry Trachtenberg was also arrested by

The Serious Fraud Office, a government agency, is investi-

gating the disappearance of hundreds of millions of pounds

from Maxwell pension funds. The three men were taken to

east London's Snow Hill police station for questioning, the

included the London newspaper the Daily Mirror and New

York's Daily News, was found dead in the sea off the Canary

Islands on November 5. He had been cruising in the area in

Bus collision leaves 45 dead: A

military bus and a tractor-trailer collided and caught fire

Wednesday near a Mediterranean port, killing 45 and injuring

The accident occurred about 20 miles (30 km) west of

The dead included 39 military and six civilians, the in-

The bus carried 53 vacationing military men on their way

Mersa Matruh, officials said. Several military installations are

in the area, about 110 miles (180 km) from the Libyan bor-

jured 14 military and three civilians. Most of the bodies were

reported badly burned. All the civilians were on the tractor-

to the coastal city Alexandria and to Cairo from Saloum, on

Robert Maxwell, whose international publishing empire

Tass, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation

A rescue plane found a survivor and flew him back to the

Tass said a rescue party was due to fly out to the site of the

Agency reported, says Reuter from London.

the Phnom Penh government and two other rebel factions.

"Every country should strictly abide by the recognized

The ruling Communist Party newspaper, the People's Daily

"Respecting other countries sovereignty and indepen-

disregard of international law, reports Al' from Beijing.

that shattered a truce after 48

Local journalists said Scrbs entrenched in rugged hills overlooking Sarajevo intermittently shelled the central and medieval parts of the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina overnight

Serb tanks kept hammering the outlying area of Dobrinja, Sarajevo's most embattled district. Many of its 40,000 residents who have been huddling in bomb shelters for weeks are

Serb irregulars, fighting to thwart Bosnia's secession from the Serb-dominated Yugoslav federation three months ago also waged infantry battles with mostly Muslim and Croat defenders in nearby Hrasno neighbourhood.

UNITED NATIONS, June

18: The Security Council on

Wednesday rejected Iraq's

protest against the UN demar-

cation of its disputed border

with Kuwait — a key condition

of the Gulf War ceasefire, re-

issued by President Paul

Noterdaeme, the ambassador

of Belgium, the council warned

Iraq of unspecified 'grave con-

sequences' if it violates the

ceasefire terms by repudiating

the boundary demarcation by a

ASCOT (England), June 18:

Britain's Princess Diana and

her husband Prince Charles

made a second joint appear-

ance at the Ascot races on

Wednesday, but the press had

already written off their royal

show of unity as a charade, re-

The heir to the throne and

his glamorous wife took part in

a procession of horse-drawn

carriages and mingled with

race-goers in the royal enclo-

sure on day two of the flat-race

meeting, a highlight of

Britain's high-society calendar.

commenting on their similar

high-profile appearance on

Tuesday gave little credence to

the picture of domestic har-

mony so carefully presented

amid talk that the couple's

"fairytale" marriage was in

how the mass-circulation sun

described the Ascot double act.

ing on with business as usual

while a royal storm rages over

the allegations in a new book,

"Diana, her truce story," that

the princess has had a miser-

able marriage and has come

close to walking out on the

Other newspapers also

noted that the prince and his

wife, although leaving Ascot

together on Tuesday, had

The family has been carry-

"The royal charade," was

But newspaper headlines

In a nonbinding statement

ports AP.

UN commission.

ports Reuter.

trouble.

monarchy.

Another report adds from ference. Conference sources said the Istambul: Islamic Foreign OIC was likely to respond to Ministers, horrified by the plight of Bosnian Muslims. Bosnian pleas for emergency relief and reconstruction funds want the United Nations to

for the former Yugoslav republie's two million Muslims, but they could not say what spe cifie pledges might be forth-

A report from London adds: European peace envoy Lord Carrington said on Wednesday he was configurat the United Nations could help demilitarisc Sarajevo Airport.

"I just have a feeling that the U. N. will get the airport and that they will bring some sort of order around there, Carrington told Sky News tele-

A U. N. commander painted a grim picture of the city saying the downtown area was in a "very serious situation" with food at a premium, people living in basements and hospitals with intermittent supplies of electricity and water. "The entire objective ... is to get this airport open," he said.



prepare tougher action against Scrbia if need be.

Islamic Conference (OIC) was

expected to wrap up a two-day

emergency meeting on Bosnia

today by promising support for

tions proved ineffective in

OIC meeting argued on

Wednesday that Islamic coun-

tries should be ready to pro-

vide troops and money for any

U. N. sanctioned military in-

results, further actions should

be taken and the OIC will sup-

port and contribute to them

Turkish Foreign Minister

Hikmet Cetin told a news con-

If U. N. sanctions bring no

Turkish leaders hosting the

further U. N. measures, if sanc

stopping the bloodshed.

tervention.

The Organisation of the

Photo was taken on November 6 in 1989 of English former Beatle Paul McCartney during a

The statement said the

any suggestion that tends to

Kuwait, a member state of the

Nonaligned council mem-

bers had insisted on rewriting

the statement so that it should

not set a precedent for

Security Council involvement

in settlement of border dis-

putes between member states.

wanted to emphasize that the

case was exceptional, resulting

from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait,

Royal show of

unity a

charade

transferred to separate cars

soon after leaving the com-

been because the prince was

due at a Polo match and the

princess, 30, is known to hate

the sport that once laid her

husband up for months with a

much of the pact that the win-

ner of the St James's palace

stakes on Tuesday was a long-

shot called brief truce, taking

this as its banner headline over

a picture of the couple side-by-

Show of unity

side in their convertible.

Today newspaper made

badly broken arm.

However, that may have

pound.

Ecuador, India and Morocco

United Nations.

China hails **US-Russian** treaty

BEIJING, June 18: China said Thursday that it welcomed the US-Russian agreement to make deep cuts in their nuclear arsenals, reports

"We hope they will implement this treaty in real earnest," Foreign Ministry spokesman Wu Jianmin said at the ministry's weekly news briefing.

President Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced Tuesday that they had agreed to reduce their nations' long-range nuclear warheads from about 10,000 each to 3,000 to 3,500 each, possibly by the end of the century.

Wu said China also welcomed the improvement in relations between Russia and the United States and hoped it would contribute to world

He did not indicate any change in China's longstanding policy of refusing to join in superpower arms cuts.

Vietnam denies Yeltsin's allegation

Tokyo, June 18: Vietnam has denied allegations by Russian President Boris Yeltsin that captured US servicemen were sent to the Soviet Union during and after the Vietnam War, a report monitored in Tokyo Thursday said, reports

The Vietnam News Agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying, "We now reiterate that no American, whether a deserter or prisoner of war, was sent from Vietnam to the Soviet Union during or after the war." The report, monitored by Radio Press in Tokyo, gave no details.

In Washington, Yeltsin said some US prisoners from the Vietnam War were brought to the Soviet Union and may still be alive.

The Foreign Ministry comment echoed criticism by Vietnamese diplomats in New York who said Yeltsin's rcmarks were contradictory

Off the Record

Perot makes women uneasy

WASHINGTON: Many women are sitting out the national infatuation with Ross Perot, whose takecharge, no-nonsense image has propelled him to the top of the presidential polls, reports

From economics to health care, an Associated Press poll shows women are less likely than men to rate Perot their best White House hope, sometimes by a 14-point margin.

A Times Mirror poll this week showed a 6point gender gap in overall support for the unannounced independent candidate.

Analysts say the polls show women seem to be

averse to the unknown and the confrontational. "Ross Perot is a definitive person who has a very pronounced style. He has an authoritative, get it done, crash through the barricades approach," said Republican Pollster Bill McInturff.

That appeals to older men, McInturff said, but women generally 'are much more conciliatory and concerned about everybody getting along and working together and moving forward as a team."

They just don't know where this guy's coming from and they are not in a position to take big risks," she said of women and Perot. "They have a lot less running room in terms of taking a risk that might not work our."

Plan to decriminalize gay sex

LONDON: The government plans to decriminalize gay sex between members of the armed services, a junior minister at the Ministry of Defence said Wednesday, reports AP. Jonathan Aitken told the House of Commons the govern-

ment will repeal military law regulations that make gays in the forces liable to prosecution. But Aitken said those found taking part in homosexual acts will continue to be dismissed although they will not gain a

criminal record. Under present military law regulations, homosexuals on conviction officially gain a criminal record. Punishment before dismissal can include military detention.

Homosexual acts in private between consenting male civilian adults have been legal in Britain since 1967. Sexual acts between civilian lesbians have never been outlawed in Britain.

Love a dangerous game?

BELFAST: Falling in love can be a dangerous game for Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland, reports Reuter.

One couple were firebombed out of their Belfast home for marrying across the sectarian divide. The Catholic best man at one wedding was warned he

would be shot in the kneecape if he stepped inside a Presbyterian church. But the brave couples embark on a mixed marriage say love

Finding a priest or minister to marry them, movercoming the deep-seated bigotry of parents, picking a neutral name for their children, living in a mixed area where they can be rea-

Deciding where to get married was another explosive issue and most interviewers agreed that neither Catholic nor Protestant churches had been helpful or supportive enough.

sonably safe - there are many hurdles.

Two couples even decided not to have any children because of the strains that could be imposed on their offspring from a mixed marriage.

But many managed to maintain their sense of humour. One Protestant woman said of her newborn son "Andre is not going to be a Catholic or a Protestant, he is going to be a Prodlick."

Jackson ships costumes for 'Dangerous' tour

. ANGELES: LOS Jackson is Michael shipping 2 tons of clothes - including costumes featuring fiber optics, lasers and explosives - to Europe for his 'Dangerous' tour, one of his designers said, reports AP.

Two of the outfits, lined with optical fibers, are 9 feet (2.7m) tall, 7 feet (2.1m) wide and weigh 40 pounds (18 kg) each. A computerized laser rig controls the lighting, said Michael Bush, who created the costumes with Dennis Tompkins.

Jackson "describes what he envisions, and, because he's so visually

creative, our main goal is to bring his ideas to life," Bush said. "Everything you'll see on stage - every special effect - is inspired by him." One coat takes 3,000 volts from a concealed battery belt to power its 36 strobe lights. Others have hidden flaps concealing explosives to simulate "all kinds of special effects," Bush said.

Costume material includes reflecting tape, gold and 1,000 yards (meters) of fabric from Europe.

Michael wanted a different look for even the most basic outfits, so we went with a lot of black and gold -18 karat, of urse," he said.

The tour begins June 27 in Germany.

Afghan hotels go bankrupt as Mujahideen check in as guests tion of Mujahideen commanders from various in mind," said a veteran waiter. week that it had run up a bill of about 2.7 bil-

Finland HELSINKI, June 18: Chinese Premier Li Peng caneelled a dinner with Finnish businessmen this week because human rights protesters were waiting outside the building where the dinner was

the Egypt-Libya border.

Rally against

Li Peng in

to be held, a Chinese official said today, reports Reuter. Li was scheduled to attend the dinner on Tuesday while stopping in Finland on the way home from the Earth Summit

in Rio De Janeiro. He met political leaders including President Mauno-Koivisto during his unofficial

The protesters were waiting outside the building on an island to protest against the bloody crackdown in Beijing.

KABUL, June 18: Afghan hotels that once banked on wealthy party members and a few foreigners for survival have begun to go bankrupt in the less than two months since Mujahideen guerillas began checking in as guests, reports AFP. Foreigners who were required to pay in

hard currency fled the hotels as the armed * fighters began filling up the suites after ousting Afghanistan's Soviet-installed communist regime in late April, hoteliers said. The caretaker government has made no ef-

fort to evict the guests or pay their hotel bills, they said. The first victim of the April 28 Islamic victory was Kabul's Posh continental hotel, which

rapidly filled up with Mujahideen. Rifle-toting fighters and their leaders occupied most of the hotels' 110-dollar-a-day rooms, edging out journalists and Arab aid workers, and started running up huge restaurant bills.

The state-owned hotel complained to interim President Sibgatullah Mojaddedi last

lion Afghanis (540,000 dollars) by keeping and

feeding the Mujahideen during the past month. Mojaddedi's cash-strapped Finance Minister promised to ball out the hotel with an urgent 224,000 dollar cash injection, but hotel executives say that they have not yet sighted the promised funds.

"We have shut our cash boxes," said one offi-

"If we get no money then we will have to feed them cabbages," he said, amid reports that employees from several departments including room service had gone without wages since the Islamic takeover.

"We dare not shut down ... we would be punished," said the executive, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Nervous waiters serve the raucous Mujahideen sipping green tea or eating in the hotel's main restaurant but never delay a moment at the tables.

"Tips ... we do not even bring our personal money to the hotel, Allah knows who has what

The continental began double-locking doors after scores of fighters left for the hills Thursday to celebrate the Muslim festival of Eid without checking out. But executives said they would be back Sunday with their machineguns and bazookas.

The Spinghar hotel in the eastern city of Jalalabad fell victim too. Its management simply gave up and left the lush complex after reportedly failing to feed or house the swarms of Mujahideen.

"It was impossible," said one employee after reaching here Friday from the esterncity, now home to tens of thousands of Islamic fighters belonging to seven Mujahideen groups.

"It is a total chaos here," said a senior source from the capital's once gracious but) now battle-scarred Kabul hotel, adding that the management last week shut its restaurant after the government failed to foot the bills of fighters occupying the state-owned complex.

The imposing hotel, which once entertained royalty and aristocracy, is now the baspolitical and ethnic groups. The hotel, located in the city center, more

recently served as listening post of ousted President Najibullah's KGB-style secret Khad police. It also hosted visiting businessmen and

reporters. "They are our Mujahideen brothers ... they

can do what they want," said a member of the hotel staff, who tried to keep the place running in hope the current political turmoil would draw guests with loaded billfolds. "The hotel belongs to them," the source

said. With 100 staff and more than 300 rooms,

the Kabul hotel has an 80 per cent occupancy - and more than 80 million Afghanis (160,000 dollars) in outstanding bills, one source said.

Like the city of 1.5 million people, the four main hotels are carved up among rival Muhahideen factions, many of whose leaders send their fighters to find food and rest there before the next day's battle in Kabul.

Gorbachev hopeful of ME talks

JERUSALEM, June 18: Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said Wednesday he doesn't think Mideast peace talks can be advanced by outside parties and voiced optimism Israel can reach a settlement with Syria, an Israeli official said, reports AP. Gorbachev later also com-

mended the nuclear arms reduction agreements signed Wednesday during the Russia-United States summit in Washington, Israel radio said. He was touring Israel's south after his meeting with Rabin. Gorbachev noted that even

with the two thirds reduction proposed by the agreement, both sides would still be major nuclear powers.



concert in Lyon. The musician will celebrate on June 18 his 50th birthday. During the 60's McCartney became the nineteenth richest Brit and now completed his 32nd album.

-AFP/UNB photo

UN Council rejects Iraq's protest and that no conclusions should be drawn about the Security council members 'firmly reject Council guaranteeing any bordispute the very existence of

The statement said the **Boundary Demarcation Commi**ssion was not reallocating territory between Kuwait and Iraq but was 'simply carrying out the technical task' to demarcate the border for the first time.

It stressed 'the inviolability of the international boundary ... being demarcated by the commission and guaranteed by

The four-day Ascot meeting

the council.

is usually an occasion to savour the pageantry of the monarchy

but this time it has raised

questions of whether the insti-

tution has become an embar-

rassing anachronism unable to

absorb spouses from outside its The marriages of Queen Elizabeth's other children have also been beset by problems, highlighted by bizarre scenes in which the estranged wife of Prince Andrew waved to the

Ascot Royal procession from

the sidelines. Reuter adds: The writer of a controversial book which charges that Princess Diana staged suicide attempts because of an unhappy marriage to Prince Charles said on Wednesday he had been approached by Hollywood.

Andrew Ormorton, whose book Diana: her true story has caused a sensation in Britain, said he had been contacted by an unnamed Hollywood company to be executive producer of a television mini-series of his book.

I shall have to think very carefully about that, Morton, who was celebration the publication of his book this week in his hometown of Leedsin Northern England, told the Yorkshire Evening Post newspaper.

page letter to Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali protesting the decision of the commission about the land border. It overwhelmingly favoured Kuwait, giving it part of the Rumaila oil fields and part of the Umm Qasr Naval

On May 21 Iraq sent a 44-

The decision on the maritime boundary is expected in The statement expressed

concern and dismay and said Iraq's letter 'appears to call into question Iraq's adherence' to the Gulf War cease-fire resolution, which Iraq accepted. It said Iraq appeared "to reject the finality" of the decision.

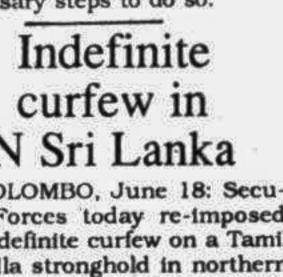
The cease-fire resolution demands that Iraq and Kuwait respect the inviolability of the international boundary which they accepted in a meeting in Baghdad on October 4, 1963.

It calls on the secretarygeneral to assist Iraq and Kuwait in demarcating their boundary and says the council will 'guarantee the inviolability' of that border and take al necessary steps to do so.

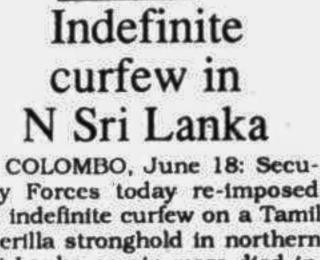
curfew in

an indefinite curfew on a Tamil guerilla stronghold in northern Sri Lanka as six more died in violence in the island's east, a military spokesman here side, reports AFP. The curfew which came

into effect at dawn today would cover the northern Jaffna Peninsula, the main stronghold of the dominant separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the spokesman said.



two days ago.



rity Forces today re-imposed

A five-day curfew that was imposed in Jaffna was lifted

