Pakistan rules out war with India

ISLAMABAD, Aug 18: The Pakistan Defence Minister. Ghous Ali Shah, has ruled out the possibility of war with India saying that political leaderships of both the countries wanted to solve their problems through peaceful negotiations, PTI reports.

There exists no possibility of armed conflict between Pakistan and India on the Kashmir dispute and I think both the countries have desire to negotiate and decide issues by putting their cases, rather than taking decisions by force." Shah said while talking to press persons in Rawalpindi at a dinner Sunday night.

Newspaper reports here quoted the minister as having said that "talks and negotiations will definitely bring better results as use of force will be no option."

Replying to a question. Shah said skirmishes and occasional exchange of fire were routine matters when forces were deployed on a "hot bor-

He said the situation on Indo-Pak border "is alright and there is nothing to be worried

Another report from Srinagar says: Four security personnel and two militants were among 15 people killed and 24 injured in separate incidents in Kashmir valley where life remained paralysed for the fourth day yesterday.

In their anti-militant drive, security force arrested 20 persons including a 'deputy district commander' and an 'area

from New Delhi.

Janata Dal leader, George Fernandes.

manufacturing medications.

and neurological problems.

ters (25 miles) south of Daruvar.

the spillage with recovery equipment.

(PNCB) said, reports APP from Peshawar.

night, police said, Reuter reports from Sofia.

and injured to different hospitals in Sofia.

yesterday, Reuter reports from Tokyo.

Honshu, bringing torrential rain.

ration of India, they said.

town of Burgas.

Sofia said.

police said.

says from Zagreb.

ously injured.

from Madras.

commander' of militant outfits from different areas of the valley since last night, an official spokesman said yesterday.

Four persons including a security personnel were killed and four securitymen were injured when militants and security forces clashed at Gulshan Nagar-Nowgam in Srinagar Monday evening, the spokes-

A BSF commandant who was among the injured later succumbed to his injuries, offictal sources said.

The owner of a flour mill and two of his workers were killed when security forces fired on a private truck.

Zardari barred from living with his family

ISLAMABAD, Aug 18: The husband of Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto said yesterday authorities had barred him from living with his family though they released him from jail to attend parliament, reports Reuter.

Asif Ali Zardari said in an interview he had instead been put in a government lodge after being brought to Islamabad on Saturday from a jail in Karachi on the orders of National Assembly (Lower House) Speaker Gohar Ayub Khan.

They (authorities) are trying to tell that the Speaker can only call me but still it is the government which calls the shots," he said.

BRIEFLY

Lok Sabha to form ethics body: The Lok

Sabha Speaker, Shivraj V Patil, Tuesday convened a meeting

of leaders of all parties on the proposal for constituting an

Ethics Committee' of the House to go into the members'

conduct in the wake of allegations regarding the role of big

money in the Janata Dal developments recently, reports PTI

The meeting was convened to go into the suggestion of

Members suggested to the Speaker to bring out in print

It was decided that the next meeting would be convened

Poison kills 16 in Argentina: stateen

people have died from drinking a popular health tonic which

was found to contain industrial alcohol, Health authorities

tonic, which is supposed to contain all-natural ingredients,

and the health department has issued warnings against con-

was diluted with an engine coolant and - through negligence

or sabotage - was used to replace other alcohols used in

their fifties. Industrial alcohol poisoning causes kidney failure

Peacekeeper dies in Croatia: UN officials

said Monday that a Canadian peacekeeper was killed in

central Croatia when his truck ran over an antitank mine, AP

UN officials in Daruvar, 100 kilometers (60 miles) east of

They said a second Canadian peacekeeper, Cpl Craig Ben-

Their truck struck a mine near Pustara, about 40 kilome-

Kerosene spills at Madras Harbour:

Over 1,000 tons of superior kerosene was spilled.

accidentally at the Madras Harbour on Friday night while it

was being pumped from one ship to another, reports PTI

spill had caused a pollution problem but it had been con-

tained in the outer harbour and clearing operations were

quarters near the harbour, swung into action and removed

vate vessel 'Nandi Smity', which was receiving kerosene,

opened during he pumping. The accident was noticed when

the quantity received fell short of that pumped out from the

mother vessel, Albert Ekka, belonging to the Shipping Corpo-

2 drug officials killed: Two anti-drug officials

were killed and three injured when their jeep was hit by the

truck they were chasing, the Pakistan Narcotic Control Board

escape in the truck, which was believed to be carrying a large

Several die in Bulgarian mishap:

Several people were killed and many injured when a

passenger train slammed into a shunting engine at a station

16 km (10 miles) east of the Bulgarian capital on Monday

The passenger train was a fast one from the Black Sea port

'The duty officer at the Sofia Police Department told

"We have many wounded and several of them in critical

Reuters that ambulances and police cars were rushing dead

condition," a doctor from the central emergency hospital in

Typhoon hits Japan: Typhoon Kent pounded

southern and western Japan with strong gales and huge waves

that caused the deaths of at least four people police said

winds of 108 kmh (67 mph), headed for the southern island

as medium-sized and likely to veer toward the main island of

spending the day at a beach in Shikoku, western Japan. Three

members drowned, two are missing and one was rescued,

of Kyushu, where it was expected to land later yesterday.

Three people were missing as the typhoon, with maximum

The central meteorological agency described typhoon Kent

On Monday, a huge wave swallowed up a family of six

quantity of heroin and hashish, the Department said.

Suspected drug smugglers aboard the truck managed to

Official sources at the port in Madras told PTI that the

The coast guard, which is having its eastern zonal head

The leakage occurred when a valve of the tank of the pri-

the Croatian capital, said Sgt Michael Ralph, 32, died on the

nett, received a shrapnel wound to the leg but was not seri-

way to a hospital in Nova Gradiska after the explosion.

An estimated 40 people became ill after drinking the

Authorities said the deaths were caused when the alcohol

Most of those who died after drinking the tonic were in

what the Lok Sabha Secretariat had in mind on this issue.

after the two sides presented their views in writing.

suming any products from the tonic's maker, Huilen.

said Monday, APP reports from Buenos Aires.



HOUSTON: First Lady Barbara Bush (C) kisses former US President Ronald Reagan (R) goodbye after US President George Bush (L) paid a visit Monday to the former First Family. , - AFP/UNB photo

Bush, Clinton | Hekmatyar renews to hold three debates

WASHINGTON, Aug 18: President George Bush and Democratic Presidential candidate Bill Clinton will hold three televised debates September 22, October 4 and October 15, the commission organizing the events said Monday, reports AFP.

The first will be at the east Lansing, Michigan, campus of Michigan State University, the second at the University of San Diego, in California, and the last at the University of Richmond, in Virginia.

The commission said Vice President Dan Quayle will debate his Democratic Party rival. Senator Al Gore, September 29 in Louisville, Kentucky, in the run-up to the November Presidential election.

die of liver cancer soon

BERLIN, Aug 18: Former East German leader Erich Honecker, charged with manslaughter for killings on The Berlin Wall, could soon die of liver cancer, a doctor said on

rocket fire for nearly two

weeks has blamed the Islamic

ing the fighting and renewed

his offer of a ceasefire, reports

Islamic leader Gulbuddin

Hekmatyar renewed sporadic

rocket attacks on the Afghan

capital today, just hours after

ready for understanding, but

regrettably others want fight-

ing and are resorting to a

course which makes it impos-

Honecker may

"We want peace and are

issuing a call for peace.

Fundamentalist Hezb-I-

Reuter.

Volkmar Schneider, entrusted with determining Honecker's fitness to stay in jail and face trial, said a medical report from last week found the hardline communist terminally ill.

T've seen the report and I don't want to contradict its findings," he told Reuters.
The lawyers said Honecker. 79, only had a few more

months to live and was in no position to withstand a two years trial.

Speaking to the 36th

International Congress on

year-old princess.

cloud of cigarette smoke."

protection from the world.

people.

offer for truce ISLAMABAD, Aug 18: A dis-sident Afghan Mujahideen sible to reach any understanding," he told Saudi Arabia's chief bombarding Kaul with Ambassador to Pakistan on Monday in remarks carried on the Hezb-run Message of coalition government for start-

Freedom Radio. President Burhanuddin Rabbani has ruled out Hekmatyar's return to the interim government and said all Mujahideen parties in the 10-

member ruling leadership council would oppose readmission of the Hezb. The beleaguered government needed economic and political help from the United Nations but had the power to repulse the Hezb without for-

eign intervention. Rabbani More than 1,000 civilians have been killed or injured since Hekmatyar began his blistering rocket assault on Kabul nearly two weeks ago. Water and electricity supplies

have been cut and food prices are soaring. Hekmatyar renewed his offer of a ceasefire on condition the Uzbek militia that fought for the the former Sovietbacked communist government withdrew from the Afgan capital within one week. Message of Freedom Radio

The current attacks are started by the communist generals and our attacks are atmed only at them," he said.

. The government said on Monday it would be difficult even to implement a ceasefire to ensure safe evacuation of foreigners from Kabul because Hekmatyar could not be trusted.

Off the Record

Addicts are highly creative

people not to judge alcoholics and drug addicts, reports AP.

GLASGOW, Scotland: Princess Diana on Monday urged

UN Council okays observer for South Africa uate rather than end the polit UNITED NATIONS, Aug 18: Several countries, including lor crimes he has committed.

The UN Security Council on Monday authorized the deployment of observers to monitor township violence in South Africa, reports AP.

The 15 council members voted unanimously to adopt a resolution authorizing the observers, whose deployment was recommended by special UN envoy Cyrus Vance.

Vance, a former US secretary of state, visited South Africa in June. He spent two weeks meeting with political parties and issued a report to the United Nations on what it could do to help end the political stalemate between the government and black groups.

Vance recommended, 30 observers be sent but the UN resolution sets no number, leaving that up to Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

Russia, have expressed concern about the cost of the ob-

Last Thursday, the Pretoria government accepted UN proposals for reviving political talks, including sending observers to monitor township violence and a possible amnesty for political prisoners.

The broad acceptance of

the UN proposals had raised hopes that the government and the African National Congress would resume talks on ending white rule. But the ANC, which halted talks in June to protest political violence, rejected the overture. It objected to government suggestions for a broad amnesty that would cover security force members, comparing it to a

"criminal pardoning himself

Vance's suggestions, endorsed by the Security Council in Monday's resolution, inpolitical prisoners and investi-

gation of all groups accused of

instigating violence, including

the security forces. The ANC has repeatedly alleged that security forces help to provoke political violence, and the massacre of more than 40 blacks in the Boipatong township June 17 led it to pull out of negotiations on a new

Meanwhile, ANC claims the white government wants an amnesty for its security forces because top officials have been involved in political crimes.

constitution.

Rejecting government proposals for blanket amnesty, the main black opposition group

said an amnesty could perpet-

ical violence that has claimed thousands of lives.

in a separate statement cluded observers, release of ANC President Nelson Mandela said an amnesty could be considered by a future multiracial government. But he said the white government had no right to issue an amnesty because it was responsible for political

The ANC pulled out of power sharing talks in June to protest political violence in black townships. It is demanding an interim government and other concessions as the condition for returning to the

Mandela reiterated Monday that he believed President F W de Klerk was partly responsible for the violence in black townships in which thousands have been killed.

ME talks begin Aug 24

Israel to propose compromises

JERUSALEM, Aug 18: Israel will propose compromises to Syria and the Palestinians in upcoming peace talks, including a possible territorial concession on the Golan Heights, Israel radio reports said Tuesday, reports AP.

The reports came as Arab delegations hesitated about attending next week's talks, complaining that Washington's decision to grant 10 billion dollars in loan guarantees to Israel raises doubts about the US role as an honest broker.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman, Gad Ben-Ari. refused to comment on the reported compromise offers. He said Israel expected all parties to show up at the negotiations starting Monday in Wash-

State-owned Israel radio said in an unattributed report that the government would propose an interim settlement with Syria including partial Israeli withdrawal from the

Syria demands a complete Israeli pullback from the strategic heights that were captured in the 1967 Middle East war and later annexed by body not have lawmaking pow-

The Haaretz daily said Secretary of State James A Baker III has renewed a proposal to deploy US troops on the Golan during an interim phase, with a promise that Syria eventually

would win back sovereignty over the plateau.

in negotiations with the Palestinians, the Israelis want to focus on election of a Palestinian administrative council in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, media reports said. A target date for the election is next spring.

Israel wants the council to run Palestinian affairs during a five-year period, but insists the ers that could bolster the Palestinian demand for state-

The initial Israeli proposal said the council should have 13 to 15 members. But the

government sources, wrote Tuesday the Israelis would agree to a substantial increase in the number of council members.

Davar daily, quoting senior

The Palestinians want to elect a 180-member legislative assembly, and have said they would renew the demand dur ing the upcoming round of

Arab leaders and officials of the PLO were to meet Wednesday in Damascus to review their participation in the peace talks after US President George Bush reversed himself last week in backing loan guarantees to help Israel absorb Russian immigrants.

UN envoy hopeful

of implementing

Salvadoran

accord by Oct 31

The UN official in charge of El

Salvador's peace process said

Monday he had established a

new timetable for the imple-

mentation of the accord that

ended 12 years of civil war in

this Central American nation,

help bring the UN - moni-

tored peace process, which

has suffered serious delays,

back on track for its October

31 deadline, Marrack Goulding

month to overcome delays in

the implementation of the

"I have confidence that this

Both sides will have one

told a press conference.

The new timetable should

reports AP.

SAN SALVADOR, Aug 18:

Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Diana said addicts are often highly sensitive and creative "Sadly, many people still regard addictions as a moral weakness," said the 31number of these selfappointed moralists even choose to make such judgments from behind a She said people with lively imaginations often hide in fantasy for "Imaginative children lose themselves in fantasy worlds through stories. Later they might chose to escape through Ecstasy, uppers, alcohol and addiction," she said. Ecstasy is the mood-altering drug MDMA, often sold illegally

Diana is married to Prince Charles, heir to the British throne. A recent

in dance clubs.

book portrayed the marriage as loveless and Biana as suicidally unhappy and suffering from an eating disorder. As is customary with British royalty, she has refused to comment.

It is hard to escape politics

PARIS: From the Riviera's teeming beaches to the icy summit of Mont Blanc, French vacationers are finding it hard to escape politics this summer, reports AP.

The reason: barely one month remains before a pivotal referendum on European union. Proponents of the Maastricht treaty say a "No" vote could kill the move toward a strong, united Europe; opponents say a "Yes" vote could be the death of a strong, independent France.

Politics usually hit a standstill in late August as elected officials join their compatriots on holiday before the country returns to work in September.

But this year the emotional debate over the treaty is spilling over into the peak vacation period, even though the pro-Maastricht Socialist government officially wants to confine the campaign to two weeks before the September 20 referendum.

I am with you

WARSAW, Poland: More than 30,000 teenagers cheered and waved hands at the opening Friday of a 12 hour rock mu-

sic marathon held to raisc funds for AIDS-infected children, reports AFP.

The legendary British hard-rock group Uriah Heep joined more than 40 leading Polish bands and performers to play at charity concert held at Warsaw's lafgest stadium.

"I am with you, said President Lech Walesa in a support message read at the start of the concert. "I

believe you will do everything possible to make the world smile on all those who suffer."

The event was organized by a drug rehabilitation group MONAR and the Health Ministry.

Marek Kotanski, MONAR head and the event's organiser, hoped to raise about 4 billion zlotys (295,000 dollars) to finance house for AIDS-infected children as government subsidies for AIDS prevention and care programme fall short of the quickly increasing needs.

"I wanted to organise a concert that would make Poland wake up, that would stir people's conscience," Kotanski told The Associated Press during the concert.

For more than a year MONAR has been trying to set up houses for children with AIDS, but has repeatedly met with hostility of prospective neighbours. In July, a mysterious fire destroyed one of MONAR's two houses in the Warsaw suburb of Laski, donated to the group by a US backed foundation.



the city centre. Seven people were reportedly killed and 44 others wounded due to heavy shelling of the city by Serbs.

Unprecedented response from world community for aid to Somalia

NAIROBI, Aug 18: Aid appeals for starving Somalia have provoked a unprecedented response from an international community which had seemed disinterested in the fate of people in the arid horn of Africa nation, reports AFP.

The most recent appeal for urgent assistance came from the UN representative in Somalia, Mohamed Sahnoun.

The United States has now pledged 145,000 tons of food aid 'as soon as possible', and a first group of 33 American soldiers was due to arrive on Monday in the Kenyan port of Mombasa to prepare the relief

France announced yesterday that it would start a 10-day airlift beginning Wednesday to transport 200 tonnes of ur-

gently needed food to people in the area of Baidoha, southwestern Somalia.

Britain decided on Sunday to provide 18 million pounds (34 million dollars) in urgent

Italy, meanwhile, said on Sunday it was ready to send a representative to the Somali capital Mogadishu to try to promote dialogue between warring factions in the coun-

Previously, the Italians, formerly one of the colonial powers in Somalia, seemed to have given up hope of mediating any settlement between

the factions. On Thursday, Italy also said it was sending food supplies and medicines worth 20 million dollars to Somalia.

Even Israel-- which is not recognised by Somalia, a member of the Arab Leaguesaid on Sunday it was willing to send food and medical aid. The French Minister for

Health and Humanitarian Action, Bernard Kouchner, and Irish Foreign Minister David Andrews have just visited Somalia to assess the situation.

The international mobilisation comes as 500 UN troops were due to arrive in Mogadishu, to be deployed at the port and airport as security guards and to protect relief operations in the capital.

Food convoys and depots in Somalia are frequently attacked by looters. Weapons are much easier to find than food. "The instability poses prob-

lems, of course, but the only way to eliminate it is to bring in more and more food aid," a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Nairobi said on

> The ICRC has set up 400 collective kitchens in Somalia. On Monday, one of its freighters arrived in Mogadishu with 2,000 tons of food aid and a helicopter to take it to the town of Obbia, north of the capital, which is difficult to reach by road.

The World Food Programme, which has already delivered 3,000 tonnes of food to the port of Kismayo in the south, on Saturday began an airlift to Baidoha.

SARAJEVO: People carry a civilian on Monday who was wounded during a bombardment in

agreements, Goulding said. date (October 31) is feasible, - AFP/UNB photo Goulding said.