Arrested MQM women begin hunger strike

KARACHI. Aug 30: About 120 arrested Pakistani women began a protest fast in police custody on Saturday, a spokesman for their Mohajir Na tional Movement (MQM) party

said, reports Reuter. "All the arrested women have gone on hunger strike today." Ishratul Ebad. a former provincial minister, told re-

He said the women's action was meant to protest against

their alleged maltreatment by police. No police comment was immediately available.

Ebad said the women were arrested on Friday after police fired guns and teargas at more than 3,000 women reciting the Quran. He said they were praying for people killed since an army-led crime crackdown was launched in Karachi in

"The police have treated the women as criminals."

Fighting impedes relief airlift to Sudan

KHARTOUM, Sudan, Aug 30: Rebels and Sudanese soldiers are locked in a battle for the southern regional capital of Juba and 300,000 hungry. terrified civilians are trapped in the middle, reports AP.

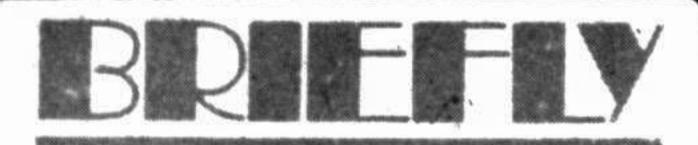
Elsewhere in the south, exhaustion and illness have claimed the lives of at least 5.000 refugees since May.

Because of fighting and rebel shelling of Juba, relief flights from Entebbe. Uganda, were suspended for five weeks and have been sporadic since. Only about 500 tons of corn. beans, medicine and materials for shelter were delivered in a nine-day period. The town

needs 3,000 tons a month.

The UN World Food Programme has warned of a loom ing disaster in southern Sudan and says the most vulnerable area is Juba, which is held by the government but surrounded by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army.

Relief flights risk being caught in cross-fire unless both sides grant safe passage. The rebels have refused such guarantees, apparently not trusting the United Nations after the Sudan government used planes with the UN insignia to ferry troops to Juba 625 miles (1,005 km) south of Khartoum.



Blast at Togo minister's home: A

bomb ripped through the home of a high-ranking minister of the transitional government Saturday in the latest attack on opponents of President Gnassingbe Eyadema, reports AP from

Cabinet Chief Raphael Houyenga was not at home at the time of the attack. His daughter was slightly injured, said the

officials. Gunfire was heard just prior to the explosion, but the identity of the assailants was unknown.

Eyadema, stripped of his powers last year by Togo's na tional conference, has resisted efforts by the transitional government to hold democratic elections. He says the country ian't ready.

Parliament dissolved in Guyana:

President Desmond Hoyte dissolved Parliament Saturday and set long-delayed national elections for October 5 in this English-speaking South American country, Reports AP from George town Guyana.

Hoyte announced the election date at a rally following a one-day special congress of his governing people's National Congress.

Thousands cheered as Hoyte took credit during his seven years in office for establishing a stable democracy and turning the economy around.

Recent public opinion indicate Hoyte's party, which has been the parliamentary leader since 1964, is trailing the Marxist peoples Progressive party of former colonial premier Cheddi Jagan.

Somali faction opposes UN plan: The

most powerful clan militia in Somalia said Saturday it opposes a UN plan to send more troops to protect food deliveries for more than a million starving Somalis. Reports AP from Mogadishu

Aid workers worried that without support from Gen Mohamed Farrah Aidid's United Somali Congress, the arrival of the troops would spark new fighting in the ravaged coun-

The UN's special envoy to Somalia said Saturday the international body would proceed slowly and win the support of warring factions before sending any additional troops. Meanwhile, a US airlift to help save Somalis from starva-

tion continued smoothly for a second day.

The United Nations estimates that 1.5 million people are in danger of dying, and that another 4.5 million require food and other emergency assistance.

14 killed in Egyptian bldg collapse: A seven-storey apartment building collapsed Saturday, killing at least 14 people and injuring 30 others, police reported.

says AP from Cairo. An urrknown number of bodies remained in the wreckage,

The collapse was blamed on the age of the building. No further details were immediately available.

Quake jolts Japan: An earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter Scale Jolted central and northeastern Japan early today. NHK public television reported, says Reuter from Tokyo.

NHK quoted Tokyo police and fire department officials as saying there were no reports of damage or casualties caused by the earthquake, which struck at 4:20 am (1920 GMT Saturday)

The meteorological agency said the epicentre was off the Pacific coast and 320 km (200 miles) below sea-level.

India accuses Pakistan of interfering in mosque issue

JAKARTA, Aug 30: India today accused Pakistan of interfering in its domestic affairs by expressing concern about a mosque just days before the countries' two leaders are due to meet in the Indonesian capital Jakarta, reports Reuter.

The Pakistani parliament last week passed a resolution expressing concern over the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya in northerns India, a site which right-wing Hindus say is sa cred to their religion.

The resolutions is an act of interference in India's domestic issues this is something se

ROME. Aug 30: The hijack-

ing of an Ethiopian airlines

plane ended on Sunday when

fivemen who had forced the

aircraft to fly to Rome from

Cairo gave themselves up.

ANSA news agency said, re-

said the hijackers and erew

left the Boeing 727 at 6.45 am

(0445 GMT), just over four

hours after the plane landed at

Rome's Ciampino military air-

had agreed to the hijackers'

request for political asylum.

Police said earlier that Italy

Ciampino airport began re-

JAKARTA, Aug 30 : Bosnian

Foreign Minister Haris Sila-

idzic today urged the Non-

Aligned Movement (NAM) to

expel Yugoslavia, saying a com-

promise allowing it to stay in

would contravene the organisa

tion's principles, reports AFP.

eign ministers of Muslim

countries represented here

said they were dropping de-

mands for Yugoslavia's expul-

sion that had threatened to

split the 31-year-old group of

which Belgrade was a co-

Malaysia and Senegal, had met

with stiff opposition mainly

from Black African and Latin

American countries as the for-

eign ministers met to prepare

for the 107-member organisa-

tion's 10th summit opening

Opponents to the expulsion

move had argued at a plenary

session Saturday that NAM was

not a forum for deciding Ser-

bia's and Montenegro's right to

take Belgrade's scat following

the dismemberment to the Yu-

goslav state. They said expul-

ward refugees flooding into the

country, especially in former

East Germany, where unem-

ployment is high. The influx of

refugees this year may double

Saturday, Eberhard Lindenb-

urger, a supervisor in the

Rostock police operations

center, said, "Right now the

situation is quiet. There are no

Shortly before midnight

the 1991 record of 256,000.

sion would hurt solidarity.

The move, spearheaded by

founder.

Tuesday.

Stlajdzic's call came as for-

turning to normal shortly after

The Italian news agency

ports Reuter.

port.

rious" India's junior foreign minister, R L Bhatia, told Reu-

But he added that Thurs day's planned meeting between Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif their fourth during a Nonalighed Movement Summit in Jakarta may still stand.

More than 2.000 people have been killed in the past three years in sectarian violence sparked by the dispute over the Moscow, which Hindus say is on the site of a

FILES: Photo dated June 10 in Moscow shows Russian President Boris Yeltsin, flanked by

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Gratchev (R), addressing the press after forming a military

council. According to a Russian newspaper, Gratchev participated in secret meetings called

Italy agrees to give asylum

Ethiopian plane hijackers surrender

dawn as police and special

forces, which had sealed off

Mario Esposito. Rome air

ports' security chief, said the

five hijackers had told Italian

officials they were political

lieved the men, who seized the

plane after it left Addis Ababa

plane's 66 passengers to dis-

embark in the Red Sea repub-

lic of Djibouti before flying to

Aden, in Yemen, Cairo and

He said the offer of asylum

on Saturday, had grenades.

He told journalists he be-

The hijackers allowed the

the airfield during the night.

started to pull out.

dissidents.

by former KGB Chief Vladimir Kryuchkov to plan the August coup bid last year.

Hindu temple demolished by the Muslim Moghul Emperor Babar in the 16th century.

The contention is disputed by Muslims, who number 100 million of India's total population of 850 million.

Islamic Pakistan will raise the issue of Kashmir, over which the two countries fought two of their three wars since independence from Britain in 1947, at the summit despite an appeal by host Indonesia to avoid bilateral issues.

"It is in the interest of Nam to settle such disputes (but) we do not have any wish to

- AFP/UNB photo

was made after the hijackers

guirement and the leader of

the hijackers in now confer-

ring with his comrades," he

- Before Rome, the hijacked

plane had landed in Djibouti.

It was the third Ethiopian

In the two previous inci-

dents - hijacks to Djibouti last

November and to Nairobi in

April - the hijackers were

former security men in ousted

Ethiopian President Mengistu

Airlines plane to be hijacked to

Aden in Yemen, and in Cairo.

foreign airports in a year.

"We accepted their re

had asked to stay in Italy.

told reporters.

generate any controversy or sidetrack the main agenda of the Non-Aligned Movement," Pakistani ambassador Tayyab

India's Bhatia ruled out any concessions on Kashmiri territory, two-thirds of which are help by India and the rest by Pakistan.

India accuses Pakistan of backing Kashmiri separatists. Pakistan denies involvement in the violence there which has claimed about 8,000 lives since it erupted in 1990.

Pakistan forms probe cause of

Pakistan government has appointed a three-member judicial commission to probe the cause of the C-130 plane crash which killed former President Ziaul Haq in August, 1988, re ports Xinhua.

The commission is headed by Justice Shaffur Rahman. Judge of the Supreme Court. and its members are Justice Riaz Ahmed, Judge of Lahore High Court and Justice Iman Alt Kazt, Judge of Stndh High

The commission will inguire into the cause of crash, whether it was an accident or an act of sabotage and determine the person or organization responsible, a press release issued by the commission said Saturday.

7 Lankan bus passengers killed in blast

exploded in packed bus in northeastern Sri Lanka Sunday, killing at least seven passengers and injuring 16 others, the military said, reports AP.

of Colombo.

The bus, with about 75 pas sengers, was ready to leave for Kandy when the bomb, believed to have been activated by a time device, exploded. Trincomalee, a multiethnic

district has an equal number of Sinhalese, Tamtls and Mus-Haile Mariam's administration. | lims.

judicial body to C-130 crash

ISLAMABAD, Aug 30: The

COLOMBO, Aug 30: A bomb

The military blamed Tamil separatist for the slayings at Trincomalee, about 235 kilometers (146 miles) northeast

FOR FUNDS: US Democratic Presidential nominee Bill Clinton (R) greets comedian Chevy Chase (L) and actress Cybil Sheperd on Saturday during a fund raising appearance. - AFP/UNB photo

Off the Record

'I was her horseriding tutor'

LONDON: A dashing army officer said to be involved in a second scandal brewing over Princess Diana's love life has denied any romantic links with Britain's future queen, reports

James Hewitt, a 34 year old Gulf War veteran who taught Diana to ride, was quoted as telling today newspaper: "I was her horseriding tutor that was all." "I have heard rumours and read stories but that is all they

are. I cannot honestly imagine anything I have done that could possibly be misconstrued." Hewitt told today. His comments however failed to quash media speculation

about the 31-year-old princess, her male admirers and her marriage to heir to the throne Prince Charles. Several news papers said intimate photographs of Diana

and Hewitt locked in an embrace were expected to be published over the weekend. They claimed Diana had written affectionate letters to Major Hewitt while he was fighting in the Gulf desert in 1991

"Di's horseplay," said the headline in the Star.

Diana's reportedly loveless marriage to Charles has been making front page news all week after a secretly-taped conversation said to involve the Princess and another bachelor was made available by The Sun newspaper on a public telephone hotline.

Fishing boat nets WW II torpedo

HALF MOON BAY, Calif: A fishing boat caught a World War Il torpedo in its nets Saturday, the US Coast Guard said, reports AP.

The captain of the fishing boat Sierra Madre said the device was about 5 feet (1.5 meters) long and 20 inches (50.8 cm) wide with four fins, said Coast Guard spokesman Bryan Bender.

Navy bomb-disposal experts confirmed the device was a World War II torpedo, Bender said.

A buoy was attached to the device, which will be kept in the ocean south of San Francisco and watched overnight by a crew on a Coast Guard cutter. Bender said. He said the torpedo might be exploded later.

Children paid to give 'Hitler salute'

ROSTOCK, Germany: Police said US and French television crews paid German children to give the straight-armed 'Hitler salute' on Saturday during a march against racist violence in the east German city of Rostock, reports Reuter.

"Residents told us that French and US television teams offered the children and teenagers money to give the Hitler salute." police spokesman Gunner Maechler told Reuters. He did not identify the television crews.

Brazilian President refuses to resign

BRASILIA, Brazil, Aug 30: President Fernando Collor de Mello rejected calls for his resignation Saturday and said he would fight an impeachment trial for corruption. reports AP.

Collor arrived early at the presidential palace and prepared a speech to be broadcast on nationwide radio and tele-The date and text of the

speech were not revealed, but an aide who requested anonymity said Collor would "come out shooting". He did not elaborate. Meanwhile, pressure in-

creased for the president to step down. Top generals, worried about possible anti-government demonstrations on Independence Day, which falls on Sept. 7, reportedly recommended that Collor resign. On Thursday, the army oc-

cupied the streets of downtown Rio on the pretext of testing field radios. Troops had put on a similar show of strength in Sao Paulo, Brazil's largest city. The respected newspaper

Jornal do Brasil of Rio said Saturday that Collor had rebuffed a cabinet minister's

suggestion to resign rather than face impeachment. "The president discarded

resignation, claiming he still had many cards to play, both political and legal," the paper Next Tuesday, the Brazilian

Bar Association is to present a request for impeachment to the president of the Chamber of Deputies, Rep. Ibsen Pinheiro. The request, published in

major newspapers, claims Collor has "totally lost moral authority" and "lacks the dignity to exercise the office of president." Collor denies any wrongdo-

ing and says he will not resign before his term ends in 1995. "The president is an obsti-

nate man. He won't resign ever," said Paulo Cesar Farias. Collor's 1989 campaign treasurer and the centre of the scandal that threatens to unseat the president. Farias is accused of running

an extortion ring that funnelled millions of dollars into the bank account of Collor's personal secretary, Ana Acioli. Earlier this week, police charged Acioli with fraud and criminal association.

Grenade blast kills 3 in Philippines

MANILA. Aug 30 : Three people were killed and 45 others injured after an unidentified man lobbed a grenade into a school party in the central Philippines, police said, reports AFP.

The grenade ripped through a student party held Friday night at the Aklan polytechnic school in Kalibo town on the tsland of Panay, about 335 kilometres (208 miles) south of Manila.

Most of the victims were students and no suspects were identified or arrested, the Philippine national police said in a statement.

30 : Rightist extremists went on rampages outside homes for refugees in 10 eastern German towns and cities, police and television reports said Saturday. There were scattered outbreaks of violence in Rostock during a leftist-sponsored march to show solidarity with asylum-seekers, reports

> At times the demonstrators squared off against police, who pushed them back during a series of angry confrontations. Other demonstrators rushed out to push those confronting police back into the crowd. However, there were no re-

ROSTOCK, Germany, Aug

ports of the widely feared ri-The problems are evidence of the growing resentment to-

Police said they had arrested 90 people, including those taken into custody before the march got under way.

major disturbances."

Meanwhile, in Bonn and in the university city of Marburg. several hundred marchers also took to the streets to show their solidarity with the refugees.

Most of the attention was

Bosnia urges NAM to expel Y'slavia

Bosnia is attending the

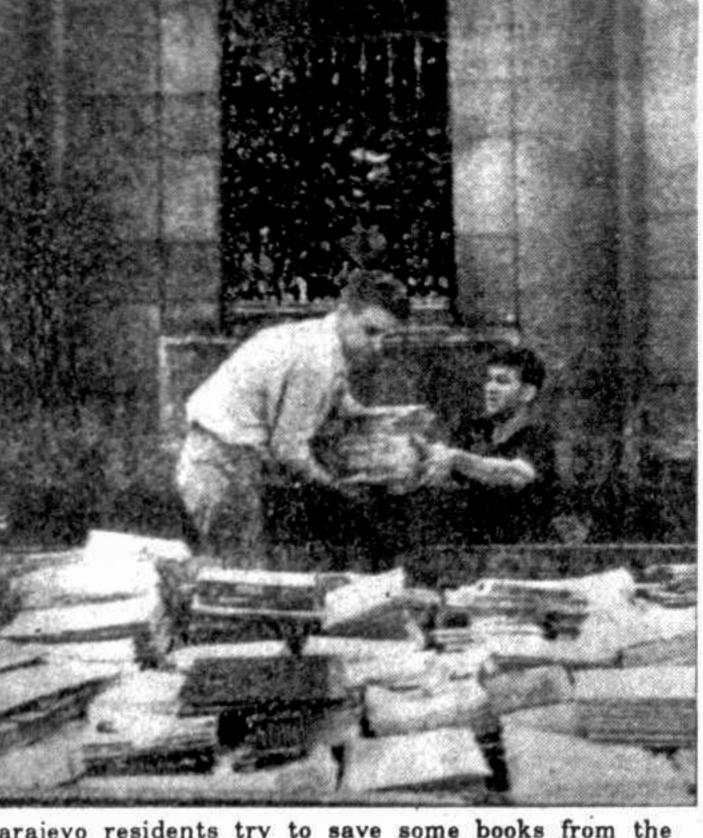
NAM meetings here as a guest. Silajdzic said a compromise allowing Serbia and Montenergo to keep the Yugoslav scat without having to reapply for membership would flout

"Here is a regime which has breached all the rules, all the principles, the letter and spirit of non-intervention and non-aggression," he said. adding that continued pressure was needed to force Belgrade into line.

Silaidzic said some African counties appeared "reluctant in address the truth" on the Yugoslavian situation.

China executes 10 more

BEIJING, Aug 30: China's western province of Gansu executed 19 people in one day last week after mass sentencing rallies saw them denounced for murder, robbery. wounding and engaging in the slave trade, the Gansu Daily said, reports Reuter.



Sarajevo residents try to save some books from the basement of the national library in Sarajevo Saturday. The historical library building of the Bosnian capital was partly destroyed and burned by shelling. - AFP/UNB photo

Rightist extremists go on rampage in German cities

were arrested, police said. Police said, 13,000 mar-Some protesters shot flares chers, including foreigners and Rostock residents, rallied over the march. outside the refugee shelter where the trouble started They chanted "Foreigners

stay. Kick out the Nazis. Never again Auschwitz," as the march got under way. The crowd also included some leftist streetfighters.

About 3,000 police and border

patrol troops were on hand to

focused on Rostock, the site of

five nights of extreme rightist

riots that started a little more

than a week ago.

keep order. Organizers said the march got off to a late start because police had stopped buses carrying up to 3,000 leftist demonstrators on main highways leading to Rostock in order to search for weapons. The buses were let through after numerous weapons were confiscated and 65 people

at police helicopters hovering Local residents denied be-

ing the racists or fascists that some of the marchers accused them of being. One resident, 34-year-old Harald Fuessel, said: "We have nothing against foreigners. The

problem here was Gypsies. They camped on the lawn." The Gypsies in the shelter came from Romania and had been seeking political asylum in Germany. Fuessel said people in Lichtenhagen merely wanted

the refugee centre closed but

then the conflict "went in an other direction. It was leftists versus skinheads and nothing to do with the local situation. "Racism is growing and

we're trying to do something against it," said one leftist protested from Berlin who identified himself only as Martin. He said the leftists' goal is to provide a safe climate in Germany for refugees and

That goal seems increas ingly difficult with the extreme right turning to violence and politicians hamstrung by endless squabbling.

Resentment against foreigners led to the rioting in Rostock, the once-proud shipbuilding centre now hit by about 17 per cent unemploy-

Police in other eastern German cities reported overnight disturbances. Ger-many's ZDF television said right-wing extremist rampages spread to 10 towns and cities.

Cottbus police in East Germany said they drove back about 200 rightists who tried to attack a refugee home late Friday. The attackers set fire to three cars and 15 were arrested

In Spremberg, south of Cottbus, police said about 15 skinheads threw stones at an asylum shelter and beat up a Pakistani who was returning

Rightist radicals also broke windows in a refugee home in the town of Greifswald. Police said four people were arrested No injuries were reported.

popularity gap narrowing WASHINGTON, Aug 30: Two

Bush-Clinton

polls released Saturday showed the popularity gap between Democratic Presidential nominee Bill Clinton and President George Bush narrowing to six and 10 percentage points, reports AFP. A time magazine-Cable

News Network (CNN) poll

showed Clinton with 46 per cent support against 40 per cent for Bush. A poll by the same organisations a week earlier, during the Republican convention, gave Clinton 47 per cent and Bush 36 per cent. A Gallup-Newsweek poll out

Saturday showed Clinton with 49 per cent and Bush with 39 per cent.