Govt accuses ANC of abandoning democracy talks

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 5 The South African government's chief negotiator ac cused the African National Congress (ANC) on Friday of abandoning democracy talks to pursue confrontation and provocation, reports Reuter.

'It would seem the organisation is still intent on pursuing its own agenda to mass action, provocation and confrontation and that it does not yet have the political will to resume negotiations," Constitutional Development minister Roelf Meyer said in a state-

Chinese dissident denied asylum in Hong Kong

BEIJING, Sept 5: A Chinese woman who wrote poems supporting the 1989 pro-democracy movement has been denied asylum by Hong Kong and Britain and may soon be deported to China, a human rights group said, reports AP.

In a statement, the Londonbased Tibet Information Network on Friday identified the writer as Liu Yijung, 29.

The statement, issued after a cabinet meeting to consider the ANC's refusal to resume talks, said the longer negotiations were delayed, the longer it would take to reach an acceptable solution.

This in turn will lead to the further damaging of our economy and to more hardship for millions of South Africans."

The ANC agreed to maintain contacts with the government "to monitor the situation" and conceded president FW de Klerk's administration had gone a long way to accepting its demands on a popularly-elected assembly draw up a new constitution.

But it has resolved to step up demonstrations, strikes, sit-ins, and boycotts to end white rule.

The ANC pulled out of democracy negotiations in June after the Boipatong township massacre of at least 43 blacks.

It presented 14 conditions to be met by the government. including moves to end violence, release of political prisoners, quick installation of a non-racial government of national unity and commitment to the constitutional assembly.

BREFLY

Iraq appeals for food: Iraq said Friday that more than 27,000 Iraqi children died last year because of food and medicine shortages, and it urged world relicf agencies to provide help, the Iraqi News Agency reported, AP from Nicosia says.

Minister of Health Omid Medhet Mubarak said 85,943 Iragis - more than one-third of them young children - died last year from disease and hunger, said the INA report monitored in Nicosia. It quoted Medhet as blaming the shortages on UN economic sanctions imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

The UN bars Iraq from exporting its oil and from importing most products. But food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies are exempted.

Iraq has repeatedly claimed a rising death rate among children and blamed malnutrition, which it says is caused by shortages in food and medicine.

11 pilgrims killed in stampede: Eleven pilgrims were killed and 18 others seriously injured in a stampede during immersion ceremony of the 40-day festival at the temple of 'Lord Jhulelal' (Varun Devta) at Ullhasnagar, in nearby Thane district, about 56 km from Bombay, Friday evening, reports PTI.

The incident occurred when over one lakh Sindhi devotees from all over the country converged at the holy shrine of

Lord Jhulelal at camp five of Ullhasnagar, police said. The pilgrims, as part of Sindhi tradition, were offering flowers and coconuts in earthen pots on the last day of the

40-day festival. Police said when the devotees in large number were coming down the staircase of a two storey building within the temple premises, rain started pouring in and devotees rushed back to the building, resulting in the stampede.

US pledges \$ 10m for Somalia: The United States has pledged 10 million dollars to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to fight famine in Somalia, US officials said in Geneva Friday, reports AFP from Geneva.

US Ambassador Warren Zimmermann, Director of the Refugee Office in the State Department, made the offer during a meeting with ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga, The ICRC is the main relief agency operating in the strife-

torn horn of Africa nation, where about a quarter of the population of six million face starvation. US officials said the latest contribution brings to more

than 100 million dollars the amount the United States has furnished in aid to Somalia since the crisis began last year. Blast kills 15 in China: Explosives stored

underground set off a blast in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen that killed 15 people, an official newspaper reported, says AP from Beijing. The Yangcheng Evening News (Yangcheng Wanbao) re-

ported Friday that the blast occurred Wednesday at Yantian port in Shenzhen, one of China's special economic zones near Hong Kong.

The newspaper was seen Saturday in Beijing. It said the Shenzhen Public Security Bureau sent experts to determine how to dispose of 20 tons of explosives found at the site.

The newspaper said the explosion occurred in underground shafts. It did not say if the people killed were working in the shafts or give other details of the blast.

UN team to visit African nations: Top UN officials will visit several African nations this month, including Somalia, where they will meet a warlord who has hampered UN efforts to guard relief supplies in parts of the

devastated country, reports Reuter from United Nations. Jan Eliasson, a Swede who is UN Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, said on Friday he will lead the team, which will include James Grant, Director of the UN

Children's Fund (UNICEF), and other UN officials. In addition to meeting warlord Mohamed Farah Aideed in Somalia, team members will meet Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi in Nairobi and see government and relief officials in Difbouti, Ethiopia and the Sudan.

The team will also travel to Zimbabwe, centre of a large southern African relief project to counter food shortages facing 25 million people because of the region's worst drought this century.

quorum for a special legislative

session called to oust hard-line

Communist President Rakh-

Supreme Soviet registered for

the session, little more than

half the required 154. More

than 100 pro-Nabiyev lawmak-

ers are boycotting the session

political crisis in this Central

Asian nation, which revolves

around Nabiyev's refusal to

heed demands by the Cabinet

The impasse deepens the

they say is unconstitutional.

Only 74 members of the

mon Nabiyev, reports AP.

India considers open skies treaty with Pakistan

NEW DELHI, Sept 5 : India is considering a US proposal for an Open Skies treaty with Pakistan allowing the two hostile neighbours to use spy planes against each other, a US diplomat said in an interview published Saturday, reports

The treaty would be a big step toward defusing tensions between the two countries that have fought three wars in 45 years. Both are believed to possess nuclear weapons capability, and their armies frequently skirmish along the border.

NATO and former members of the defunct Warsaw Pact singed the Treaty on Open Skies in Helsinki, Finland last March allowing reconnaissance flights unimpeded access across 24 countries.

John Hawes, the US negotiator at Helsinki, said after

discussing an Indo-Pakistan treaty in New Delhi last month, that India 'would certainly give serious thought to something like this treaty."

Hawes told The Weekend Observer unhindered observation flights 'could clear misunderstanding" when troops are concentrated near the border. "In recent history there

large maneuvers across the borders caused concern across both sides," he said. "This concern could have been mitigated to a great degree if the two countries were

able to fly observation aircraft

to see things for themselves,"

have been instances when

Under the treaty signed in Helsinki, Hawes said, the aircraft would not have sensors to detect evidence of nuclear

weapons

India and Pakistan adopted several confidence-building measures after they almost went to war a fourth time in 1990, including a hotline between military commanders to contain exchanges of fire.

Last month they signed agreements barring the use or possession of chemical weapons and governing the treatment of diplomats in each other's country.

India and Pakistan were partitioned along religious lines from Britain's colony on the Indian subcontinent and were given independence in 1947. They are still in dispute over the northern territory of Kashmir, which was split between them in the first Indo-Pak war

PTI adds : The Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said an early solution to the Kashmir issue would help Islamabad and New Delht to divert their resources towards economic development,

Talking to reporters on board the special plane which touched down at Lahore, Sharti said Pakistan had 'convincingly" put across its point of view on Kashmir at the Jakarta NAM summit and would continue to raise the issue at international fora.

The official news agency, APP, quoted the Prime Minister as having said that the indian delegation to the NAM summit had asked the Pakistani team not to raise the Kashmir issue but Islamabad decided not to give in to their pressure. India felt that the Kashmir issue should be resolved bilaterally.

visit to Pakistan

The Afghan President has sent a message to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif informing them about the postponement of his visit," Foreign

Rabbani had been schedule in Jakarta this week, he said.

ing his visit after the situation returns to normal in northern Afghanistan," Khan said.

Pakistan has ordered a plane-load of relief aid to be sent to survivors of the floods that have killed at least 450 people.

"We will send more relief

Rabbani postpones

ISLAMABAD, Sept 5: Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani has postponed a planned visit to Pakistan today because of flash floods and landslides in northern Afghanistan, a Pakistant foreign official said on Friday, reports Reuter.

Secretary Shaharyar Khan said.

to visit Pakistan on his return from the Non-Aligned Summit "Rabbani will be reschedul-

later," Khan said.

Bush has jeopardised ties: China

BEIJING, Sept 5: China accused President George Bush of "excuses and lies" to justify selling F-16 jets to Taiwan, saying he had seriously jeopardised Sino-US relations, reports Reuter.

Beijing kept up its stream of vitriol over the jet sale on Friday, with the National People's Congress (NPC), China's rubber-stamp parliament, issuing a "serious demand" that Washington rescind its deci-

This is an actual display of hegemonism and power politics," the parliament's statement said, using rhetoric reminiscent of the radical days of the late chairman Mao Tsetung in the 1960s.

The official Xinhua news agency let loose a strongly

PORT HEDLAND, Australia,

Scpt 5 : A group of 10 Chinese

boat people involved in a

protest at a detention center

last month will be deported.

the Immigration Department

Harley Dadswell said the seven

men and three women had

been told their applications for

on a hunger strike in early Au-

gust, reportedly after hearing

their applications probably

would be rejected, and five

jumped from the detention

center roof. Two remain in a

Perth hospital with spinal in-

Chinese city of Nanning, ar

rived in Darwin on May 21

aboard a rickety wooden junk.

when they will be deported.

The 10, from the southern

Dadswell would not say

"I can't be any more specific

than to say it won't be in the

next few days, but we have put

the people on notice that it is

our intention to remove them

juries.

refugee status were rejected.

Department spokesman

Members of the group went

said Saturday, reports AP.

worded commentary late on Thursday, saying Washington's plan would create new tension between China and nationalist Taiwan.

PARIS: Italian writer Umberto Eco (R) and French Nobel Peace prize winner Elie Wiesel (L)

present their international committee to support a "Yes" vote for the French referendum for

the Maastricht treaty in Europe on Thursday, in company of the president of Foreign Affairs

Commission of the Polish "Diete" (Parliament), Bronislaw Geremek.

"The Bush administration has fabricated various excuses and lies trying to justify its arms sale decision, which is seriously jeopardising Sino-US relations," it said.

Bush on Wednesday said he would reverse Washington's 10 year ban on weapons sales and permit the sale of up to 150 advanced F-16 fighter jets to Tatwan, which Beijing regards as a renegade province.

Bush said the proposed sale jets. did not represent a change in US policy toward China and was intended to help maintain "peace and stability in the re-

deportations will be subject to

nouncement, Immigration

Minister Gerry Hand said a at

tention-grabbing by boat peo-

ple would make no difference

have no claim to remain in

Australia, and I put people on

notice that threats, demon-

strations and other dramatic

action will not alter the situa-

was among a group of 79 Cam-

bodian arrivals in June 1990

had been granted refugee sta-

tus after complying with

are among some 390 boat peo-

ple in Port Hedland, Sydney

and Perth awaiting final deci-

sions on their claims for

A lawyer representing the

10 Chinese, Michael Kennedy

of Australian Lawyers for

Refugees Inc. said he fears

they may be persecuted in

China as an example because of

The remaining Cambodians

United Nations criteria.

refugee status, he said.

Dadswell said a man who

"Rejected asylum-seekers

In a statement with the an

medical advice, he said.

to their refugee claims.

tion," Hand said.

Australia to deport 10

Chinese boat people

Timing of the injured pair's their high-profile protest.

This is "absolutely confusing right an wrong, and cheating people of the world," according to the NPC statement. which was passed by the group's standing committee as it ended a regular meeting on

AFP/UNB photo

Bush's premise that the F-16 sale to Taiwan would counteract China's purchase of foreign fighter jets was "an illbased argument," the Xinhua commentary said.

The NPC echoed China's earlier warnings of severe consequences if Washington kept to its decision to sell the

On issues concerning sovereignty, internal affairs and dignity, the Chinese people will not yield," it said.

Diplomats said they expected China to pour on the invective, but added that hopes of membership to international organisations like GATT would probably prevent the Beijing leadership from taking rash

On Thursday the foreign ministry in its official reaction said China threatened to withdraw from arms control talks with the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

China's blistering attack marks a severe downturn in relations with Washington, which are already under strain because of US complaints over Beijing's human rights record, trade policies and arms sales

Moroccans approve political reforms

RABAT, Morocco, Sept 5: Moroccans overwhelmingly approved a referendum on constitutional reform called by King Hassan II, officials said Saturday, reports AP. The reforms would retain

the powerful monarchy but strengthen some of Parliament's powers in advance of legislative elections planned before the end of the year. Several opposition parties

and labour federations urged their followers to boycott the referendum, arguing that the reforms were insufficient Voter turnout was being closely watched as a gauge of the opposition's support.

The Interior Ministry said late Saturday that the referendum has been approved by 99 per cent of voters, and 97 per cent of eligible voters had cast ballots. The 11 million eligible vot-

ers included residents of the disputed Western Sahara. Their inclusion was part of a bid to consolidate Morocco's claim to the former Spanish colony it annexed in 1975.

Minister of State Ahmed Alaoui wrote in a Friday newspaper column that the extension of the voting to the Western Sahara affirmed that its residents are Moroccans. The fate of the region, an

area the size of Italy on the northwest corner of Africa was to have been decided by a UNsponsored referendum this But the plebiscite on

whether residents wanted independence or incorporation into Morocco has been postponed repeatedly due to disputes between the government and separatists over voter eli-Critics charge that the gov-

ernment has flooded the territory with Moroccan settlers to skew the vote.

The Polisario guerrilla movement favours independence for the Western Sahara and fought a 17-year war with Morocco. But recent defections by front leaders have



Off the Record

File pictures of Princes Anne and commander Timothy Laurence. The Princes cut short a public engagement on Friday amid mounting speculation of an imminent official announcement that she will marry commander - AFP/UNB photo Laurence.

Lover must be well off rather than good-natured

TOKYO: The first thing a Japanese woman expects from her lover or spouse is that he be well off, rather than merely good-natured, according to to a survey published on Friday by a woman's underwear company, reports Reuter,

The survey showed that women who have led comfortable lives do not want marriage to mean a step down in lifestyle, Wacoal Corporation said.

Similar surveys conducted by the company in 1974 and 1989 showed that women then considered "good character" rather than "economic power" the most important characteristic in their men.

'Japanese women must be looking to marriage to provide a rich life," the company said of its latest survey.

Elephant kills keeper at zoo

LISBON: An elephant attacked and killed a zoo keeper who was carrying out his routine checks in the animal's enclosure at Lisbon Zoo, news reports said Saturday, reports AP. Joaquim Porfirio Teles Riberiro, 54, an elephant keeper at

the zoo for more than 15 years, had showed "excessive trust," in the animal, the zoo said in a statement. The accident occurred Friday inside the elephant com-

pound, away from public viewing, Lisbon daily Publico said. No further details were available. Mother's smoking linked to

children's behaviour problems CHICAGO: The more cigarettes a mother smokes, the

more behaviour problems her children are likely to have, researchers say, reports AP. Women who smoke at least a pack-a-day have children

with twice the rate of extreme behavior problems - such as anxiety, disobedience or conflict with others - compared with children of non-smokers, the researchers say. Refraining from smoking only during pregnancy didn't

help, according to the study published in September's Pediatrics journal. Children of pack-a-day mothers who smoked after the child's birth had problems just as often as children of pack-a-

day women who smoked during pregnancy and afterward. Smoking less than a pack arday also was linked to elevated rates of behaviour problems, but the rates were not as high as for heavier smokers, the researchers said. They used data from a Labour Department survey in which parents of 2,256 youngsters ages 4 to 11 were interviewed. The survey didn't ask about fathers' smoking.

Yugoslav PM survives no-confidence

BELGRADE, Sept 5: The Yugoslav parliament late Friday voted to support federal Prime Minister Milan Panic, after a motion of censure had been laid down against him by MPs of the ruling ex-communist Socialist Party (SPS) and the ultra-nationalist Serb Radical Party (SRP), reports AFP.

The two-chamber parliament came out in favour of Panic after several hours of de-

In a show of hands, the lower house, the Chamber of Citizens, passed the confidence vote by 66 to 30 against and seven abstentions. SPS leader Bortsay Jovic.

who had come out with vehement criticism of Panic and his government of the Rump Yugoslavia, said his party would "maintain confidence" in the government as long as it "takes into account" the criticisms that had been levelled against After the vote, Panic, a

multi-millionaire American businessman who has been increasingly at odds with Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic, promised to "examine" the suggestions put forward by the

The two houses also approved Panic's report on the proceedings of a peace conference in London last week. He had come under flerce criticism from SRS MPs for making concessions at the talks.

Panic and Milosevic met late Friday with United Nations special envoy Marrack

Goulding for discussions on the latest peace plan put forward by Cyrus Vance, Tanjug news agency reported. Goulding reportedly ex-

pressed strong concern over the fact that zones of the former Yugoslavia place under UN protection were not being demilitarized. Tanjug quoted him as saying

that he had received "firm assurances" from Panic and Milosevic that "everything possible will be done" to overcome obstacles standing in the way of the UN plan.

Kashmiris kill 3 policemen JAMMU, Sept 5: Kashmiri

Muslim rebels ambushed and shot to death three policemen of a patrol party, but other officers returned fire and killed one guerrilla officials said Saturday, reports AP.

Friday's killings are the first in the Hindu-dominated Kachua district of Jammu-Kashmir state since a separatist insurgency by Islamic militants flared up three years ago in Kashmir. The predominantly Muslim

Kashmir, comprising snowy mountains and lush valleys, forms the northern part of the state. To the south are the dusty plains of Hindu-dominated Jammu area, including Kachua.

At least 5,000 people have been killed in the war between armed Islamic guerrillas and Indian security forces.

Allies have no evidence of Iraqi action against

Shi'ites ON BOARD THE USS IN-DEPENDENCE, Sept 5: Allies warplanes policing southern Iraq have seen no evidence of large-scale Iraqi military activity against Shi'ite Muslims, a US Navy air wing commander said Friday, reports AP.

stopped it. I'd like to think that," said Capt Arthur N 'Bud' "I can't tell if secret police

"And I hope it's because we

are arresting people of those kind of things," said Langston.

of Ministers, senior lawmakers DUSHANBE, Tajikistan, Sept and opposition groups that he 5: "Lawmakers failed for the second day to muster a

from Australia," he said.

Nabiyev was elected president in November 1991 with 60 percent of the popular vote, but opposition groups say he has not introduced political and religious freedoms quickly enough and has failed to curb

tribal violence. Dushanbe Radio reported fighting Saturday in the central Kurgan-Tyube region. It said 100 people have been killed and 200 wounded there in the past three days.

Four former Soviet republics said Friday they would send troops to police Tajikistan's southern border with Afghanistan to curb the smuggling of arms and drugs into the country, the poorest in the Commonwealth of Independent States. Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbek-

istan and Kyrgyzsan also warned in a strongly worded statement that political instability in Tajikistan was threatening security throughout Central Asia. "Southern borders of the commonwealth must not be vi-

olated," said statement issued

by the Kazakh foreign ministry.

The escalation of the civil

war in the republic, which is threatening the security of our nations and upsetting the political stability in the region, must not be permitted," it

Lt Gen. Oleg B. Shalymov, the commander of a commonwealth military observation team already in Tajkistan, said a peacekeeping force was needed to prevent ethnic fighting from spilling into neighboring countries. "In certain circumstances it could be successful", Shalymov

said in an interview with The

Association Press " The impor-

tant thing is to stop the the

Crisis deepens as Tajik lawmakers fail to oust Nabiyev fighting, to stop the blood-Shalymov, who declined to

blame any particular Tajik group for instigating the bloodshed, said a heavy flow of arms was crossing the southern border from Afghanistan and confirmed that Afghan guerillas were helping train Tajik fighters at a camp in northern Afghanistan.

Nabiyev's whereabouts remained unknown Saturday, and he has not been seen in public all week. Rumors persist that he has taken refuge at a commonwealth army garrison in Dushanbe.

But Scrafijedin Nasreddinov, deputy chief of the Tajik mission NCE in Dushanbe.

"He changes location from time to time for security reasons," said Nasreddinov, who said he talked to Nabiyev by telephone on Saturday.

In an interview published Friday in the Russian newspaper Izvestia, Nabiyev said he went into hiding because his residence had been seized by armed opponents. He did not say where he was or when he would appear again in public.

Also on Friday, lawmakers failed to muster a quorum to discuss Nabiyev's fate.

Former Fijian PM sworn in as Acting President SUVA, Fiji, Sept 5: Former Fijian Prime Minister Ratu Sir

Kamisese Mara was sworn in as acting president of the south Pacific nation on Friday after ailing president Ratu Sir Penata Gailau flew to the US for medical treatment, reports Reuter. A government statement

said Mara was sworn in after Ganilau left Nadi Airport in Fiji's west abroad a specially provided US military C-141 aircraft.