Delhi to foil Kashmiris' bid

to cross Line of Control

US-HK Policy Act to damage colony's stability: China

BEIJING, Oct 11: China has protested a US decision to strengthen its ties with Hong Kong, warning it would damage the British colony's stability and US interests there, the Xinhua news agency said today, reports AFP.

Vice Foreign Minister Liu Huaqiu summoned US Ambassador J Stapleton Roy and expressed "deep regret" over US President George Bush's recent signing of the US Hong Kong Policy Act, Xinhua said.

"Such interference in .Clftna's internal affairs by the United States will surely have an adverse impact on Sino-US relations. The United States will be held fully responsible for this," Liu was quoted as say-

Hong Kong was arr issue between only Britain and China in the run up to 1997, when the colony reverts to Chinese

"After the date, it will be purely an internal affair of China," Liu said.

Sponsors of the US Hong Kong Policy Act say it is intended to bolster confidence in the colony's future and ensure that democracy and capitalism are ensured in Hong Kong for at least 50 years after 1997, which is in line with a Sino-British agreement reached in 1984. The act envisions boosting bilateral links between the United States and Hong Kong in a host of areas.

By signing the act, Bush aimed at "meddling in Hong Kong's political affairs and interfering in China's internal affairs," the Chinese minister

This action of the United States will hamper the stability and prosperity of Hong Kiong. The economic interests of the United States there will also be jeopardized," Liu said.

will foil any attempt by Pakistanis or Kashmiris from Inside Pakistan to cross into India's

Kashmir state, Home Minister S B Chavan said Saturday, reports AFP.

NEW DELHI, Oct 11: India

"Necessary action will be taken if any chance they try to cross the Line of Actual Control (LAC)" that divides Indian and Pakistani-controlled Kashmir. Chavan told the Press Trust of India (PTI).

PTI also quoted Chavan's Deputy M M Jacob, as saying that Indian security forces on the Kashmir frontier were alert and that "the protection of the border is our duty and we will not allow anybody to

cross over to India." A five-party opposition alliance in Pakistan-held Kashmir has threatened to cross into Indian Kashmir, where Muslim guerillas are waging a bloody separatist campaign, on October 24, United Nations

A longstanding but unim-

plemented UN Resolution calls for self-determination for turesque province.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) whose earlier attempt to carry out a similar crossing in February training the rebels. and March led Pakistani troops to gun down 16 Kashmiris, an-

Wednesday that it would join the March. The JKLF is one of the main groups in India's Kashmir

Chavan said it was Islamabad's duty to stop the marchers adding that the matter had been taken up with the Pakistani government. PTI also quoted Indian offi-

nounced in Pakistan on

cials as saying that the JKLF's "motive was obvious" an attempt to "create a fuss." "It wants to internationalise the Kashmir situation and get

publicity," one official was quoted as saying. India and Pakistan dispute Kashmir's ownership, and have fought two of their three wars

since 1947 over the pic-

Thousands have died since 1989 in the Kashmiri separatist campaign and India accuses Pakistan of arming and

Islamabad denies this, saying it only extends moral and political support to the mili-

Meanwhile PTI adds: The Jammu and Kashmir state police appears to have lost their will to fight militancy and is in a state of collapse, says a top official who has served in the trouble-torn state. As far as the fight against

militæncy in Kashmir is concerned, coordination among security forces leaves much to be desires, says Ved Marwah, former advisor to the governor of Jammu and Kashmir and commissioner of police, Delhi.

The rank and file blame the leadership, while the leadership instead of spending its energies on revitalising the force, has been playing politics and in briefing the press and taking credit for the work, done by other agencies, he

Marwah, who was also the director-general of the elite National Security Guards (NSG), in an article in the latest issue of the strategic analyses, published by the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) here, says no one is held accountable for over or under reaction in Jammu and Kashmir police

He says inexperienced senior officers, who have been out of touch with the field work for years or know little about the problems in the terrorist-infested states, become more a liability than an asset.

Marwah says the police officers should spend time with their forces. Some of them do not even visit them in the requisite experience and the right attitude and should be carefully selected.

Prabhakaran ready to sit with govt to end war

COLOMBO, Oct 11: V. Prabhakaran, top leader of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), has been ready to talk with the government to end the ethnic war of Sri Lanka, the official newspaper Sunday Times reported today, reports Xinhua.

The peace message was conveyed by a group of LTTE representatives during their meeting with the Buddhist and Christian clergy as well as officials of non-governmental organizations, the report said.

The top rebel leader was prepared to meet President R. Premadasa and leaders of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), the biggest opposition of the country, to find a political solution to the war in the northern and east where the rebel group is fighting for a separate state of minority Tamils, the representatives

Thousands of government soldiers, LTTE members and civilians have been killed since June 1990 when the war escalated after the collapse of earlier peace talks.

The rebel team, which was in Colombo for talks with the government, has explained the LTTE position on matters such as language policy, land alienation, employment and education, according to the report.

A spokesman for the group said the purpose of the talks was to bring together the ruling United National Party, the SLFP and the LTTE for talks before December.

Rao to reshuffle cabinet soon

NEW DELHI, Oct 11: Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao has hinted he will soon Sunday, reports AFP.

"My basket is becoming bigger and bigger. I have to do something about it "Rao told reporters Saturday during a Times of India and other

Important cabinet vacancies include external affairs, commerce, industry and law, which are being handled by

External Affairs Minister Bank accounts on a field gun

carry out a long-awaited cabinet reshuffle to fill crucial vacancies and shed some of the dozen portfolios he holds press reports said there

brief visit to Calcutta, the newspapers said.

the Prime Minister himself.

Madhavsingh Solanki quit in March after admitting he had passed on a note to Swiss authorities to slow down a probe of kickbacks paid into Swiss deal with the Swedish firm be-

Sudanese govt to resume talks with rebels

'CAIRO, Oct 11: The Sudanese government and the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) should resumed their peace negotiations on October 31, in the Nigerian capital of Abuja, Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported from Khartoum yesterday, reports Xinhua.

The agency said that the government had agreed with an envoy of Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida on the date for reopening the talks, which are expected to last until November 5.

The Nigerian government will inform SPLA of the date for resuming the peace talks, said MENA quoting a statement by Mudathar Abdul-Rahman, Deputy Chairman of the peace committee under Sudan's transitional national

the necessity for all the three SPLA factions to attend the Abuja talks to attain a durable and fair peace in southern Sudan.

a first step toward statehood.

Abbas also indicated that

Off the Record

Delayed for PM's luggage

CALCUTTA: A last minute realisation by security officials regarding the Prime Minister's missing luggage delayed the special Indian airforce flight by some 45 minute, at the city airport Sunday, reports PTI.

Just as the special aircraft arrying the Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao droned in his, the case of his missing luggage, comprising three surces as realised. Amidst a flurry of activity and security changes a helicopter was rushed back, to the Raj Bhawan where Ray was staying, to pick up the luggage.

The Prime Minister and his survayage were meanwhile confined to the aircraft.

I don't owe anybody money

PARIS: Madonna, the recording world's pouting, cranky, blase superstar, said Saturday that she woes the French government back taxes from income she made in this country.

"I don't owe anybody money," Madonna told reporters. "I paid my taxes."

"I'm paid up with the tax administration, otherwise I couldn't come to France," she said. "I think the tax commissioner just wants to meet me."

Her comments were reported in the media in French and translated into English by the AP.

The sultry 34-year-old singer was informed upon her arrival in France Thursday that she owes 10,472,630 francs (around dlrs 2.2 million) in back taxes from two concerts she gave in France in 1987. The performer, whose full

name is Lousise Madonna Ciccone, checked into the plush Ritz Hotel in downtown Paris under the name Diana Louise Tremains, the French news agency AFP reported. She is here to promote her latest album "Erotica," to be re-

leased October 20, and her new book "Sex," a photo collection of her in often erotic poses, that goes on sale a day later. There were reports that the book might be censored, but French officials said it was undergoing a routine screening.

"I say, 'Vive la Liberte' (Long 'Live Liberty)," shrugged Culture Minister Jack Lang in a radio interview. "In our days on walls on television everything is exposed, all taboos are broken."

"I haven't seen the book, but in any case I am against all forms of censorship," Lang added.

'Madonna speaks in an earthy way, but that's her style and I respect it. Prudishness gets on my nerves," Lang said. "Long live liberty, unless this book can injure youth through racial discrimination or encouraging drug use. Otherwise, sexual freedom should be fully recognized.

A deadbeat dad

A "deadbeat dad" who doled out 500,000 dollars at a Republican Party fund- raiser while owing his ex-wife 100,000 dollars in child support, was arrested Saturday, reports AFP.

Michael Kojima of Los Angeles was detained at the airport here as he was about to board a flight to Denver, Colorado. Authorities were looking for Rojima, a 50-year-old self-described international businessman, after news photographs showed him sitting at President George Bush's table at an April 28 fund-raising dinner in Los Angeles.

Kojima allegedly owns 100,000 dollars in child support to a former wife, Chang Cha Kojima, with whom he had two daughters.



jacket and pin-stripe skirt from the Arabella Pollen Spring/Summer 1993 collection on Saturday on the second — AFP/UNB photo day of the London fashion show.

BRIEFLY

IRA kills police officer: Two gunmen of the Irish Republican Army killed on off-duty policeman Saturday as he was having a drink with his brother in a crowded downtown bar, reports AP from Belfast.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary identified the victim as constable Jim Douglas, 50. Police said the gunmen singled out their target, fired three shots and fled. The officer was pronounced dead at the

As the IRA men left, they left a package at the door. Fearing that the package contained bomb, army explosives efforts carried out a controlled explosion. The package proved to be harmless, police said.

Landslides kill 8 in West Java: Eight farmers were killed, 10 survived and 40 are still unearthed in large landslides in Trasikmalaya, West Java, Indonesia, reports Xinhua from Jakarta.

Heavy rains in the last three weeks caused landslides in the village of Sindanghurip, South Trasikmalaya, which buried ten people under collapsed houses. When nearby villagers came to rescue the victims, several dozens people were buried alive by a second landslide.

Thick mud and heavy rains made it difficult for the rescue workers to search for the 40 victims whom are believed dead already, according to an Antara report yesterday.

Bus mishap claims 16 in Nepal: A bus packed with 100 people plunged into a ravine in western Nepal Saturday, killing 16 passengers, the state run television reported, says AP from Kathmandu.

Seven passengers died instantaneously and nine others succumbed to their injuries later, Nepal Television said. The bus overturned and fell about 100 feet (30 meters)

(80 kilometers) west of Kathmandu. Eighty-one passengers were treated for injuries and the condition of eight of them was serious, the report said.

into a gorge near Ghumti Bazaar in Gorkha district, 50 miles

21 protesters held in Bogota: Dozens of Indians and peasants who tried to block a highway in a Columbus Day protest were beaten, detained or reported missing after the army intervened, an Indian organization

reported Saturday, says AP from Bogota. Milton Santa Cruz, spokesman for the National Organisation of Indians in Colombia, said the army beat 22 protesters and detained 21 others Friday, and that 16 were

Thousands of Indians and peasants tried to block the Pan American Highway outside Popayan, 70 miles (112 kms) south of Cali. The highway runs from Chile to Mexico. "Our event is a symbolic march and the army wouldn't let

us pass," Santa Cruz said Saturday in a telephone interview. The human rights group Amnesty International reported Friday from New York that the crowd had been fired on. That report could not be confirmed.

Belarus rejects terms of US offer: The former Soviet republic of Belarus, one of four that still possess long-range nuclear weapons, has rejected the terms of a US offer to help dismantle the arms, the Interfax news agency said Saturday, reports AP from Moscow.

The United States and Belarus were expected to sign an agreement October 19 in Washington for providing technical and material help to the republic for dismantling and destroying the weapons, Interfax said.

But Deputy Defence Minister Alexander Tushinsky said Belarus rejected a disclaimer stating that the US side would "bear no responsibility" for the lives or health of Belarussians using the equipment, or for the quality of the work, Interfax

* Tushinsky, who led the Belarussian delegation in talks with Americans, said the agreement was "not at all in Belarus" interests" and said he would not sign it, Interfax reported.

Mortar bomb kills 3 in Sarajevo: A mortar bomb killed three children and wounded 13 others when it slammed into an orphanage in Sarajevo on Saturday, Bosnian television reported, says Reuter from Yugoslavia.

The live coverage report from a city hospital said that at least eight of the injured require amputation. It was not immediately clear whether all of the 13 injured were children, the television showed pictures of two dead children being wheeled away on a stretcher down a hospital

CAIRO, Oct 11: A senior

PLO official indicated here to-

day that the Palestinians would

not accept Israel's offer for

self-rule in the occupied lands

as a partial solution to the

Arab-Israeli conflict, reports

the Palestine Liberation

Organization executive com-

mittee, said the PLO rejected

any deal with Israel before a

comprehensive solution is

found to the Middle East issue.

agreed on the necessity of

reaching a comprehensive so-

lution on all tracks before sign-

ing any peace treaty (with

Because of this, he said, the

Israell, said Abbas.

The Arab parties have

Mahmoud Abbas, member of

corridor. Bosnian radio did not report the attack.

Heavy fighting

in Luanda LUANDA, Angola, Oct 11: Heavy fighting erupted in downtown Luanda on Sunday between supporters of the former rebel group UNITA and policemen, reports AP.

Machine-gun fire and grenade explosions could be heard coming from around a hotel used by UNITA, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, that was rocked by a bomb earlier Sunday morning.

The fighting heightened fears of a new outbreak in Angola's 16-year civil war that was ended by peace accords last year.

It broke out just hours after a special United Nations team arrived to seek a peaceful solution to Angola's post-election crisis.

CAMBODIA: A woman carries her child and a gibbon on Friday while waiting for a UN helicopter to evacuate them from their jungle bases, 4 km from the Vietnamese border.

Some 398 members of the former US backed FULRO guerillas were evacuated and will be repatriated to the

- AFP/UNB photo

United States.

Gorbachev says he has no plan to return to govt

LONDON, Oct 11: Former Soviet President Makhail Gorbachev has said he has no plans to return to a government post, and denied that he is a rival of Russian President Boris Yeltsin who has ordered the confiscation of his Moscow

offices, reports AFP. In a Russian television interview monitored by the BBC. Gorbachev also accused Yeltsin of attempting to prevent the programme being aired. He said television authorities had received "direct instructions from the President of Russia' not to go ahead.

The Russian government has banned Gorbachev from travelling abroad and fined him 100 rubles (30 cents) for his refusal to testify before the constitutional court investigating the legality of the former communist party which he

Asked about the long stand-Gorbachev said: "I think that basically at present I cannot be considered as a rival, because I do not head an opposition

"I don't have plans for a come-back to the political arena or rather, to lay a claim to the post of president or chairman of the supreme Soviet or government. I don't have these plans."

Recalling the brutal ouster of Yeltsin as Moscow party leader in 1987, Gorbachev said he had seen then that Yeltsin had a tendency of "shaking things up." "The further the process

went I saw that it wasn't working out an large clashed started here, colossal tension in the capital at that time." "Later, I came to the conclusion that indeed, he could

not be permitted to hold key posts in politics, Gorbachev said referring to Yeltsin's removal from the Politburo only months later. Reuter from Paris adds :

Former Soviet President

Mikhail Gorbachev called on

Saturday for a new supreme authority in Russian and warned of the danger of a dictatorship.

"We need to draw up a new

policy, form a new team, find new formulas to stop the country from collapsing even more," Gorbachev, barred from leaving Russia after refusing to testify at the trial of the outlawed communist party, told France television in an interview. "What is required is a supreme council, created on a legitimate judicial basis and not by the whim of (Russian President) Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin the men that Russia needs and whom it trusts, Gorbachev said.

Asked if he was referring to himself, the former Soviet leader replied "It will be up to Russia to decide. I am not seeking any office."

Gorbachev, interviewed in the offices of his foundation in Moscow, said he did not fear arrest because he did not believe the Russian government had completely lost its head.

assembly (parliament). Abdul-Rahman underlined

Palestinians won't accept Israel's self-rule offer

confederation had been raised

twice - first during the Israeli

June election campaign and the PLO would consider the then at the Knessets Foreign Committee. statements by Israeli Prime

over the Gaza Strip to the Palestinians. We heard that the Israelis

want to give up the Gaza Strip but nothing formal has reached us, he said. If Israel wants to pull out

the deal, he noted. . Abbas is in Cairo to seek Egypt's mediation between

Chinese CP to abolish central advisory body BEIJING, Oct 11: The

Chinese Communist Party will abolish a powerful commission made up of elderly revolutionaries at a congress opening Monday, an official spokesman said here today, reports AFP. The Central Advisory

Commission would be abol-

ished, spokesman Liu Zhongde told a news conference. Senior leader Deng

Xiaoping has been trying to disband the commission for years.' It is headed by Chen Yun, who has been the main opponent of the pace and scope of Deng's market-oriented reforms.

headed. ing rivalry between himself and Yeltsin, dating form the Soviet-era Politbure.

Palestinians are not worried about the alleged progress in the Syrian-Israeli peace talks. His remarks were carried by

Egypt's state-run Middle East

In the last round of monthlong talks that ended last month in Washington, Israel hinted at substantial progress in negotiations with Syria over the Golan Heights which the Jewish state seized in 1967, along with the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But Syria, which seeks a total rather than a partial Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, denied that a solution was in

The next round of talks is scheduled to open on October

21 in Washington. The PLO is not directly involved in the peace talks, but it was been playing an important behindthe -scene role. Meanwhile, Abbas said the

PLO welcomed progress on other tracks of the peace talks because that would pave the way for a complete solution. The Palestinians are not worried over progress on the

Israeli-Syrian track, he said On the contrary, it will please us to see progress on other Abbas denied that the

Palestinian-Israeli talks had come to a deadlock, saying the Palestinians would continue seeking peace despite a deadline set by the United States' to the Palestinian issue. Washington, in its letters of assurances to the concerned parties last year, set the end of

for hammering out a solution

October as the start of the proposed interim Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to Abbas. Previous rounds of talks between Israel and the Palestinians have been stalled because of differences over the

Israeli offer for the self-rule. Israel prefers electing an administrative body to run Palestinian affairs in the occupied territories during a threeyear interim period. The Palestinians, on their part demand a legislative council as

idea of establishing a confederation between Israel and the Palestinians. He was referring to recent

> Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the possibility of establishing such a confederation. We know that the confeder ation should be made up of two independent states or more, Arabs said, referring to the

idea of an Israeli-Jordanian-

Palestinian confederation. However, he again stressed the Palestinian demand for an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Abbas said the Israeli idea of

Relations and Security The PLO official also denied that Israel had offered to hand

from Gaza, nobody will oppose this, provided that the withdrawal should not be part of

Israel and the Palestinians.