LIMA, Oct 19 : Eight highranking Maoist guerilla leaders have been captured in the Peruvian capital, police said Sunday, reports AP.

The capture of the rebels, members of the Shining Path, comes after the September 12 arrest of the groups leader. Abimael Guzman.

A spokesman for the antiterrorist police squad said high-ranking guerilla leader Marta Huatay and seven others were arrested late Saturday in Lima. The spokesman spoke on condition of anonymity.

However, late Sunday major radio and television stations said that Ms Huatay and the other guerilla leaders were captured while attempting to reorganize the Shining Path

seen of encounter.

Among the captured, the reports said, was rebel coordinator for the northern section of Lima, apparently responsible for a series of attacks in Lima last week that claimed at least ten lives.

Guzman, 57, whose 12-year insurgency has claimed more than 25,000 lives, was sentenced last week to life in prison together with nine other leaders of his central committee.

Huatay, a member of a legal organization accused of links to the Shining Path, appeared greeting Guzman in a rebel video seized by police last year. Police accuse her of holding a high position within the organization.



CROATIA: A French UN convoy passes through the war damaged village of Karlovac on Saturday, en route to Bihac in Bosnia-Herzegovina. A contingent of some 350 UN troops that arrived in the Croatian port of Rijeka yesterday are being dispatched with their equipments - AFP/UNB photo for duty to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Hanoi, Beijing to hold 2nd round of talks over border dispute

BANGKOK, Oct 19: Vietnam and China will hold a second round of talks on border disputes after their first meeting concluded amicably, official Vietnamese media said Monday, reports AP.

Last Saturday, delegations of experts of both sides ended six days of talks in Beijing.

They exchanged views on principles to resolve the territorial disputes and on issues that have arisen since the two countries officially normalized relations in November 1991, the Vietnam News Agency

"The talks took place in an atmosphere of friendship, frankness and mutual understanding," said the report, monitored in Bangkok.

One of the main territorial disputes between the two Communist neighbours is over the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

UN experts scan areas around Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Oct 19: United Nations ballistic missile experts inspected areas around the Iraqi capital Sunday to seek out possible Scud missiles hidden by Saddam Hussein's forces, reports AP.

Members of the team refused to discuss the results of the 10-hour search.

"We are using those equipments that are needed for conducting our mission, some were used, some were not used previously," Russian team leader Nikita Smidovich told reporters in English.

He refused to elaborate on the nature of the equipment. UN sources, speaking on

condition of anonymity, said the team did not fly out of Baghdad, but instead focused on areas around the Iraqi capital and used highly sensitive scanner machines. The sources declined to say exactly what equipment was used.

"It is the end of another in-

spection day. We continue our job, that's 'It," Smidovich said when asked if the search pro-

vided any new clues Sunday. The current 50-member inspection team, the largest ever to come to Baghdad, will be in Iraq for two weeks. The

team arrived Friday and began its inspections Saturday. Earlier teams have dismantled much of Saddam's nuclear programme and destroyed missiles and chemical weapons as well as the research centres and factories associated with

the weapons. But UN officials suspect Iraq is still hiding about 200 Scud-B missiles, or Iraqi-made variants, which were used to attack Saudi Arabia and Israel during the Gulf War.

Smidovich said the hunt for ballistic missiles was still the focus of his team.

"We have an important mission and we have many tasks before us." he said

Rao in Nepal: Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao arrived here yesterday for a three-day official visit at the invitation of Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, official sources said, AFP reports from Kathmandu.

Koirala and his cabinet ministers were on hand to welcome Rao at Tribhuvan International Airport.

Rao was scheduled to hold two rounds of talks with his Nepalese counterpart, one soon after his arrival before an official banquet and the other Tuesday morning at Koirala's offieial residence, a senior official of the Nepalese Foreign Ministry said.

Rao was heading a high-level delegation, including minister of state for External Affairs R L Bhatia and Foreign Secretary Jyotindra Nath Dixit.

Four Naxalites killed: Four Naxalites belonging to the banned People's War Group (PWG) were killed in an encounter with police in Bosidevarapally village of Ananthapur district Sunday, PTI reports from Hyderabad. One of the Naxalites was identified as Kranthi of

Karimnagar district; police said. A gun and some ammunition were recovered from the

Explosions in London: Two bombs went off in separate areas of London early yesterday blowing out windows and damaging a coach but causing no causalities, po-

liee said, Reuter reports from London. One bomb slightly damaged a coach parked outside the Novotel hotel in the western district of Hammersmith and a second blew in windows in the Haymarket area of the West

End, where many theatres and cinemas are located. Police sealed off most of the West End after the second bomb went off a near a parked car. Two passengers suffered shock, but no one was injured.

The explosions followed a series of bomb attacks in an around London by Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerillas trying to oust Britain from northern Ireland.

Tigers kill 5 Lankan troops: Tamil Tiger guerillas stormed an army bunker line in northwest Sri Lanka killing at least five soldiers, a military spokesman here said yesterday, AFP reports from Colombo.

Dozens of attackers believed to be from the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fired rifled grenades and small arms at the military position in Mannar district and escaped with several weapons, the spokesman

"We have also hit back, inflicting casualties on the terrorists. But we can't confirm the numbers yet," the spokesman

It was the second attack against security forces in the coastal district of Mannar in four days. Tigers killed another five soldiers during an Ambush on an army patrol there Thursday.

Quake shakes Darwin: Darwin was shaken Sunday by its second earthquake in three weeks, the Australian seismological centre reported, yesterday, AFP says from Darwin.

Senior research scientist Kevin Mccue said an earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale was centred about 750 kilometers (470 miles) north of Darwin in the Banda Sea about 10.45 pm (1315 GMT).

Some Darwin residents reported minor tremors, with other reports from as far south as Katherine, about 300 kilometres (190 rpt 190 miles) south of here, Mccue said.

An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale, centred about 50 kilometres (30 miles) offshore in the Arafura Sea, shook Darwin and other parts of the northern territory on September 30, although no damage was reported.

3 top Sikh leaders released

Indian authorities Sunday released top Sikh leaders who some 300 people in a prevenstate of Punjab, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, res

The crackdown in the last four days was part of a drive by the state government to restrict attendance at a reli-Sunday at the Golden Temple for two Sikhs executed after being convicted of assassinat-

holiest shrine, is located in Punjab's Amritsar city.

senior leaders BEIJING, Oct 19: Chinese Senior Leader Deng Xiaoping met today with senior leaders at the Great Hall of the people,

reports AFP.

and arrests on the spot of some 40 Sikhs when they tried to force their entry into the shrine while it was ringed by security forces, there were not other incidents, witnesses in Amritsar said.

later Sunday included former Punjab State Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal, Simranjit Singh Mann, a police officerturned politician, and Gurcharan Singh Tohra, presi-Shiromani (SGPC), which sponsored the mourning.

Badal and Mann head two factions of Sikh Akali Dal parties, which actively backed the decision of the SGPC which controls Sikh shrines, includ-

Harjinder Singh Jinda and Sukhdev Singh Sukha, convinced and sentenced for shooting dead former Army Chief Arun Sridhar Vaidya in 1986, were hanged to death

Arab League, UAE for solution to Island dispute with Iran

Violence takes 14

more in S Africa

ABU DHABI, Oct 19: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Arab league called Sunday for a peaceful solution to the UAE's dispute with Iran over three islands along the world's main oil shipping lanes, the Wam News Agency said, reports AFP.

Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdel, Meguid, UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al-Nahayan and Foreign Minister Rashid Abdullah said Arab states wanted a "peaceful settlement," the official news agency reported.

The officials said Arabs want good neighbourly ties" with Iran and urge respect for the "sovereignty and independence of countries, Non-interference in their internal affairs

Clinton will be

next US president,

predicts Giscard

PARIS, Oct 19: Democratic

challenger Bill Clinton will be

the next president of the

United States, former French

President Valery Giscard

D'estaing predicted Sunday,

country is in great difficulty,

with an economy in very bad

shape, is: "change is needed,"

Giscard D'estaing told the

previous, Reagan administra-

tion, he added, was the belief

that a great country could live

for a long time with a sizeable

debt situation such that now,

whatever they do, the debt in-

crease massively from year to

United States had dropped its

interest rates so far that they

were now " almost negative"

but that still " the economy is

dent also said that the

European Community "no

longer manages to take any

decisions" and that Friday's

special EC summit in

Birmingham was " an effort for

to what European leaders de-

clared after June's Danish ref-

erendum "No", the Maastricht

treaty for closer European

union "will not go into force in

an emergency Cabinet session

Monday after legislators in his

swelled of legislators rebelling

against the government pro-

gramme. It involves closing

more than half of the nation's

coal pits and putting 30,000

parliamentary vote Wednesday

on the closures, Major's sur-

Michael Heseltine insisted that

vival would be in question.

If the government losses a

On Sunday, Trade Secretary

miners out of work.

And he said that contrary

The former French presi-

not taking off again."

nothing.

1993."

Giscar noted that the

"They've ended up with a

The "great error" of the

French television channel TF1.

"The only message, when a

reports AFP.

budget deficit.

and non-recourse to force," Wam reported.

Abdallah recalled "his country's position in favour of a peaceful solution to this conflict, taking into consideration the Emirate's sovereignty over the three islands." The three are Abu Musa and greater and lesser Tunb.

Meguid meanwhile repeated the League's support for the Emirates position in this crucial affair.

Meguid, a former Egyptian Foreign Minister, arrived here early Sunday and is to return to Egypt today.

The UAE has already taken the dispute to the United Nations after negotiations with Iran late last month collapsed and Tehran rejected international arbitration, according to UAE officials.

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 19:

At least 14 people were killed

in political violence, including

nine men and women who

died when a band of armed

men attacked a village, police

12 peace monitors from

Commonwealth nations arrived

to help international efforts to

halt violence that is threaten-

efforts by most South African

leaders and the international

community, faction fighting

shows no signs of abating.

More than 2,700 blacks have

members of Inkatha armed

with spears and other weapons

Johannesburg Saturday to defy

a ban on carrying of weapons

in public. Police did not inter-

vene to stop the peaceful

Police said a group of men

apparently belonging to the

Inkatha Freedom Party at-

tacked a village of the African

National Congress near

Umgababa in the eastern

province of Natal. Five men

and three women were shot or

hacked to death and 18 others

were wounded in the attack

lage were shot at, a spokesman

said. Police returned fire,

killing one man and injuring

million) a month due to com-

petition from subsidized nu-

Police who went to the vil-

More than 10,000 Zulu

through

died in violence this year.

marched

Despite increased peace

ing efforts to end apartheid.

The latest violence came as

said Monday, reports AP.

The UAE, whose military power is dwarfed by Iran has previously ruled out an armed confrontation over the islands, which control the strategic strait of Hormuz, the passage way to one fifth of the free world's crude exports.

Tehran claims the islands while the UAE argues they were occupied by Iranian troops just three days before it was created from a merger of seven Gulf Emirates that gained independence from Britain in 1971.

The two have shared administration of the island since then.

The long-simmering dispute over the islands flared in August when Iranian authorities turned away a UAE boat from Abu Musa, a move that

In other weekend violence

three people were killed when

a mob attacked a house near

Wartburg in Natal and two

people died in two other sepa-

rate incidents in other parts of

judge from Ghana and leader of

the Commonwealth team, said

Sunday the monitors would

spend threw months in South

"We hope in that time we

The United Nations re-

cently sent a team of more

than 20 unarmed, civilian offi-

cials to monitor violence, and

several other international

delegations have visited in the

the worst-hit areas around

Johannesburg and in eastern

Natal province and also have

met with the leading black and

have no authority and do not

remain in the troubled areas at

night, when most of the vio-

Much of the fighting in-

volves supporters of the ANC

and the Inkatha Freedom

Party, the two leading black

groups. Efforts to resume

multi-party talks on sharing

power with the black majority.

But the foreign monitors

white political groups.

lence takes place.

Coal mine closure programme

The groups have traveled to

former

will have been able to make

some impact," said Amissah.

The Commonwealth includes

Britain and its

colonies.

past year.

Austin Amissah, a former

the country.

UAE official said amounted to Iran's De Facto annexation of the island.

In another apparent move to assert its control over the islands, an Iranian gunboat reportedly harassed UAE fishermen on Monday and seized two fishing boats with four Indians, who are still detained on greater Tunb.

The UAE has not reacted to the incident but Indian embassy sources here said they were in touch with Tehran.

Meguid said his talks with Sheikh Zayed, 75, also covered how to end Arab divisions opened by the Gulf War.

The diplomats said King Hassan of Morocoo would also discuss patching up Arab differences when he visits UAE during his Arab tour next

Pak move to curb sexual assault on women into police custody

ISLAMABAD, Oct 19 : The Pakistan government has decided to enforce new measures to curb incidents of sexual assault on women at police stations during investigations, officials said today, reports AFP.

the national assembly soon to amend the existing code of criminal procedure for the purpose, they said. The new provisions, approved by the Cabinet here

A bill will be presented to

Sunday, would generally ban courts from remanding women defendants into police custody pending trial. A woman may only be questioned by police during the

hours of daylight and must be accompanied during the investigation by her husband or a relative, or by a female police Prime Minister Nawaz

Sharif ordered the amendments allowing frequent accusations that women had been raped in police custody, the officials said, adding that the government had taken seriousnote of the "ugly situation." In a much publicized case

in September last year, a 34year old housewife, Asia Ayub, was allegedly tortured and raped while being held along with her husband at a police station in nearby Rawalpindi in connection with a theft.

About two months later, the alleged gang rape of a daughter of a veteran politician in the southern city of Karachi,

Off the Record

It was only a translation error

BELJING: A translation error nearly propelled the first woman into the top leadership of the Chinese Communist Party Monday, reports AFP.

The seven newly elected Politburo standing committee members met with hundreds of journalists at the Great Hall of the people here and party General Secretary Jiang Zemin made the introductions in Chinese.

Interpreter Ma Xuesong did the Honors in English, but ran into some gender difficulty when it came time to present Hu Jintao, the youngest leader to enter the Politburo in two decades and the last to be introduced. "Now we have a young man - a young woman less than 50,"

Ma said, as laughter erupted over his slip of the tongue. He tried again, but still came up with "a young woman less than 50." More laughter, even from the bespectacled Hu and

the other leaders. Finally, Ma got it right, introducing "A young man, only 49,

Hu Jintao. The error provided the only light moment in an otherwise

Perhaps he is the oldest president

YAMOUSSOUKRO: Felix Houphouet-Boigny, perhaps the world's oldest president, celebrated his 87th birthday Sunday at the massive Roman Catholic basilica he built to rival St. Peter's in Rome, reports AP. Poking his head through the window of his black limou-

sine, the president smiled and waved to wellwishers outside Houphouet-Boigny is Africa's longest serving head of state,

since 1960. Kim 11 Sung is the world's longest serving president, ruling North Korea since 1946. Born the son of a chief in this town 250 kilometers (150 miles) north of Abidjan, Houphouet-Boigny became a well-off

planter and bush doctor for almost 20 years. In 1946, he added "Houphouet" to his name, meaning "battering ram," as he organized opposition to French colonial

The government newspaper Fraternite Matin on Saturday devoted 13 pages to the octogenarian president, displaying

pictures of him swimming in the Dead Sea and riding in a convertible with former US President John F Kennedy in



SYDNEY: The first fans to purchase Madonna's erotica album display their limited edition collectors compact discs in Sydney on Monday. The midnight sale was the world's first commercial release of the controversial recording being sold with warning labels.

- AFP/UNB photo

NEW DELHI, Oct 19 : had been arrested along with tive police crack-down across the separatist-torn northern ports AFP.

gious mourning ceremony held ing a former Indian army chief. The temple, Sikhdom's

Except for a baton-charge

Deng meets the Xinhua news agency said, PTI said the leaders let off

of the powerful Guarwara Prabandhak Committee

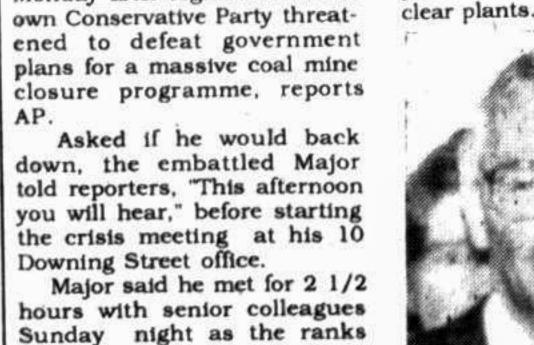
ing the Golden Temple.

31 of 50 remaining mines must be closed because statenine days ago.

Major may lose support in Commons owned British coal is losing LONDON, Oct 19: Prime 100 million pounds (dlrs 162 Minister John Major convened

another, he said.

Sunday.



"I do not think there is a case for changing the recommendation that I have made, Heseltine said. Any reprieve would cost huge sums of gov-ernment money, leading to cuts in education, health and

training programmes, he said.

pressure to back down from

But ministers faced intense

the Conservative rank-and-file, industrialists, churchmen and trade unionists. The number of Conservative

legislators who planned to vote against the massive closures in a poll on Wednesday was in the double-digits, with more expected to abstain, the British Broadcasting Corp said.

The government holds a fragile 21-seat majority in the 651-seat House of Commons.

Conservative legislator Richard Shephered said the government was headed for defeat in Wednesday's vote. "A rift has grown between

the country and the Cabinet and that rift is now growing between the party and the Cabinet," Shephered said in a British Broadcasting Corp radio interview.

When Parliament reopens Monday afternoon from a summer recess, Heseltine planned to try to mollify opponents by stressing the generosity of a 1 billion pound (dlrs 1.62 billion) and package for miners who will be unem-

More than 100 miners were sent home early Monday when they arrived at the Silverhill colliery in the central England county of Nottinghamshire. A union leader is on a protests sit-in at the bottom of the 1,000-foot (305 meter) shaft at Silverhill.

Silverhill was supposed to cease production last Friday, among the first of the mines to be closed under the programme announced Tuesday.

Some legislators who accept the closure programme said it was unacceptable because of the speed. They called for a phased rundown instead of swiftly adding the miners to Britain's 10.1 per cent jobless rate, a 5-year high and rising.

Two court cases brought by miners to try to prevent the closures are pending. A High Court Judge resumes a hearing Tuesday on an application by the National Union of Mineworkers to stop the closures on grounds of insufficient notice.

US concerned at Russian arms sales to China "We have some serious con-

GLENEAGLES, Scotland, Oct 19: The United States has told the Russian government that it is concerned about high-tech Russian arms sales to China and other countries, a senior US defence official said on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The official responded to questions about a New York Times report that the White House was concerned about Moscow's sales of missile guidance, nuclear and other technology to Beijing.

"The Russians have been engaged in more aggressive arms sales, including to China," said the official, who flew here Sunday with US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney for a two-day meeting of NATO defence ministers beginning tomorrow.

Moscow's desperation for hard currency has driven Russia's leaders into stepping up arms sales.

"President (Boris) Yeltsin himself has made it clear that they will expand their efforts to sell arms around the world, said the official, who asked not to be identified.

cerns about the sale of hightech weapons to China and other countries as well and we have raised these concerns with the Russian government," he added. In an interview with Reuters, the official refused to

be more specific other than to note the recent sale of at least two Soviet kilo-class diesel attack submarines to Iran and more than 20-SU-27 attack jets to China. The Times report in

Sunday's editions suggested that the Russians were also moving to upgrade Soviet-built air-to-air missiles already used by the Chinese and that such technology could be used in surface-to-surface missiles.

Administration officials also worry, according to the Times, that Russia is enhancing China's ability to build nuclear plants and thus its ability to process uranium for nuclear.

US Navy officials told reporters in Washington earlier they were worried by the sale of the two submarines to Iran.