## Benazir vows to topple Sharif

5: Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto vowed on Friday to carry on her campaign to topple Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government, reports Reuter.

"Give another push to the crumbling walls," she told thousands of cheering supporters at this Punjab province town, the latest stage of her "long march" aimed at massing popular support for her drive.

A crowd of about 10,000

## Bombings in Manchester: IRA claims responsibility

MANCHESTER, Dec 4: The IRA claimed responsibility Friday for two bombings in Manchester which injured 64 people and for depositing a van load of explosives found in London. It warned that the at-

Bureau. British police reiterated warnings to the public to be especially vigilant in the weeks before Christmas.

mined realises that this is an attempt to intimidate people going about their business and thinking about Christmas shopping," said Cmdr David ordinator.

The IRA said in the statement sent to British news me-

people from Fujian.

on Friday afternoon, they said.

forcements were sent to the area.

Marxist state in the Philippines.

Philippines.

after raping her.

capital Riyadh.

starving.

chanted repeatedly as she prayed at the shrine of a revered Muslim saint. "My struggle will continue until the end of the present government," Bhutto told the crowd.

Earlier smaller groups turned out along the route of the long march which began at the ancient Punjab town of Multan on Thursday.

Members of Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) said police had barricaded roads leading to the march route preventing public transport from carrying any opposition followers to rallies.

Earlier about 4,000 people crowded the narrow streets of Arifwala town shouting "Long live Benazir Bhutto" and showered rose petals as the former prime minister arrived.

"Your enthusiasm shows the people of Pakistan have reected Nawaz Sharif," she told

the crowd. Bhutto joined the march more than a day late after the state airline on Thursday stopped her flight from Karachi to Multan, cotton capital in central Punjab."

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) said the flight was delayed six hours because of bad weather and a bomb threat. But Bhutto said authorities deliberately stalled the flight so she could not lead the march, which is set to end on Sunday in the Punjab capital of Lahore.

Bhutto ruled out talks with Sharif, whom see accuses of corruption and suppressing opposition. She wants him ousted before fresh elections under a neutral interim administration.

"I can only talk if you create a democratic environment," she shouted to the crowd after driving to Arifwala from Multan.

People lined her route waving red, green and black flags of Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

Perot spends over \$ 56m for polls:

Texas billionaire Ross Perot spent more than 56 US dollar

million of his own money running for the US Presidency,

according to documents released on Friday by the Federal

Perot garnered 19 per cent of the popular vote in the

November 3 Presidential election but did not win a single

His net worth is estimated at about 3.5 billion US dollar.

32 Chinese sent to labour camps:

Thirty-two Chinese who tried to sail to the United States or

Taiwan illegally have been sent to Chinese labour camps, an

Chinese waters. The China Daily newspaper said police in the

coastal province of Fujian, which laces laiwan across about

180 kilometres (110 miles) of water, sent the 32 boat people

to education-through-labour camps for up to one and a half

to four years without any formal charges or trial. The China

Daily said the case was being publicised in hopes of checking

the rise in illegal emigration. Japan this week deported about

440 Chinese who had emigrated illegally, including 141 boat

4 cops killed in Philippines: Four

policemen were killed and a militaryman was wounded in and

ambush by suspected Communist guerillas in the central

Philippines police said on Sunday, reports Reuter from

The policemen were on patrol on Masbate island 400 km

There were no reports of guerilla causalities. Police rein-

The government has opened preliminary talks to end the

23-year Communist insurgency aimed at establishing a

7 beheaded in S Arabia: seven convicted

criminals, including a Nigerian and a Filipino, were beheaded

Sudanese origin and another citizen were beheaded in the

holy Muslim city Mecca for killing the first man's half sister

The statement, carried by Bahrain's Gulf News Agency,

said three men convicted of murder were beheaded in the

More Pak troops for Somalia: Pakis-

tani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has told US President

George Bush that Islamabad is willing to send more troops to

Somalia to help protect UN relief supplies, the government

Thursday to discuss the Security Council's authorisation of

deployment of a US-led force in Somalia so aid can reach the

Pakistan which has already sent 500 troops to Somalia for the

United Nations. Sharif replied that Pakistan would be glad to

A government statement said Bush telephoned Sharif on

The statement said Bush asked for more forces from

said on Friday, reports Reuter from Islamabad.

An Interior Ministry statement said a Saudi national of

in Saudi Arabia on Friday, reports Reuter from Manama.

(250 miles) southeast of Manila when the rebels opened fire

Police are authorized to send people to these camps for up

The would-be emigrants apparently were stopped within

officials newspaper reported Saturday, says AP from Beijing.

Election Commission, Reuter reports from Washington.



WASHINGTON: US President George Bush (L) talks with Sen Bob Dole R Kan, December 04 during a bipartisan meeting on the situation in Somalia. A United Nations resolution, which passed December 03, authorized a 28,000 member American force to lead the world's biggest armed humanitarian rescue mission. White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the US force's mission was to establish a secure environment and then pull out, if - AFP/UNB photo possible, before Bush leaves office January 20.

# Koirala to lead

team

KATHMANDU, Dec 5: Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Kotrala will lead a Nepalese delegation to attend the seventh summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Foreign Ministry has announced, reports Xinhua.

In consideration of their concern for the poor and the magnitude of the problem, the SAARC Heads of State or Government have accorded highest priority to the alleviation of poverty.

At the summit to be held in Dhaka on December 12 and 13, they are expected to put in place an action plan based on the recommendations made by the Independent South Asian Commission on poverty alleviation in its report.

## Nepalese SAARC Off the Record

### He stole their kiss

PARIS: Forty-two years after Robert Dosneau immortalized youthful love with the elick of a camera, the celebrated photographer is being taken to court by an aging couple claiming he stole their kiss, reports AP.

Denise and Jean-Louis Lavergne insist they are the lovers in the famous 1950 photo, "Le Baiser de l' Hotel de Ville" (The Kiss at City Hall) even though Doisneau's entourage says

he used actors. Like the thrill of young love tarnished by a quarrel, the Lavergnes say Dosneau has ruined the symbol of love they

claim to represent by refusing to credit them. The photograph has been transformed into posters popular the world over, printed on T-shirts and studied as an example of the photographer's art.

"They say there is magic in that photo . . . " said Mrs. Lavergne, 64, in a telephone interview Friday. That photo is a testament to our youth and we regret that we're not being recognized. It's Mr Doisneau who is ruining things, not us."

The photograph captures a handsome couple in a sponta-neous kiss amid a crowd of strollers outside the Paris City Hall. It conveys the insouciance of he amorous in a split-second of their lives.

### Nelson's love letters will go under the hammer

LONDON: Love letters by British 19th century war heroes Admiral Horatio Nelson and the Duke of Wellington are expected to fetch up to 25,000 pounds (39,500 US dollar) when they are auctioned later this month, Sotheby's said on Friday, reports Reuter.

Nelson's first letter to his lover, Emma Hamilton, the wife of a British diplomat, and another written by Wellington the day after he defeated French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte at the Battle of Waterloo n 1815 will go under the hammer on December 14, the auction house added.

"As soon as I have fought the French fleet, I shall do myself the honour of paying my respects to your ladyship at Naples," Nelson, who vanquished the French at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, wrote.

### NY School Chancellor used heroin as dropout

NEW YORK: The head of the nation's largest school system snorted and injected heroin as a teen-age dropout in Harlem, often passing out from overdoses, according to a soon-to-bepublished autobiography quoted in Saturday's editions of The New York Times, reports AP.

In the book, Schools Chancellor Joseph Fernandez offers his troubled youth as a lesson in how education - in his case, Air Force math classes - can save youngsters from the

in one passage from a proof sent to reviewers, the Chancellor details a particular night when he and a friend "were at somebody's house and got stoned on some really potent heroin".

"By the time we got downstairs to the streets, we were both reeling. I can barely remember my friends walking us up and down the sidewalk, trying to keep us from fading out. They probably saved our lives."

Fernandez also talks of his difficulties dealing with New York City's Board of Education, saying that on occasion he has threatened to quit. Speculation has been growing about whether he will stay on once his contract expires June 30. This is not the same board that hired me," he writes. "It may well be the one that fires me."

### More copies of 'Sex' to be distributed

PARIS: A Fontainchleau court threw out charges Friday by a Roman Catholic cultural group and ruled that Madonna's French publisher could distribute 75,000 new copies of her controversial book "Sex," reports AP.

The book by the steamy songstress sold out within hours after going on sale in France in October. The 75,000 copies are expected to reach book-stores in mid-December.

The non-profit group "Avenir de la Culture" (The Future of Culture) had filed a suit against the editors, Vade Retro, demanding the destruction of existing copies.

The group had argued that the book, which shows Madonna nude and in various provocative poses, corrupted the morals of French youth.

## 'Ram Temple will definitely be built'

AYODHYA. Dec 5 : Thousands of Hindu zealots poured into this holy town Saturday to build a temple on the site of a and opposition from the

Leaders of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, or World Hindu Council, began a meet-Hindu warrior-god, Rama.

Hindus.

More than 4,000 steel-helmeted policemen fanned out

300,000 Hindus have gathered in the pilgrim town, which has 9,000 Hindu temples and 250

Several rounds of talks be-

vowed to build the temple at any cost.

The government fears the construction programme will lead to clashes.

In 1990, about 1,000 people were killed in riots after a leader of the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party led a procession across the country in support of the construction

programme. At the brick-and-mortar structure, worshipped by both Hindus and Muslims, policemen frisked thousands of devotees streaming in like a column of ants.

Many of them waved saffron banners and chanted "We will give our blood, our lives to build the temple."

Muslims in Ayodhya said they were not stepping out of their houses for fear of getting lynched. Many of them had left the town, said Mohammed

"No God will ever accept a 'shrine built with blood-soaked

Many Hindus believe that

the mosque was built by Muslim invaders after raising a

# British govt

tacks will continue, reports "Active service units of the IRA carried out this week's military operations aimed at government and commercial targets in London's West End and Manchester," said a statement issued in Dublin by the Irish Republican Publicity

"Everyone who is right-Tucker, the London-based national police anti-terrorist co-

dia that it gave "adequate and clear warnings " in both Manchester and London.

## ME peace talks end with a glimmer of optimism

LONDON, Dec 5: Israeli and Palestinian negotiators, ending multilateral peace talks in London Friday, said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's more conciliatory tone has fostered optimism, reports AP.

At Beit Meri in Lebanon, foreign ministers of the Arab parties engaged in peace negotiations with Israel overcame Palestinian objections and decided unanimously to attend the next round of the talks in Washington. But they expressed "sorrow over the lack of any essential progress . . because of Israel's intransi-

In London, however, the Israeli negotiator predicted a possible peace agreement within months.

SARAJEVO, Dec 5: In their

heaviest armoured assault vet.

Serbs overran and destroyed

fourth day and would not re-

sume before Sunday at the ear-

Otes, northwest of downtown,

was designed to bring the

Serbs closer to Sarajevo's in-

dustrial district and the road

doesn't exist any more. It's

been flattened," said Gen

Mustafa Hajrulahovic, com-

mander of government forces

in Sarajevo, speaking by tele-

phone from army headquar-

Hajrulahovic said Serb tanks

"I appeal not because of the

lives of my soldiers but because

of the potential massacre of

civilians - children and

women who have not shelter

any more," Hajrulahovic said,

adding that many civilians

were taking refuge in houses

Bosnian army headquarters

said government forces man-

aged to punch a corridor

through Otes and were over-

seeing the evacuation of civil-

Sixty wounded people, civil-

ians and soldiers, were evacu-

ated to Kosevo Hospital in

downtown Sarajevo, where two

died, hospital officials said.

Many were in critical condi-

tion, wounded by shrapnel or

government who brought the

wounded to the hospital said

Otes' defenders had been

meanwhile, remained aboard

A soldier of the Muslim-led

pieces of falling buildings.

ians and wounded soldiers.

Despite the Serb offensive,

were moving into Otes and his

defenders had run out of anti-

tank ammunition.

without basements.

"Otes as it was a week ago

leading to its airport.

urb, on Friday, reports AP.

parts of Otes, a Sarajevo sub-

"I believe that we are on the verge of peace in the Middle East," Israeli deputy foreign minister Yossi Beilin said at the end of the two-day meet-

"Provided we do the utmost . . . to compromise, then it (an agreement) may be a matter not of years, but of months," he

His Palestinian counterpart Muhammad Hallaj said at a separate London news conference, "There is reason for op-"We live in a world where

obviously great change unexpectedly happens so you can't rule out anything," he said. "There have been some achievements, as I said, everybody agrees the tone is better.

Serbs destroy parts of

Sarajevo suburb

hampered in the last three

forcing us into jihad (holy

war)," said the soldier, who

"Europe and the world are

days by intense Serb shelling.

The cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators also gave a US official hope that the next full round of peace talks, beginning Monday in Washington, would go well.

"This effort to reach out to one another is precisely the kind of approach . . . required to bridge the gaps and resolve difficulties," Assistant Secretary of State Edward P. Djerejian told reporters covering Friday's talks in London.

At Beit Meri, a communique issued after a five-hour conference of the foreign ministers of the Arab parties engaged in the negotiations with Israel said Syrian, Lebanese, Jordanian and the Palestinian delegations would be in

It will be the eight round of

Washington Monday to partici-

talks sponsored by the Untied States and Russia. The last round ended Nov. 19. The communique read after

the Beit Meri conference by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bweiz said the conferees were "profoundly worried by the Israeli stance in the talks with the Palestinians, which does not conform with the peace process."

It expressed "sorrow over the lack of any essential progress in the peace talks because of Israel's intransigence."

The London meeting focused on water shortages, regional pollution, refugees, arms control.

### 4 die as walls collapse in China

BEIJING, Dec 5: The walls of a state-run shoe factory in the southern city of Guangzhou collapsed this week, killing four women, a local newspaper said, reports Reuter.

The Yangcheng Evening News said at least four other women were missing and 16 seriously injured after the accident on Thursday.

Vital supporting walls had been knocked down in the process of converting the three-storey Guangzhou Leather Shoe Factory into a re-

### Russian FM warns of civil war

MOSCOW, Dec 4: Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev warned Friday that nationalist forces in Russia could start a bloodbath that would dwarf the Yugoslav conflict, reports AP.

Kozyrev also warned that hard-liners at the Congress of People's Deputies were tying to turn the clock back to the Soviet era. "This is not time for eupho-

ria. It is time for concentrated joint efforts by all those powers that consider themselves winners in the Cold War. Democratic forces in Russia believe themselves to be in this camp," Kozyrev said in a speech at the International Press Centre in Moscow. Hard-liners are demanding

the resignation of Kozyrev, a reformist aide to Russian President Boris N Yeltsin. Kozyrev predicted that the hard-liners would fail in their efforts to stop reform. He said: "To return to the

state of Stalin's and Brezhnev's socialism was impossible even in the 1980's ..... and it is impossible today." Kozyrev cautioned against a

"defeatist concept whereby a great power, a great nation, a great culture, slips into backwardness, accompanied by national-patriotic ambitions."

## ligious leaders broke down in October and the Hindu body

mosque, ignoring a court ban federal government, which fears it could spark Hindu-Muslim clashes, reports AP.

ing to decide whether to destroy the 430-year-old mosque Sunday and build a temple for "The temple will definitely be built regardless of what is decided today," said Ashok

Singhal, general-secretary of the council, which claims to represent India's 717 million

across the town, 500 kilometers (300) miles) east of New Delhi. Reinforcements of federal paramilitary troops began arriving in the morning. Police said more than

tween the government and re-

Ibrahim, a shop owner.

bricks," he said

Hindu temple. Archaeologists are divided on the issue.

## Sikh militant shot dead

contribute an additional contingent.

rupees (33,333 dollars) on his head, and three of his associates were gunned down in the Yamunanagar district of

Sikh homeland.

### WASHINGTON, Dec 5: US troops heading for Somalia may begin handing control to UN teams in early January, but most of the 28,000-strong American force will be there

until March or beyond, senior military officers say, reports Thousands of US-based

Marines and Army soldiers were packing their gear Saturday and getting ready for a holiday season deployment, which officials said would not start before Monday. Supply ships were loading at US ports this weekend.

Some 1,800 Marines,

world will be responsible, for would not give his name. 'They Fearing a massacre, a top being passive in this situation," are sending us lunch packets Bosnian commander pleaded when they should be sending for UN help to evacuate the area's 6,000 civilians. us ammunition." As fighting raged nearby, Countries are donating retwo UN convoys reached lief supplies to Bosnia but are Sarajevo but a humanitarian barred from sending weapons airlift was suspended for a

because of a UN arms embargo on all of former Yugoslavia. forces were backed by about for help. The weeklong assault on

he said. "Please do something." Bosnian army headquarters said late Friday that UN peacekeepers had offered to help the evacuation Saturday morn-

40 tanks, armoured personnel

carriers and self propelled

"Europe and the rest of the

anti-aircrast artillery.

ing. But Maj. Juan Villalon, a UN spokesman, said he was Hairulahovic said the Serb unaware of an official request



SARAJEVO: A Muslim Bosnian mother kneels down on the grave of her 18-year-old-son, December 04, killed during yesterday's heavy shelling on Sarajevo. In unrelenting fighting since December 02, a total of 52 people have been reported killed and up to 154 wounded, according to - AFP/UNB photo hospital sources.

# US troops could be in Somalia well into next year

ships offshore from the East African nation. President Bush on Friday ordered the launching of

> "America must act," Bush said in a nationally broadcast address from the Oval office. He said as many as 1.5 million Somalis are in imminent danger of starvation.

Little Rock, Ark, "I share his

Aides to Bush had said earlier they hoped the US troops could withdraw from Somalia by Inauguration Day, Jan 20. But Pentagon officials made it clear Friday it would be

gents from other countries, would be the "peacemakers" and that UN forces then would become the "peacekeepers". Belgium said it would not plan to send troops but offered four transport planes. Nigeria, Egypt and Turkey

were considering deployments and Italy said it would send troops by the end of the month. Powell said that even after

the bulk of the force had returned to the United States, a group of Marines would remain off Somalta's shores in case the UN peacekeeping force needs protection. He didn't say how many Marines that would entail or how long they would

Powell said it was possible

some US troops could start leaving Somalia in early January. "I would not be surprised to

see that in early January as we are reaching our peak strength, the peacekeeping forces already starting to arrive Defence Secretary Dick Cheney.

### searches Clinton's file WASHINGTON, Dec 5: British government officials

searched confidential files to determine whether Presidentelect Clinton sought British citizenship as a student to avoid being drafted during the Vietnam War, according to a published report, says AP. The search by Britain's

Home Office, which is responsible for immigration matters, occurred in early October at about the same time US State Department officials searched Clinton's passport files, the Washington Post reported in Saturday's editions.

NEW DELHI, Dec 5: A top Sikh militant suspected of involvement in a string of "killings was shot dead by police in a fierce gun battle early today in the northern state of Haryana, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported, says AFP. Harmit Singh Tochi, who carried a prize of one million

Haryana, PTI said. Haryana neighbours Punjab state, where Sikh militants are fighting for an independent

"Operation Restore Hope," a sea, land and air operation to pacify marauding gangs of bandits that have paralyzed international humanitarian efforts to feed hundreds of thousands of starving Somalis.

Bush ordered the deploy-

will leave office and hand the problem over to Presidentelect Clinton. Clinton endorsed Bush's action, saying in a statement in

ment just 47 days before he

determination to ensure the success of this important mis-

longer-term project. "I am feeling more and more comfortable that there chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Powell said US troops, working with smaller contin-

will be adequate forces avail-

able to pick up this

peacekeeping mission, and we

can see our way clear of this

operation in a few months,"

said Gen Colin Powell,

commit 550 paratroopers for a year, France reportedly was sending 2,000 soldiers and Canada 900. Britain said it did

(are) ready to take over certain sections from us and we can start to withdraw," Powell said at a news conference with

"But it is very important not to tie us to a specific calendar for withdrawing, he added.