British author alleges

CIA, MI 6 responsible for Lockerbie incident

British intelligence agency M16 and the US CIA are "directly responsible" for the deaths of the 270 people who died when a jet exploded over the Scottish border town of Lockerbie in 1988, a British author alleged Wednesday,

reports AFP. David Yallop claimed in his book "to the ends of the earth" - published Wednesday - that he had warned British intelligence only days before Pan AM flight 103 exploded that a major terrorist attack was imminent

Yallop, a freelance journal ist, alleged that the intelligence services would, with the additional information that was available from other sources. have been able to predict the

* attack on the flight. He said in the book that his information was gained during an interview with Palestinian terrorist Abu Nidal in Libya nine days before the explosion in December.

Yallop said he returned to Britain after the interview and arranged a meeting with an M16 agent, but the agent

LONDON, Feb 25: The seemed "to be more interested in the food and drink the Abu Nidal had consumed.

> "I was outraged on behalf of the dead and on behalf of the relative of the dead. It makes the CIA and M16 directly responsible and directly culpable for the deaths," he said.

Yallop - whose previous book "In God's Name" claimed that Pope John Paul I had been assassinated - also attacked security services around the globe for failing to arrest the world's most wanted terrorist, Carlos The Jacklal.

In his current book Yallop alleged that Carlos, wanted in Britain for an attempted murder and a bombing in the heart of London was now living at liberty in Damascus.

"I can't believe I am the first person to tell precisely where he is. It's inconceivable that the CIA, M16 and the French, Italian, German and Austrian secret services don't know where he is," he said.

Yallop said there was a political explanation for the lack

BUBETE Y

Castro for better ties with US: Cuba

is ready to improve relations with the United States on the

basis of "mutual respect and national severeignty," President

Castro said Wednesday after voting in municipal and legisla-

tive elections in which he is a candidate for deputy from the

not stop fighting and working to the limit to improve the liv-

ing conditions of our people," he said, referring to the three-

United States," he said in comments carried by the official

Riot at Algeria's detention camp:

Muslim fundamentalists at a Sahara Desert camp rioted fast

week, injuring a dozen guards and doing some 8 million

dinars (dlrs 370,000) in damage, the official APS news agency

Monday for their involvement in the nelee in which de-

tainees attacked guards with various objects, set fires and

tried to force open the quarters where arms are kept, the

February 18 after a 48-hour hunger strike by detainees at the

camp in Ouargla, 800 kilometers (500 miles) south of Algiers.

The agency did not say whether there were deaths or injuries

in thousands of fundamentalists rounded up in a crackdown

after the cancelation of parliamentary elections to thwart a

Gen Nambiar to be replaced soon:

The Commander of the UN peace- keeping force in former

Yugoslavia said on Wednesday that he would step down next

ports by UN sources in New York that he would step down

Protection Force (UNPROFOR) by Swedish Lieutenant-

the Croatian capital Zagreb, Nambiar dic not say why he was

departing but spokeswoman Shannon Boyd told Reuters he

Kabul urged to protect Shi'ites:

Iran urged the Alghan government on Wednesday to protect

Shi'ite Muslims in Kabul against attacks blamed on Alghan

Defence Ministry forces and their allies. Reuter reports from

told reporters in Tehran that the Afghan government was re-

sponsible for what happened in Kabul and urged it to punish

gantsers of the attacks in which many people were killed,

women were raped and houses were looted, according to

Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masood and Saudi-backed

guerilla Chief Abdurrab Rasul Sayyaf "on February 11... be-

sieged a Shi'ite-populated area in Kabul, massacring many

Battle honours for UK soldiers:

Members of the British army, navy and air force who took

part in the Gulf War will receive battle honours, the

government announced on Wednesday, reports Reuter from

our "Kuwait 1991" to 15 royal navy ships and 10 vessels of the

royal fleet auxiliary that were engaged in the campaign against

been approved for the army, Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of

royal air force. The army regiments and air force squadrons

that will receive these honours have yet to be decided,

Iraqi forces between January 17 and February 28, 1991.

State for Defence, said in a written parliamentary answer.

Queen Elizabeth has approved the award of the battle hon-

The battle honours "Wadi Al Batin" and "Western Iraq" have

The battle honour "Gulf 1991" has been approved for the

It did not say if Velayati named any people or groups as or-

Iran's official Irna News Agency said on Monday forces of

perpetrators of the "recent crimes against Shi'ites" there.

Iranian television said Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati

when his one-year tour of duty expires on March 2.

Lieutenant-General Satish Nambiar of India confirmed re-

He will be replaced as commander of the United Nations

In a statement issued from UNPROFOR headquarters in

The camp is one of seven opened in February 1992 to take

Special army forces quelled the uprising, which occurred

More than 90 detainees appeared before a military court

"We have never been an obstacle for improved relations,"

"The blockade is blocking our development, but we will

"Continuing this hostile policy is not up to Cuba, but the

Fidel Castro said, AFP reports from Havana.

eastern city of Santiago De Cuba.

Cuban news agency Prensa Latina.

in the efforts to restore order.

week, Reuter reports from Zagreb.

was going essentially for family reasons."

General Lars-eric Wahlgren.

previous Iranian reports.

people and raping women."

London.

fundamentalist victory.

reported Wednesday, AP says from Algiers.

decade-old US embargo.

agency said.

Heavy gunbattle in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU, Feb 25: Heavy gunbattles crupted in the Somali capital today, just a day after thousands of protesters fought running battles with US led forces in the country.,reports Reuter.

Bullets rained down across the streets near the so-called KM-4 and KM-5 areas in cental Mogadishu, confining residents and foreign correspondents in their offices and ho-

Rapid gunfire, accompanied by frequent heavy booms of what appeared to be fire from rocket-propelled grenades and rockets, constantly echoed across the Indian Occan port.

US Cobra helicopters swooped over the shootout scene often troubled by snipers in the past two

months. No details of who was shooting at whom could be obtained from the US forces. who command a 33,000strong multinational force sent to Somalia in December to end gunlaw and looting of food aid for an estimated two million starving people.

The gunfire followed violent protest in Mogadishu on Tuesday and Wednesday by supporters of warlord Mohamed Farah Aideed after the accused US troops of backing his rival, Mohamed said Hersi, known as Morgan. US forces deny the charge.

Witnesses have said at least nine Somalis were shot dead by the Americans, but the US military flatly rejected this.

The protesters fought with bare hands, stones and knives against mostly US forces. chanting "go home Americans and down with American." "Kilo 4" and "Kilo 5," as

they are known to Mogadishu residents, are areas off the main street which bisects the southern half of the capital. No street sings exist any

The UN Children's Fund

Committee of the Red Cross and the Headquarters of the UN Operation in Somalia live in compounds off the main street.

(UNICEF), has its main com

pound on the street, as do sev-

eral private aid agencies such

as Britains save the Children

Fund and international agency

including the International

The fereign aid community,

CARE.

The main street is also a commercial centre with dozens of makeshift shops lining either side of the broken tarmac selling everything from the mild narcotic to soap pow-

der and pasta. On what passes for an ordinary day in Mogadishu, the street is jammed with ramshackle wheelbarrows, of fruit.

The road leads from the port, hub of the International Relief Operation, across town Bardere.

Christopher ends ME

tour

JERUSALEM, Feb 25: US Secretary of State Warren m Christopher wound up his Midcast tour Thursday, putting the onus on the Palestinians to make the next move in the Arab-Israeli peace process. reports AP.

Christopher's two days of talks with Palestinian and Israeli leaders failed to achieve a date for the resumption of Mideast peace talks. But the Israeli media was full of reports of possible compromises to restart the negotiations.

Christopher, who departed for Geneva to make preparations for a US-Russian summit, gave the Palestinians undisclosed US proposals for overcoming the dispute.

Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to US- backed peace talks, said Wednesday night that the delegates found some of the proposals worth considering and discussing with PLO leaders in Tunis.

The respected daily Haaretz reported that the United States and Israel had reached a compromise agreement involving a "calming message" about Israel avoiding further depor-tations in the future.

that it was "soft on commu-

time Kim ally who retired from

politics following his election

defeat as DP candidate in

December, was quoted by

Yonhap News Agency as telling

reporters in Berlin he hoped

the new president would "have

great success in political de-

But Kim Dae-Jung, a one

Off the Record



LOS ANGELES: Pop superstar Michael Jackson (R) kisses his sister Janet Jackson after she presented him with the Grammy Legend Award at the 35th annual Grammy - AFP/UNB photo Awards Wednesday.

Pornography show in House of Commons

LONDON: A pornographic show of racy magazines and sex films, some depicting children, opened Wednesday in the House of Commons to convince Deputies that a new obscenity law is needed, reports AFP.

The 48-hour show will demonstrate to deputies how certain films and magazines have become violent and sometimes employ children, said a spokesman of the anti-pornographic police unity that organized the show.

Labour Party Deputy Ann Winterton said she was profoundly shocked that such magazines and films are available on the market, mostly because there is no political will to fight the inefficiency of the obscene publications law."

Passengers were asked to push the plane

WELLINGTON: Passengers in a four-engined jet were asked to give the plane a push when it was blocked in at a New Zealand airport, the airline said today, reports Reuter.

Ansett New Zealand Public Relations Manager John Cordery said pushing the jet was the best way to move it clear of other aircraft so that it could take off from the city of Palmerston North, 100 km (60 miles) north of Wellington. "I understand it was all done in very good humour," he

The BAE146 jet had been diverted to the airport after Wellington airport was closed by log. The plane had no means of reversing away from the airport terminal because it was surrounded by other jets, the airline said.

Baby was delivered after mother's death

KILLEEN, Texas: A pregnant soldier was killed by a shot to the head but her baby was successfully delivered by Caesarean section. Her husband, also a soldier, was taken into custody,

Police officers called to an apartment complex Tuesday night found Annette Horne, 23, wounded on the floor, a po-

lice statement said. Mrs Horne was taken to a nearby hospital where she was

Doctors then performed the Caesarean section to deliver the girl, police said. The newborn was in stable condition Wednesday.

Charges of voluntary manslaughter were being prepared against William Horne; 24, police said. Both Horne and his wife were in the Army, stationed at Fort Hood.

Arabs states are racing to buy advanced weapons to offset a shortage in armed force personnel that underscored their vulnerability during the war for Kuwait, reports AFP.

The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states plan to spend more than 50 billion dollars by the year 2000 on aircraft, tanks armoured vehicles, missiles and frigates,

old Gulf alliance would not follow Iran's example in buying submarines, although some countries showed interest in submarines displayed at an international arms show in Abu

want to appear in an arms race with Iran, one expert said, besides, for the military point of view, the shallow Gulf waters are not suitable for submarine

Dhabi exhibition said some Gulf military delegates had shown interest in the Kilo class submarines, one of which was delivered to Iran in November as part of a threeunit package. According to defence

sources, the number of GCC troops could now be much lower than it was before the 1991 Gulf War as most states have demobilized foreign sol-

But except in tanks, the

its giant neighbours. Their jets are estimated at 992, compared with 540 in

3,230 armored vehicles.

Diouf leading

Diouf had 60 per cent. Democratic Party of Senegal, electoral Commission said.

according to the tally.

The results were the first to be released since Sundays vot ing and represent 10 of more - they were looted in the fighting that led to and foland heads out northwest tolowed the overthrow of President Mohamed Said Barre wards the heart of the lamine in towns such as Baidoa and in January 1991.

SEOUL, Feb 25: Vowing to build a "freer and more mature democratic society," former opposition leader Kim Young-Sam today became South Korea's first civilian president in more than three decades, reports AFP.

"We gather here to open a new era of democracy under civilian government," the 65year-old Kim said in his acceptance speech before 30,000 guests in front of the National Assembly. We have had to wait for this moment for 30 long

Kim called for building a "new Korea" that "will be a freer and more mature democratic democratic society ... where justice will flow like a river."

Kim, a longtime opposition leader who joined the ruling party three years ago, replaces Roh Tae-Woo, a former army general who led the transitional from military rule to democracy during his five-year

CAIRO, Feb 25: PLO chief

Yasser Arafat on Wednesday

said the resumption of Arab-

Israeli peace talks hinged on

the return of Palestinian de-

portees and accused Israel of

of a resumption of peace talks

but on condition that all obsta-

cles, preventing the participa-

tion of the Palestinian negotia-

"None of the parties in-

volved in the peace process

has the right to take measures

that hamper the initiative,"

added the Chairman of the

and is still refusing to put an

end to this problem

(deportees) even after the visit

to Israel of the American

Secretary of State," Arafat said

during a stopover in Cairo, on

his way from Khartoum to

Warren Christopher mean-

while wrapped up his Middle

East peace mission admitting

that "obstacles" remain in the

way of a resumption of nego-

progress in explaining the sit-

uation with respect to the de-

will resolve that issue,

receive their instructions from

the PLO, have refused to re-

turn to the negotiating table

until a solution is found to

*But I think we made

"A process is underway that

Palestinian negotiators, who

US Secretary of State

"Israel remains intransigent

Liberation

tors, be eliminated."

Palestine

Organisation.

portees."

Christopher said.

Arafat said he was "in favour

"intransigence," reports AFP.

after the military takeover by coup in May 1961. Despite Kim's democratic

call-to-arms, however, the

Israel still intransigent over

deportee issue: Arafat

Israel's December 17 expul-

Lebanon.

tators."

Reuter.

sion of 415 fundamentalists to

Arafat also called on the co-

sponsors of the peace talks,

"to act as full partners in the

Egyptian presidential

Advisor Ussama Al-Baz, who

met Arafat during his stopover,

stressed that peace talks

"cannot resume as long as

ISLAMABAD, Feb 25: Pakis-

tan's top Islamic court said on

Wednesday that overpowering

lust was no excuse for rape and

that unmarried people must

remain "chaste", reports

Federal Sharia Court turned

down an appeal from a con-

victed rapist, sentenced to a

total of 50 years in jail and 50

It rejected Mohammad

Sher's plea that the sentence

be reduced because he was

"over-powered by sexual urge"

when he kidnapped the girl on

her way to school and mo-

lested her last year in

of Islam, in case any person

has become a major, he should

get married and if he is unable

to do so, he should remain

chaste and resort to fasting."

"According to the teachings

Rawalpindi, near Islamabad.

lashes by a lower court for rap-

ing a five-year-old girl.

A two judge bench of the

negotiations rather than spec-

the United States and Russia,

main opposition Democratic president here since Yun Po-Party (DP) boycotted the inau-Sun guit the post 10 months guration and a subsequent national assembly session to

Kim calls for building a 'new Korea'



SEOUL: President-elect Kim Young Sam takes the oath of He became the first civilian -- office at the National Assembly Thursday. - AFP photo

'Unmarried people must

remain chaste'

protest ruling party allegations during the December election

velopment and bringing about national reunification." Recalling the years of struggle that brought about South Korea's democratization, Kim in his inauguration speech paid "tribute to those who sacrificed themselves in the struggle for democracy and thus cannot be with us today." Emerging from the largely three-day December election with an unusually strong mandate with 42 per cent of the vote, Kim called for three board reforms to build his vision of a "new Korea." He pledged to fight corrup tion in the public and private sectors, revitalise the sagging economy and enhance national

discipline

Israel continues its policy of

do is to take confidence mea-

sures to create an adequate

climate for the resumption of

in the peace talks, in which

Israel is engaged in negotia-

tions with Syria, Lebanon,

Jordan and a Palestinian dele-

gation from the occupied terri-

the court said in its judge-

It quoted an injunction

from the Koran as saying: "Let

those who find not the where

withal for marriage, keep

themselves chaste until God

The Prophet Mohammad

(S) had advised young people

unable to marry to fast "as fast

ing diminishes... sexual

forced by late military ruler

Ilaq in 1979 prescribe a

maximum penalty of stoning to

death for adultery and rape.

This punishment, awarded by

several courts, has yet to be

in Pakistan, but victims are

usually reluctant to bring

charges because of the social

Rape is a common offence

carried out.

General Mohammad Zia-Ul

Pakistan's Islamic laws en-

gives them means."

power", the court said.

Egypt is indirectly involved

the peace process," Baz said.

"What we expect Israel to

expulsions."

Clinton, Major pay tribute to Mulroney

WASHINGTON. Feb 25: President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister John Major on Wednesday paid tribute to Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney after Mulroney announced he will step down, reports Reuter.

Clinton said he spoke to Mulroney by telephone after his Ottawa news conference and "he seemed to be a person who had worked through this and was very much at peace with himself. "I thanked him for his

kindness to me and he assured me that his country would continue to work with me, and that he would personally until his tenure in office was over. And I wished him well," said the president, who met Mulroney in Washington two weeks ago. Major, speaking at a joint

news conference, with Clinton after an hour of talks between the two leaders, called Mulroney "and old friend and a good friend". "I shall miss him" he told

reporters. "He's been a very good

friend to the United Kingdom and a very good friend to the Commonwealth. So I'm sad to hear of his decision today." Major said. Mulroncy's departure in-

evitably raised questions about prospects for the pending North American Free Trade Agreement, but White House George spokesman Stephanopoulos said it was unlikely to have any impact. Poverty compels Indians to sell parts of their bodies

GCC states plan to spend \$50b on advanced arms ABU DHABI, Feb 25: Gulf warlare. Russian experts at the Abu

military experts said. But they said the 12-year-

Dhabi last week. I don't think GCC states will

diers in their armies. GCC has more weapons than

Iran and 700 in Iraq before the invasion of Kuwait. The GCC also has 240 navy units while Iran has 148 and Iraq had 49. GCC nations also have an

estimated 1,160 tanks and

Floods destroy

elections

DAKAR, Feb 25: Incumbent President Abdou Diouf was far ahead Wednesday in Scnegal's election with 25 per cent of the vote counted, election officials said, reports AFP.

while his closest rival, Abdoulage Wade of the had 27 per cent, the National None of the six other can-

didates had received more than five per cent of the vote.

Senegal's 31 departments.

think twice when offered the Villivakkam on the outskirts of unimaginable chance of earn-Madras, India's bustling met- ing the rupec equivalent of ropolis in the South, is the centre of the country's multimillion- dollar trade in human

Every day, agents from the city's many private clinics invade the poor suburb in search of kidney and other organ "donors". Villivakkam is now derisively called "Kidneyvakkam."

organs, reports IPS.

Poverty is compelling more and more indians to sell parts of their bodies, making the country one of the world's biggest markets of human kidneys, eyes, skin and bone.

The daily-wage carners are easily tempted. Few people

980 US dollar for one healthy organ. As soon as the deal is struck, the donor is rushed off for blood and urine tests at clinics where recipients await the transplant.

A worried government is now trying to rein the flourishing business. But health activists say legislation is being hustled through under pressure from the World Health Organisation (WHO), ignoring the complexities of the human organs trade.

They say the proposed law targets only agents and not health professionals who are deeply involved in the trans-

man organ bill, tabled in parltament in December 1992, bans organ sales by live donors and legitimises the use of cadavers. The bill is expected to become law when parliament meets in February.

According to the New Delhibased Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI). the growing trend of privatisation of medical care in the country is to be blamed for the human organs trade, which

laws alone cannot eliminate. VIIAI says from 50 live donors in 1983 and 500 in 1985, kidney sales went up to over 2,000 in 1991, a turnover of about US 17 million dollar.

But these figures are based on The transplantation of hu- reported cases and the real size of the trade is much A federation of over 3,000

non-governmental health bodies, VHA has circulated a paper, Trading in Organs: Need for a Comprehensive Policy among legislators and health professionals to lobby for modifying the bill. 'Passed as it is, the bill will be a quite ineffective piece of legislation," says VHAI's Rama Baru.

Every year 80,000 people in India suffer from renal failure, necessitating a kidney transplant, and there are two million Indians who could regain their sight with corneal transdemand. Only a thousand volevery year. And according to the New Delhi based Times Eye Research Foundation, the 154 Indian eye banks, up from 45 a decade ago, can provide a total of just 7, 106 corners. Even legalisting cadaver do-

nations will not bridge the shortfall, especially as removal ends the consent of relatives. Most Indians would consider it sacrilegious.

But a far bigger problem is the absence of a proper clinical infrastructure to ensure

that baste norms are followed in removing, storing and transplanting organs. Eye transplants must be

performed within 72 hours of removal from the donor. untary kidney donors are found Kidney transplants too need almost simultaneous operations on both donor and recipient. But with more and more transplants every day, many by

small private clinics, procedural norms are often a casualty.

A major reason for the world health body stepping up pressure on Third World government to ban the trade is that several kidney recipients in the west have acquired the AIDS virus from improperly sercened donors in poor coun-

The number of private Indian hospitals transplanting human organs has mushroomed in recent years.

tries, say activists.

130,000 houses in Iran NICOSIA, Feb 25: Recent floods in southern Iran have

destroyed more than 130,000 houses and caused at least 300 million dollar of damage, Tchran radio said on Wednesday, reports Reuter. Red Crescent official Ali Chayuri said the damage from

the floods which swept six provinces was on a par with Iran's biggest carthquake which devastated a region near the Caspian coast in 1990, the radio said. Iran gave no overall figure

for the damage from the which killed, 35,000 people.

in Senegal's