Israel's separate budget for occupied areas

JERUSALEM, Feb 28: Israel will publish a separate budget for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for the first time in 15 years, a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Saturday, reports

The budget for the territories is no longer a secret, Oded Ben Ami told The Associated Press. He said specifics were not immediately

available US has charged in the past that previous Israeli right wing government have fudged spending in the occupied territories in order to cover up use of American aid dollars in the disputed lands.

Rabin promised during his election campaign to transfer money the Likud spent in the territories to combat Israel's growing unemployment prob-

Ababa, reports AFP from Addis Ababa.

trapped by fighting in Huambo.

reports AFP from Zamboanga.

waiting to board two domestic flights.

Saturday, reports AFP from Lima.

the only confirmed fatality.

ties, Dumpit added.

Saturday following the non-arrival of the rebel delegations.

tion, senior police superintendent Vicente Dumpit said.

A senior police official said Muslim separatist guerillas had

planted a two-kilogram (four and a half pound) explosive at

the pre-departure lounge, which was filled with passengers

69 feared drowned in Amazon:

Sixty-nine people were feared drowned after a freight ship

collided with a tree and went down in the Amazon River,

coast guard officials in the Peruvian city of Iquitos said

The cargo ship Shandy was carrying at least 120 people,

Rescue workers searched for the estimated 69 passengers

The body of Jorge Lozano, 55, was pulled from the river -

Taiwanese plane missing: A plane

owned by Taiwan's domestic Formosa Airlines with six people

aboard was overdue on a flight from Taipei to the offshore

Orchid Island, airline officials reported Sunday, says AP from

tified as S. Aotani and K. Ikebe, the airline reported. The

Sungshan airport at 9:53 am. (0153 GMT) and was scheduled

ered that the Orchid Island airport had been closed because of inclement weather but was unable to contact the crew, the

10 more die in Lankan violence:

Shri Lankan troops stormed a Tamil guerilla hideout in

eastern Shri Lanka, killing eight rebels and shot dead two

more in an ambush in the same region, a military spokesman

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eclam (LTTE) in Thikilwaddai in

Batticaloa district Saturday, killing eight LTTE cadres and de-

Other Tigers had abandoned the camp. Our men found

cyanide capsules and large stocks of food in the camp," the

nearly Perillavelt area on the same day, the spokesman said.

Security forces raided a small camp of the separatist

"One of our soldiers was injured in the exchange of fire.

Troops ambushed and killed two more Tiger guerillas in

"It looks as if it was a powerful explosion. Part of the build

ing has been destroyed." Kiruna fire brigade chief Torsten

other four, including two crewmen, were Taiwanese.

to arrive at Orchid Island an hour later.

said yesterday, reports AFP from Colombo.

stroying four vehicles, the spokesman said.

Two of the four passengers were Japanese nationals, iden-

Officials said the 20-seat plane left Taipei's domestic

The airline tried to contact the plane after it was discov-

and 40 passengers and 11 crew members were pulled from

the Amazon by early Saturday, the navy's coast guard service

still unaccounted for in the accident, which occurred late

Friday after most of the passengers had gone to sleep.

US likely to drop food, medicine in two days

Croats close supply routes for Muslims

ZAGREB. Feb 28 Bosnian Croat military command said today it had closed supply routes between Croatia and Bosnia for Muslim forces, accusing its nominal allies of plotting a coup amid civil war chaos, reports Reuter.

Muslim-led government forces had massed 25,000 troops in central Bosnia to set up illegal, parallel forms of government, undermining the fight against Serb rebels besieging much of the republic's east, the Croat command said. "The Croatian Defence

Council (HVO) has therefore, decided to close all roads between Croatia and Bosnia for supplies of the (Muslim-led) Bosnian army," it said in a statement from Mostar, the southwest Bosnian Croat

Meanwhile, AP from Sarajevo says: Two US cargo planes began the American airdrop over eastern Bosnia on Saturday by dropping 1 million

medicine will follow. The airdrop aims mostly to help Muslims dying from cold and hunger in enclaves almost entirely cut off from relief for months, although aid also will also be delivered to Serbs and Croats. Some Muslims are living in caves and gathering

leaflets telling hungry Muslims

and others that food and

nuts to survive. US military officials said the food and medicine likely will follow the leaflets in one to two days, although they refused to be specific because of fears that the cargo planes might be fired upon.

The planes took off from Rhein-Main Air Base outside Frankfurt on Saturday evening. dropped leaflets at four points and returned to the base early

Associated Press correspondent Terrence Petty flew abroad one of the two US cargo planes making the mission, which signals US resolve to take action in the war-torn

Earlier in the day, representatives of Bosnia's warring factions flew to the base from Sarajevo to inspect the parcels of leaflets and aid to be dropped later. The warring factions are also given the right to inspect Sarajevo airlifts for enclosed weapons.

In eastern Bosnia, radio broadcasts urged the 300,000 hungry Muslims in the area awaiting the airdrop to share the relief equally. Ham radio reports also told of increasingly desperate conditions in

the enclaves. More than 100,000 people have died or are missing since Boshia's Muslims and Croats voted last year to leave Yugoslavia and Bosnian Serbs revolted and have captured about 70 per cent of Bosnian territory.

Some 5,000 people alone have died of hunger and cold this winter in six enclaves in northern and eastern Bosnia, according to unconfirmed

Crew members on the US aircraft saw ground fire as they passed over Sarajevo en route to castern Bosnia.

The lead aircraft's pilot, Capt. Jim Smith, said, "I think it was some rocket fire and some artillery. Nothing at all being shot at us."

The giant C-130 Hercules turbo-prop airplanes flew more than 10,000 feet (3,300 metres) above the Bosnian countryside under cover of darkness to minimize the risk posed by Serb anti-aircraft guns and shoulder-fired missiles.

As the planes approached the first dropoff point in eastern Bosnia, the aircraft cut off all outside lights and switched to infrared inside lights to deter detection.

Two types of leaflets in Serb-Croatian fluttered to the ground. One warned people to steer clear of the falling pallets of food and medical aid, which weigh up to 1,500 pounds

Kuwait's Chief of Staff resigns

KUWAIT, Feb 28: Military sources said Saturday they expect the government to announce soon the resignation of Kuwait's Chief of Staff, a prince who has been widely blamed for the military chaos during

the Iraqi invasion, reports AP. Reports in both Al-Anba and Al-Watan newspapers Saturday said Maj. Gen. Jaber al-Khalid al-Sabah already had resigned and was likely to be replaced by his deputy, Maj. Gen Ali al-Meumin.

The reports have been circulating publicly since about a week ago, when the general is believed to have tendered his resignation to the crown prince, Sheik Saad al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.

Defence Minister Ali al-Sabah has refused to comment on the reports, as have the generals involved.

"I know nothing about it. And I am sure I will be the last to know." al-Moumin said.

No reason has been reported for the resignation. But several military officers, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Parliament had let it be known it would stall dirs 12 billion in appropriations of rebuilding the military if Jaber

Jaber is the only senior offi cer left from the officers in charge when Iraq invaded on August 2, 1990.

remained at its head.

The military which had refused to put its staff on alert in order to avoid provoking Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, collapsed in less than a day.

Officers had said previously that the last order issued by Jaber was for them to drop their weapons and run. Hundreds were captured and interned by the Iraqis.

Junior officers in both the air force and the army circulated petitions in the months after the war demanding the resignations of about 50 senior officers.

Military sources said they expected the government to announce Jaber's resignation as carly as Sunday.

Parliament already has embarrassed Sheikh Saad's government by unveiling several multi-billion-dollar financial scandals and has started an investigation into the invasion.

Elected in October, it was the first Parliament since the ruling Al-Sabahs suspended the elected body in 1986.

Off the Record

Brazilian women make love eight times a month

WASHINGTON: Surveys conducted throughout the world are asking married women how many times they have sex, and the results show some wide differences among countries, reports AP.

The highest sexual activity appears to be in Brazil, where women averaged eight times a month. Chana showed the lowest with 1.2 times a month. The questions are asked to help determine the need for condoms and other birth-control devices.

Women in most of the developing countries surveyed had an average frequency of sexual relations between three and six times a month. The surveys have not been taken in the United States or other developed countries.

Other countries with particularly high frequencies included Colombia and Trinidad Tobago, where more than 85 per cent of married women said they had made love within

the month before the survey. Ghana's figure may be so low, according to a Johns Hopkins University study which analysed the surveys, because of the custom of abstaining from sex of an extended period after a woman gives birth, and the number of women living apart from their husbands due to labor migration.

The survey also point to a fairly universal phenomenon: the longer the marriage, the less the sexual activity. Some studies show, the Johns Hopkins report says, that duration of marriage has more to do with a decline in sexual activity than

Surcharges are un-Islamic

ISLAMABAD: Pakistanis angry about being fined for not paying their phone bills on times have won a small theological victory: The experts say the surcharges are un-Islamic, reports Reuter.

Pakistan's top Islamic advisers have ruled that fines charged from consumers for not paying their utility bills on time is equivalent to charging interest - which is banned under a strict interpretation of Islam.

The Council of Islamic Ideology (CII), which advises the Pakistani government and parliament on Islamic laws, gave its opinion after a query from the government of the southwestern province of Baluchistan, a government official said.

The CII has ruled that any fine charged for not depositing any (utility) bill within a specified date is riba (interest)," said the official, who did not want to be named

Pakistan's constitutions requires that all its laws must conform to Islamic teachings. The CII gives its opinion on whether a law is Islamic or un-Islamic, but its recommendations are not mandatory.

Two of the 18 CII members dissented with the majority on the question of the surcharge on utility bills, like those for electricity and telephone, the officials said. They were of the opinion that the government can penaltse its public if its orders were not obeyed.

Two bottles of century-old Crimean wine on auction

TOKYO: Two bottles of century-old Crimean wine bearing the crest of the last Russian Tsar were sold for 2.1 million yen (17,800 dollar) each at an auction in Japan, the Tokyo Shimbun newspaper reported on Sunday, says Reuter.

The 1891 port Livadiya and 1894 Tokaj Livadiya survived the Russian revolution and two world wars in a cellar at a winery in Yalta, the Crimean resort favoured by many Russian and Soviet leaders, Tokyo Shimbun said. Livadiya is a town near Yalta.

The buyer's name was not released. The paper quoted a liquor shop owner who took part in the bidding as saying: Now that the bubble (economy) has burst, the prices have come down. That's good news for real wine lovers".

'Fifty Fifty' a welcome change SANTA ANA: Robert Hays, best known for his goofy role in

Airplane' and its sequel, has a sterner image as a veteran mercenary in his new movie 'Fifty Fifty', reports AP. The 45-year-old Hays said the film was a welcome change

after being typecast for years in light comedy.

There have been times it's been frustrating, like when producers won't even consider me for a part because they think I can't do drama, but I've been very lucky in my career," he said.

In 'Fifty Fifty', Hays co-stars with Peter Weller. They play mercenaries who team up to overthrow a Third World

Hays said got along well with Weller.

"They guy is such a serious actor that I didn't know what to

expect before I met him," Hays said. "As it turns out he was casy to crack up and we had a great time. I think he really enjoyed the comedic aspects of the role, and I enjoyed the dramatic aspects."

India ups space budget recruits South NEW DELHI, Feb 28: India's launch programme. Africans to Washington said the sale vispace programme, which has olated the missile technology been hit by US sanctions, got a fight UNITA control regime, which seeks to big financial boost in the budhalt the spread of rocket techget announced in Parliament nology, particularly to the deon Saturday, reports Reuter. JOHANNESBURG, Feb 28: velopment world. The Angolan government is Space programme spending secretly recruiting members of India denies that the tech-

will rocket to 5.7 billion rupecs (219 million dollars at the old official exchange rate) in the 1993/94 financial year that begins in April from 3.68 billion (141 million dollars) in the current year, budget documents show.

Much of the increase is carmarked for communication satellites and launching services, which are the target of US sanctions.

The United States last year imposed a two-year ban on USlicensed exports to both the Indian and Russian space agencies after Moscow sold rocket engines to India for its satellite

third of women in the de-

satellite-manufacturing pro-India has successfully testfired and intimidate range

ing programme.

missile known as Agni, capable of delivering a warhead over 2,500 km (1,550 miles). It has also successfully test-fired a short-range, surface-to-surface

nology used by its space agency

has anything to do with a

Defence Ministry missile test-

Narasimha Rao said last year

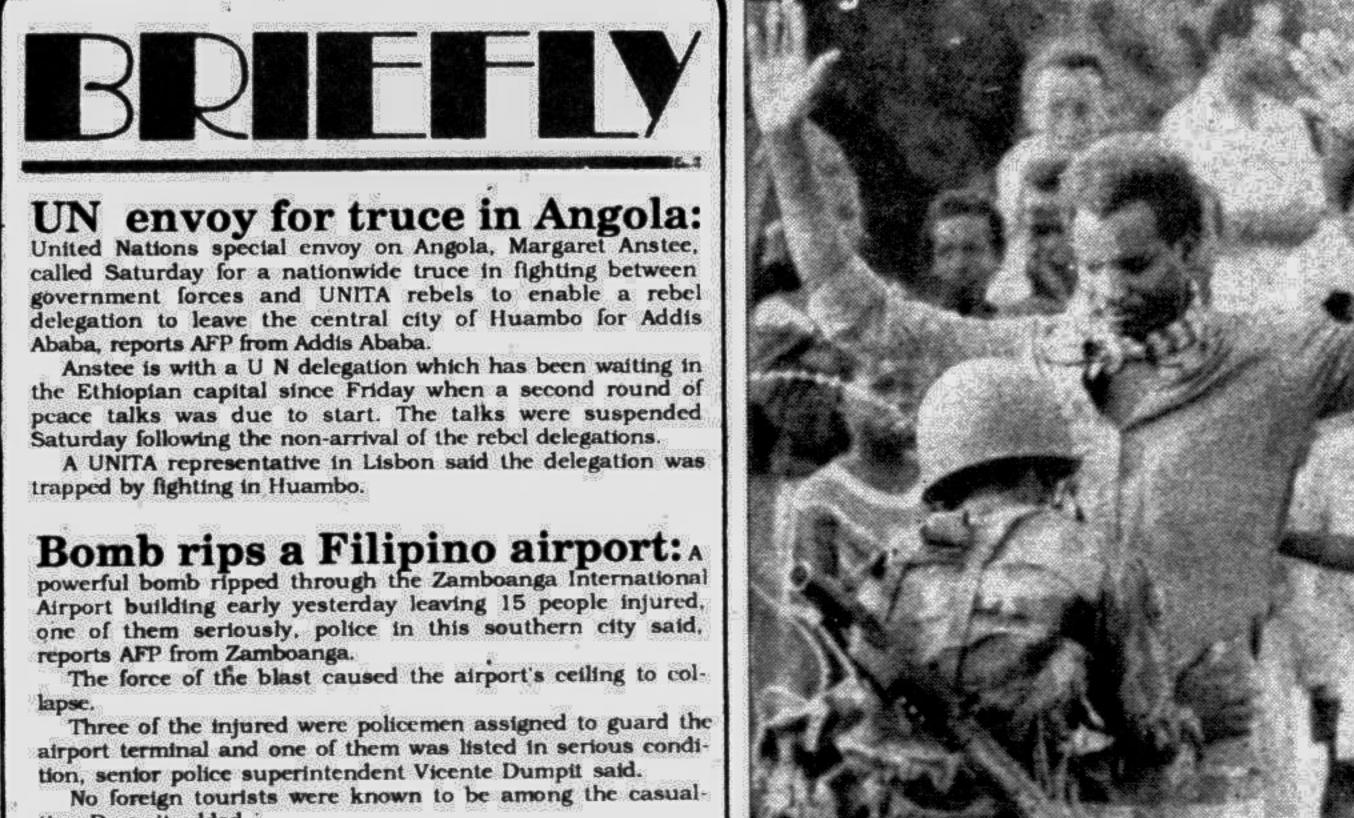
the export ban could delay its

Prime Minister

Plea to lift US sanctions on Vietnam

HANOI, Peb 28: Vietnam's leader, Do Moui, has urged US President Bill Clinton to lay to rest America's bitterness over the Vietnam War, normalise diplomatic relations with Hanoi and lift a nearly 30-yearold trade embargo, reports Reuter.

Muoi, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, told Reuters in a rare interview on Saturday that Clinton ought to find it easier than some other Americans to turn a new page with flanoi since he had openly opposed the vicinam War as a young



MOGADISHU: A soldier checks a Somalian for weapons at a control point on Saturday in Mogadishu as the city returned to calm after three days of anti-foreigner violence. - AFP/UNB photo

Illegal N-arms export to help Iraq, Libya

Bush may be forced to testify

HOUSTON [Texas], Feb 28 Former President George Bush can be forced to testify about an Iraqi national who may have helped set up illegal export sehemes to held Iraq and Libya develop chemical weapons programmes, a judge ruled, reports AFP.

District Judge Eleen O'Netil on Friday agreed to order Bush's deposition. He will be asked about Ihsan Barbouti, who reportedly died of a heart allment in July 1990. As part of a civil suit filed on behalf of Rig Structures Supply Company and three former Barbouti associates James Olen Groves, Bob McCurdy and Arthur Valentz.

But some people believe reports of Barbouti's death have been cooked up, and that he feigned death and went into hiding. Lloyd's of London, the insurance FIR, has refused to pay his life insurance claim.

P J enterprises, purportedly a Barboutt-controlled

company has alleged in a lawsuit that it was defrauded by the three former associates, who in turn filed a lawsuit against Barbouti.

Bush spokesman Andrew Mancr said he would consult with a lawyer for the former President but had no further comment. Bush's testimony could be taken in May, according to Brian Bro, an attorney for some of the parties in the

Haidar, are under investigation by the federal government for using Houston, Texas, companics to export petroleum technology to Libya and Iraq for military use. In a related civil case, the

Barbouti and his oldest son.

Department of Justice filed court documents describing the elder Barbouti as "the designer, prime contractor, and chief procurement agent" for a chemical weapons plant at Rabta, Libya.

Angola secretly

South Africa's elite special

forces as mercenaries to fight

against Pretoria's former ally,

the rebel UNITA movement, a

report claimed today, says AFP.

Times said agents of the

Luanda government were re-

cruiting members of the soon-

to-be-disbanded 32 battalion,

which consists of Angolans

who fought with the South

African defence force against

Also recruited were mem-

bers of controversial covert

units which carried out dirty

tricks against anti-apartheid

activists, the newspaper said.

Namibian guerillas.

The Johannesburg Sunday



through the window of his barracks as he waits for humanitarian aid to arrive at this - AFP/UNB photo refugee camp on the outskirts of the Croatian capital.

Fertility rate drops in Third World

grammes.

Overall surveys of more than

and other birth control methods is rapidly rising.

But there is still a long ways to go," the report says, not ing that surveys show about 20 per cent of Third World women would like to avoid pregnancy but are not using birth control.

Though dramatic, the declining fertility rates are still well above the level of 2.1 children per family needed oped countries.

to stop rapid world popula tion growth, and also for above the levels of devel

four children is still twice the replacement rate," said Bryant Robey, principle auther of the Johns Hopkins

World population is increasing and headed for 6 billion. United Nations projections show 97 million more peo ple a year until the year

each mother is having fewer ally be in a boom

Agency for International

African women, too, want to prevent births, Robey said. People used to say and believe that Africa was somehow different and fertility wasn't going to decline in Africa,"

worldwide fertility study in the 1970s.

in Africa, most women want to postpone their next pregnancy, while surveys in other countries show more want to stop having children altogether, the surveys

They also show that about one-

veloping world are using modern family planning methods. In China, where the government tries to prevent couples from having more than one child, the level is 71 per cent.

report released last week points to the same fertility trends, and it also notes rises in life expectancy throughout much of the Third World as health efforts improve.

Russia, Kazakhstan to create common defence zone MOSCOW, Feb 28: Russia

project to measure the ozone layer.

Flyagare said on Swedish Radio.

and Kazakhstan, the two largest former Soviet republics, agreed Saturday to create a common desence zone, said a spokesman for Russian President Boris Yeltsin, reports AP. Vyacheslav Kostikov said

the treaty on military cooperation and the joint use of military potential would be ready within a month. Kostikov's statement, carried by the ITAR-Tass news agency, provided no details on the content of the treaty. The decision came in talks

between Yeltsin and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, the statement said.

WASHINGTON, Feb 28: In the developing world fertility rates are dropping, and at least half of all married women outside Africa say they don't want another child, according to new studies, reports AFP. While world population growth

is still a big concern, most countries in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean have experienced significant declines in births over the last 30 years, the studics show. Even some African countries are surprising demographers by showing birth rates dropping for the first time.

300,000 women in 44 developing countries show that fertility has declined from an average of six children per women in the

1960s to four today. The surveys also show a bigger-than expected demand

among women for birth control. The women were asked intimate questions. including frequency of lovemaking, and revealed details not always reflected in government pro-A reproductive revolution is

spreading across much of the developing world," says a study being released Monday by Johns Hopkins University's Population Information Pro gramme, 11 says awareness of contraception is now nearly universal and use of condoms

Fertility has fallen over a much shorter period of time than experts predicted, but an average of

The problem is that while

children, there are more mothers," Robey said in an interview. "If the (fertility) rate hadn't fallen, we'd re-Recent surveys taken with US

Development funding show

Robey said. But the new surveys show significant declines in Botswana, Kenya and Zimbabwe. The surveys were the first since a

shows.

A US Commerce Department

The report, "Population and Health Transitions," says many nations are in a healthy," demographic transition," with the adult, working population growing more rapidly than the number of babies being

Swede killed in rocket blast: one person was killed and three were injured when a rocket exploded on Saturday at Sweden's Esrange Space Exploration Centre near Kiruna in the Arctic circle, police said, reports Reuter from Sweden. Swedish news reports said the rocket, believed to be an onion type, was due to be launched next week in a German

spokesman said.

officials said