French govt divided over

last year.

Off the Record

War against women

Friday that women were bearing the brunt of a worldwide po-

litical attack on democratic and liberal ideals, reports Reuter.

"women against fundamentalism" Hite said an increasing em-

phasis on orthodox "family values" was a threat to women's

traditional family values. But the fact is that family values

mean the man is in charge and women stay at home had been

no rights," said Hite, best known for her reports on female

world," she told a news conference.

abortion laws and property rights.

and could be contacted, police said.

as well as groups is Asia.

father custody.

logues, reports AP.

fiscated.

ern countries and in the Muslim world.

LONDON: American feminist writer Shere Hite said on

Giving her support to an international group called

"Fundamentalism takes many guises. It seeks to stand for

"There is a war going on against women all over the

Hite and speakers from India and Ireland said fundamen-

Women's rights were being abused in the name of a return

Women against fundamentalism was founded in Paris about

talism in religious and social attitudes was increasing in west-

to family values, they said, listing issues ranging from laws

governing the behaviour and dress of women to restrictive

three years ago and has branches in most western countries

Mother faces neglect charges

home while she spent a week in Mexico with her boyfriend

may face neglect charges, authorities said Friday, reports AFP.

year-old son with food, money, laundry instructions and a

brochure of the cancun resort where she would be staying

the situation and contacted her. She was not arrested since

custody of them at a hearing Wednesday. Wilson was sched-

two young daughters at home while vacationing in Acapulco.

Appeal for symbolic damage

woman whose father once owned numerous Matisse paintings

currently on show in Paris to confiscate the exhibition's cata-

PARIS: A Paris court Friday rejected a demand by a Russian

uled for a March 12 hearing to review the decision to give the

the possible neglect charges are misdemeanors.

She returned several days later after authorities learned of

The divorced father of the children obtained temporary

In a similar case in December, a Chicago couple lest their

Victoria Wilson, 36, left her 12-year-cld daughter and 11-

COLORADO: A mother who left her two children alone at

# REFERY

Suit against Karadzic: A legal advocacy group for women has filed suit against Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic for allegedly ordering the widespread rape of Bosnian women, the group said on Friday, reports Reuter from Now York

Now legal defence and education fund filed the suit on Friday in Manhattan Federal Court on behalf of a Bosnian rape

victim and two Bosnian women's groups. The group says the rapes are part of Karadzic's plan to exterminate Croatians and Muslims in the ongoing civil war in the former Yugoslavia.

It seeks unspecified damages and a court order stopping Karadzic from engaging in human rights violations.

Gunmen kill 10 S Africans: Ten people were killed Friday when gunmen sprayed a minibus with automatic rifle fire near the Natal province capital Pietermaritzburg, police said, reports AFP from Johannesburg.

Police said four men and six women died when the minibus travelling in the Able mountain area of the conflictwrecked province was ambushed by the gunmen.

The minibus was peppered with bullets close range, in what appears to be a carbon-copy of the attack which left six school children dead on Tuesday.

Four people survived Friday's attack, including the driver who fled into nearby bushes before the killers moved in to finish off their victims at point-blank range.

France-Recourse chief shot dead: The head of an association promoting the rights of French nationals repatriated from north Africa was shot to death in his car Friday, police reported, says AP from Montpellier, France.

Jacques Roseau, leader of the organization France-Recours, was shot several times through a window by one or more assailants, police said.

His secretary, Nicole Mariello, 54, was in the car with him and was seriously wounded and taken to a hospital.

Adopting the unassuming title of "spokesman," Roseau was an activist who helped make France's 1 million white repatriates from north Africa, known as "pieds notr," a powerful political force, particularly in France's southern Mediterranean

Fundamentalist killed in Egypt: A man described as a Muslim extremist was killed on Friday and another was injured in a shootout with police searching for the killers of a senior state security officer and his young son, authorities said, AP reports from Egypt.

A police official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Tafadi Ibrahim Mahmoud and a companion opened fire on officers searching for the killers of Lt Col Mahran Abdel-Rahim and his 4-year-old son. Police returned the fire, killing Mahmoud and injuring the second man, who fled, the official

The gunfight occurred in the same Assiut Province village where three gunmen shot and killed Abdel-Rahim and his son on Wednesday, said the official. Assiut, about 200 miles (320km) south of Cairo, is a stronghold of extremists who want to replace President Hosni Mubarak's secular government with an Iran-style theocracy.

Abdel-Rahim was accompanying his son home when the gunmen opened fire on his vehicle.

US to repatriate 524 Chinese: Rescued after weeks adrift on a disabled ship, then stranded while US and international agencies pondered their fate, 524 Chinese who tried to make their way illegally into the United States are being returned to their homeland, reports AP from Washington.

A State Department spokesman told Friday of the end of the Odyssey that began on December 27.

Richard Boucher said a United Nations agency made the decision that the Chinese were not entitled to treatment as refugees but had, instead, been caught up in the smuggling of illegal aliens for profit.

The 524 Chinese have been stranded for almost three weeks in the Marshall Islands while authorities from the United States and international relief agencies tried to decide their fate.

Police beat King's car passenger: Government prosecutors claimed for the first time Priday that a passenger in Rodney King's car was beaten by police, and they demanded to tell the jury about it, reports AP from Los

Angeles. Defence attorneys vigorously opposed the use of a second videotape from the night of the beating, which includes a picture of the passenger, Freddie Helms, muttering, "They thumped me on the head." Helms died months later in an unrelated car crash.

Prosecutors argued that defence lawyer Michael Stone "opened the door" to such evidence when he said in his opening statement that Helms and another passenger, Bryant Allen, surrendered to police without incident while King resisted arrest. The defence has contended that if King had cooperated, there would have been no beating.

US district Judge John G Davies invited lawyers to file briefs on the matter and said he would decide Monday.

### UK rules out support for plebiscite in Kashmir

ruled out support for a plebis cite in Jammu and Kashmir and told the Kashmiri separatists in the UK to help encourage participation in a constructive dialogue with India to find a lasting peaceful solution to the problem, re-

forward on Kashmir should involve simultaneous progress on dialogue between India and Pakistan as provided for under the 1972 Shimla Agreement, improvement in human rights in Kahsmir and a genuine political process there, and a clear cessation of external

mir, the British government told the Jammu and Kashmir

in reply to a letter written by the JKLF (UK) to Prime Minister John Major seeking his support from the cause of self-determination in Kashmir, the British foreign and Commonwealth office has said we believe the Kashmir issue can ultimately only be solved peaceful agreement between India and Pakistan as provided for under the Simla Agreement. We welcome the progress made by India and Pakistan on a number of confidence-building measures.

York, reports Reuter.

were really working for.

United States include:

Jersey.

CAIRO, Mar 6: A long list of Muslim groups and

governments hate the United States enough

to be suspected of having had a hand in the

bombing of the World Trade Centre in New

in the bombing was believed by police to be

a Palestinian with Egyptian or Jordanian

papers connected with an Egyptian-led

group of Muslim fundamentalists in New

Arab, Iranian and Israeli - and guerilla or-

ganisations have all carried out operations

over the years by manipulating allies or dur-

ing young zealots who never knew how they

object of proven, or at least sustained, accu-

sations of involvement in political violence

and which are currently hostile to the

western and Arab armies which drive Iraqi

invasion forces out of Kuwait in the 1991

- iraq. The United States led a coalition of

Governments and groups which have been the

But Middle Eastern intelligence services -

A man charged on Thursday with involvement



payment cannot be guaranteed, officials sources said Friday, reports AFP. The defence ministry, which is backing the sale by France of three Agosta-90 submarines to Pakistan, has asked for the Prime Minister to arbitrate in the row, the sources said.

Sweden had taken advan-

KUWAIT CITY, Mar 6: Two

year after the Gulf War, many

Kuwaitis still fear Iraqi

President Saddam Hussein and

would like to buy a house

abroad as a shelter in case he

invades the country again, ac-

cording to a recent survey, re-

representing 60 per cent of

the sample, said they were

prepared to buy property

abroad - in the United States,

Europe, Egypt or neighbouring

Arab countries like Bahrain

and the United Arab Emirates.

surveyed said they had consid-

cred buying in France, which

prompted several French

companies to plan for a real

MANILA, Mar 6: Nearly a

year after the election, de-

feated presidential candidate

Miriam Defensor Santiago is

still contesting Fidel Ramos

victory in a complicated re-

count ordered by the Supreme

Court, reports AP.

Thirty per cent of those

Some 400 family heads,

ports AFP.

tage of the French wavering to multiply efforts to clinch the

contract, the sources warned. On Friday, the French Daily Liberation said that a deal with France would also comprise SM-39 missiles, a version of the exocet missile that can be fired by a submarine.

It said France had refused to sell or even offer this type of weapon to any other potential

Pakistan already has two Agostas and four Daphne French-built submarines and

ISLAMABAD: Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani (L) talks with Najibullah Lafric(R),

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Assef Mohseni, Afghan Shi'ite leader, before a joint

400 Kuwaiti families plan to

buy house abroad as shelter

estate promotion campaign in

Kuwait in May, under the

economic expert, the poll

conducted by the Al-Waseet

Advertising Company shows

that the external threat em-

bodied by Saddam Hussein is

abroad suffered much less than

those who did not," said the

expert who declined to be

identified recalling Iraq's

August 2, 1990, invasion of the

capital abroad confirms that

the Iraqi leader and the mem-

ory of his seven-month occupa-

tion still haunt Kuwaitis, ac-

The systematic transfer of

Emirate.

Those who had a residence

still vividly felt by Kuwaitis.

According to a western

French embassy's guidance.

meeting on peace dialogues at the Prime Minister's house on Friday.

has long been eager to acquire three more Agosta-90s. French political and military envoys discussed this possibility during several visits to Pakistan

Meanwhile a Bangkok reports says, A Frenchman has been arrested at Bangkok's international airport on charges of possession of trafficking in heroin, Thai customs officials said today.

Jean-Michel Decamps, 31, from Avenes-Sur-Helpe, in northern France, was arrested Friday as he sought to board a

-AFP/UNB photo

cording to several economists.

were not saving money in local

accounts despite the high

eight per cent interest rate

in the future is also reflected

in imports, which amounted to

some 6.5 billion dollar in

1992, the same level as that of

Current imports are

Despite such fears, oil-rich

primarily consumer products

not geared to building the

Kuwait still enjoys one of the

highest gross national prod-

ucts per capita in the Middle

East, averaging about 15,000

In deciding to recount the

ballots, the court agreed with

Mrs Santiago's suggestion to

start with the provinces of

Pampanga and Zamboanga del

Sur followed by the Manila

suburbs of Quezon City, Makati,

Marikina and Paranaque.

dollar a year.

Santiago still battling Ramos' victory

Kuwaitis' lack of confidence

offered by the Central Bank.

They said that Kuwaitis

flight to Brussels. The officials alleged that 23 kilograms (50 pounds) of heroin were found in his baggage.

rights.

sexuality.

In Thailand, convicted drug traffickers may face the death penalty, but foreigners are usually given commuted sentences and prison terms of 20 years to life.

Some 1,200 foreigners are in Thai prisons, about twothirds of them for drug offences. They include about 20 French nationals, nearly all of them jailed for drug cases.

### to attend ME peace talks

WASHINGTON, Mar 6: Jordan is unlikely to attend Middle East peace talks with Israel next month unless Palestinians also taka part, Jordanian King Hussein said in an interview published on Friday, reports Reuter.

In the interview, to be broadcast on Sunday's edition of John McLaughlin's one on NBC, King Hussein noted that Jordan and the Palestinians formally constituted a joint delegation in the talks, though they conduct the actual negotiations separately.

"I certainly hope the Palestinians will attend. I don't

"You can't go with half a delegation, if only from the point of view of form." the King added. A transcript of the interview was made available to news organisations on Friday.

#### US brands Iran as terrorist state

rorism," reports Reuter.

In a written statement, the State Department accused the Iranian intelligence service of being involved in assassinations in Europe and elsewhere and bombings in the Middle East, Europe and Latin America.

"Iran is the world's principal sponsor of extremist Islamic and Palestinian groups, providing them with funds, weapons and training," the

"Iran is currently the most dangerous state sponsor of terrorism," it said.

After recounting ballots in

seven Pampanga towns, the

court's consultant Judge

Maximo Japson ordered col

Quezon City.

is pending.

a month.

schedule.

lection of ballot boxes from

Mrs Santiago charged that

was a violation of the recount

agreement and filed a motion

with the court this week to

finish the Pampanga recount

first. A decision on the motion

change the recount order was

because boxes from parts of

Zamboanga del Sur were un-

available and that waiting for

them would slow the count for

why the boxes from Zamboanga

del Sur were unavailable on

Still. Mrs Santiago's sup-

porters claim examination of

ballots from Quezon City

showed irregularities in at

There was no explanation

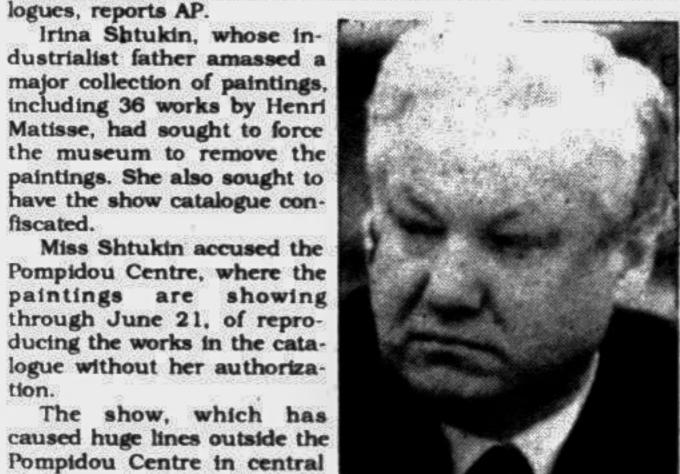
Cruz said the decision to

## Jordan unlikely

see how we can resolve the Palestinian problem with the Palestinians absent," he said.

WASHINGTON, Mar 6: The United States on Friday branded Iran the world's most dangerous state sponsor of ter-

statement said.



Paris, was hailed by the con servative daily newspaper Le Figaro as "an astonishing and

exceptional event". Miss Shtukin, who lives in France, has appealed to Russian leader Boris Yeltsin for "symbolic damages." Her father's art collection which once included some 450 masterpieces, was seized in 1918, a year after the Russian Revolution, and dis-

tributed among the country's top museums, notably the Pushkin Museum in Moscow and the Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg. Judge Francoise Ramoff ruled that Miss Shtukin's owner-

ship of the works in question could not be established with certitude, and rejected confiscation of the catalogues.

### Phoolan is my inspiration

ISLAMABAD. A woman who graduated in psychology from Pakistan's prestigious Punjab University was arrested on Friday for burgling homes and stealing cars in the southern city of Karachi, reports Reuter.

Shaida Rani alias Madam, told police she took to banditry as a profession after being inspired by a notorious Indian woman bandit, Phoolan Devi, the official APP news agency

Rani, in her late 30s confessed to several robberies and to car theft, it said. She was arrested with two male members of her gang who said they felt more secure operating under the cover of a woman.

Highway robbery was common in the southern province of Sind, where gangs of bandits used to hide out in forests along the river indus, until the army was called out in June.

Police said at least 89 bandits, known as dacoits had been shot dead and 278 arrested in the Hyderabad district of Sind

in the last nine months.

#### Because of her religious belief

HAGERSTOWN: A chapel won't open its doors for the filming of Shirley MacLaine's latest movie because of her religious beliefs, reports AP. Faith Chapel has refused TriStar Picture's request to film

scenes at the church for the movie "Guarding Tess," starring MacLaine and Nicolas Cage. "Given the fact that Shirley MacLaine is a guru or the New

Age Religion, which is contrary to Christian truth, we certainly would not want to give her our endorsement," Pastor Robert Ridenour said.

TriStar Pictures, which will be shooting scenes across the street at the Maryland Theatre next month, wanted to film the entrance to the 83-year-old chapel, which was used as a theater until 1975.

TriStar publicist Judith Rheiner had no comment on the chapel's decision. MacLaine, the author of several books on spirituality, also had no comment, said her publicist, Dale

#### Lebanon iterates refusal to disarm Hezbollah

BEIRUT, Mar 6: Prime Minister Rafie Hariri on Friday repeated Lebanon's refusal to disarm anti-Israeli forces in the country while part of Lebanon remains under Israeli occupation, reports APP.

He told Arab journalists in comments reported by the official news agency: "Our answer is clear. The resistance began because of the occupation and is a result of it."

Israel urged Lebanon to disarm Hezbollah and 'other terforist organizations' working in the country, in a letter from its UN Ambassador Gad Yaacobi to Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, released Wednesday.

# support for violence in Kash-

Liberation Front (JKLF), UK. ports PTI. We believe that the best way



Fidel Ramos

Mrs Santiago, a lormer judge and anti-graft crusader, asked the Supreme Court last year to order a recount of results of the seven-way 1992 contest, in which she lost to Ramos by 800,000 votes.

Presidential Election Tribunal. has not disclosed results of the recount, which began last month. But Mrs Santiago claims the results so far show widespread irregularities, especially in strongholds of former President Corazon Aquino, who endorsed Ramos.

The court, acting as

Mrs Santiago's supporters maintain the Ramos administration s using a variety of pressure tactics and legal ma neuvering to impede the recount in hopes her protest fizzles.

Presidential counsel Avelino Cruz, on the other hand, accuses Mrs Santiago of delaying the recount "to reap maximum publicity" and promote the idea the election was rigged.

Early returns from the May 11, 1992 election showed Mrs Santiago with a lead, and she gamely declared that her darkhorse presidential bid had been successful.

by cumbersome procedures,

But the count was delayed The court would then deand Ramos ultimately pulled ahead. He took office last June



Miriam Santiago

eide whether to continue the recount depending on findings in those selected areas.

least 17 precincts, including

missing ballots, missing verification stubs and questionable watermarks.

#### US may be tempted to suspect Muslim groups for WTC blast - Libya. The United States, Britain and France Islamic Jihad. A smaller Palestinian group,

overthrown. Iraqi intelligence was deeply involved in the 1975-1990 Lebanese civil war and Syria accused it of organising car bombs their in the 1970s. But Iraq greeted Bill Clinton's arrival as US president in January with a charm of-

> Iran. The Islamic revolutionary government which seized power in Iran in 1979 declared the United States the great satan and supported the seizure of 50 members of the US embassy staff, who were held hostage for

> Gulf War and has since made clear its desire

that President Saddam Hussein should be

444 days. Diplomats believe Iran sponsored groups which kidnapped Americans and other Westerners in Lebanon between 1982 and 1992 and launched big suicide bomb attacks on US and French troops in Beirut in 1984. Iran denied involvement.

Iran has been trying to improve relations with the West but diplomats believe its intelligence services are still active in countries

accuse Colonel Muammar Gaddaff's government of blowing up a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie in Scotland in 1988, killing 270 people, and of providing facilities to a wide range of anti-western groups.

Libya denies involvement in the Lockerbie bombing and has given Britain information on arms supplies to the Irish Republican Army (IRA) in an attempt to show it has broken links with groups the west considers terrorist.

Hamas. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) led by Yasser Arafat is committed to US-organised peace talks with Israel. But Palestinian Islamic groups, of which Hamas is the biggest, reject the talks and view the US as an enemy.

Hamas has offices in Iran and Jordan and a representative in Syria, but its record of violence is of attacks on Israelis inside Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza

makes no secret that it is supported by Iran. But its leader says its policy is not to mount attacks outside Israel and the occupied territories because of the negative impact such actions had on the Palestinian cause in the

- Hizbollah. The group diplomats retard as the umbrella for Iranian-sponsored kidnapings and bombings in Lebanon. The group attacks Israeli troops occupying a strip of southern Lebanon and western experts believe that Syria, whose troops dominate Lebanon, keeps it under tight control.

Other groups which might fall under suspicion are Muslim militants of various nationalities who believe that the west has deliberately failed to rescue the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina from attack by Christian Serbs.

But the investigation is in its earliest stages and the obvious Middle Eastern connection may turnout to be false. There is no shortage of other possible suspects ranging from Irish anti-republicans to Puerto Rican nationalists.

#### Diana ends Nepal tour

KATHMANDU, Mar 6 Britain's Princess Diana left Nepal today, ending a five-day "official informal visit" to the Himalayan Kingdom, a Foreign Ministry source said.

Crown Prince Dipendra and Prime Minister Cirija Prasad Koirala were on hand at Kathmandu Airport to see off the Princess of Wales, who took a scheduled royal Nepal Airlines flight to New Delhi, the source said.

Travelling with her was the British Minister for Overseas Development, Baroness Lynda Chalker.

During her stay, Princess Diana toured Gurkha villages and inspected British-aided development projects. She also inaugurated a new facility opcrated by Nepal's Red Cross