Brandon Lee dies in accident: Brandon Lee, son of late martial arts legend Bruce Lee, died on Wednesday in an accident on a movie set in North Carolina, Cable News Network reported, says Reuter from New York.

The report said Lee was filming in Wilmington. North Carolina, when he was hit by a projectile from a gun that was supposed to fire blanks.

The 27-year-old actor was rushed to hospital in Wilmington where he underwent surgery, but doctors were unable to save him, CNN said.

Police are investigating but say they do not suspect foul

Iraq opens new river: Iraq, known as the land of twin rivers, has opened its third new river in a year a 140 km (87 miles) waterway dug in 45 days, Baghdad newspapers said on Wednesday, reports Reuter from

Baghdad. The Qadissiyah River, branching off from the Euphrates, will water about 125,000 hectares (310,000 acres) in the

Shiite-inhabited south, the newspapers said. They said 4,500 workers and 3,100 machines shifted 35

million cubic metres of earth to dig the river. The Qadissiyah, inaugurated on Tuesday, is Iraq's latest addition to its two great rivers, the Euphrates and the Tigris.

25 Children hurt in blast: Twenty-five school-children were slightly injured when a hand grenade went off during a playground fight at a high school in the Montenegrin capital of Podgorica, the Tanjug news agency said Wednesday, reports AP from Belgrade.

Students began fighting with clubs and Knives, Tanjug said in a terse report. The scuffle ended when one student whipped out a hand grenade and detonated it, lightly injuring 25 people. Police arrested four people.

Daraoushe to meet Arafat: Arab Israelf Deputy Abdel Wahab Daraoushe announced Wednesday he planned to meet PLO leader Yasser Arafat with a plan to end the spiral of violence which rocked Israel and the occupied territories, reports AFP from Jerusalem.

"The plan I will present to Arafat aims to establish a dynamic of peace and calm tempers," Daraouhse said on Israeli television. He holds one of two seats belonging to the Democratic Arab Party in the Israeli parliament.

Violence in March left 26 Palestinians and 15 Israelis Daraoushe called for "an end to acts of violence on both

sides" during a six month period, an end to the use of firearms and the resumption of peace negotiations with participation from the Palestinian delegation. Extremists bombed pyramid: Egyptian Islamic militants

said on Wednesday they were responsible for an explosion in one of the country's 4,500-year-old pyramids, reports Reuter from Cairo.

The explosion, which injured two workmen at the pyramid of Chephren on Tuesday, was blamed by authorities on an electrical short circuit.

NWFP to deport

Arab terrorists

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, Apr officials hinted privately that

immigrants in Russia

en route to West

1: Pakistan's North West

Frontier Province (NWFP) on

Wednesday said it would de-

port Arabs believed to be ter-

rorists and was drawing up a

list of suspects, reports

dulging in terrorism or creat-

ing problems here for their

own countries should be de-

ported," said Gulzar Khan,

Home Secretary in Pakistan's

He said there were about

north west frontier province.

. 2,800 Arabs registered in the

province. Many had fought

alongside Afghan Muslim

guerillas in the 14-year war

against Kabul's Soviet- in-

stalled government, which fell

would expel all foreigners in

the provincial capital of

Peshawar not working for ap-

proved organisations, after US

MOSCOW, Apr 1: More than

100,000 illegal immigrants are

currently living in the Moscow

area, while tens of thousands

of Africans and Asians are in

Russia en route to the West, a

ficial said Wednesday, reports

The influx of illegal immi-

grants has been sparked by the

deterioration in the political

situation in a number of

African and Asian countries.

said Viacheslav Sarichev, Head

of Moscow's Counter

in a press conference.

former Soviet Union.

Intelligence Department said

tighter immigration controls

in western Europe and the ab-

sence of proper borders be-

tween the republics of the

in the last six months of

to give evidence

said on Wednesday he would

ask Prime Minister John

Major, his predecessor

Margaret Thatcher and former

defence minister Alan Clark to

give evidence at an inquiry into

The hearing was expected

the arms-for lraq affair, re-

to start on May 4 and to last

ports Reuter

for several month.

LONDON, Apr 1: A judge

He also blamed the flood on

senior Russian intelligence of

Islamabad said in January It

"Those Arabs who are in-

Reuter.

last April.

Thousands of Bosnian Muslims scramble aboard UN truck: 6 die

TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Apr 1: Thousands of desperate Muslim refugees scrambled aboard UN trucks Wednesday to flee besieged Srebrenica, and six people were killed in the second panicked rush to freedom this week, officials

said, reports AP. It was a replay of a chaotic evacuation Monday, in which thousands mobbed the first convoy to reach the town in three months. Several people were killed while jammed into the trucks, or fell off en route to Tuzla.

Bosnian government officials said Wednesday that Srebrenica had come under renewed attack, and a ceasefire in effect since Sunday was fraving.

Bosnian President Alija izetbegovic told his people that he signed an international peace agreement last week in New York because the chances

of military victory were too slim and the costs of contin-

ued fighting were too great. "If we'd chosen the war option, there would be enormous suffering and casualties for an extended period of time." he said in a news conference broadcast live. " We weren't sure we could win the military victory."

Sase in Tuzla late Wednesday, Hanifa Hajdarevic mourned her 5-year-old daughter and 20-day-old son. both apparently crushed to death on the trip.

" Where are you now?"she sobbed. " Where are you lying now?" "I was holding my baby, and

people pushed me to the floor of the truck," she said. " The baby dted because people fell on top of it."

Her 8-year-old son Suad also was injured on the trip,

when he arrived in Tuzla. Two teen-age daughters were safe.

Representatives of the UN lligh Commissioner for Refugees said panic gripped thousands of Muslims trapped by Bosnian Serb forces in Srebrenica, 70 kilometers (45 miles) southeast of Tuzla. Some of the refugees have been on the run from Serb forces for almost a year.

UN officials said the trucks had been stopped for two hours in no-man's land, blocked by a Bosnian army checkpoint. " We were told we couldn't pass, if we did, we would be shot at," said Bill Tall of UNHCR. He refused to elaborate on why the convoy was held up, but Bosnian officials previously have complained to the UN about the conditions of the transport.

Bosnian radio said Srebrenica authorities decided

because of the chaos. It said it wanted to permit helicopter evacuations of wounded only.

Bosnian radio reported Srebrenica came under renewed artillery attack Wednesday that killed two and wounded seven. Murat Esendic, a Sarajevo-based Srebrenica official, said ham radio contacts indicated Bosnian Serbs had torched several villages they recently had capture. The report could not be confirmed.

But Belgrade's Tanjug news agency said talks among Bosnian Serbs, Croats and Muslims led to an agreement to open a permanent corridor for civilians to enter and leave Tuzla, an important government- held center. It said that included more than 400 Serbs who want to leave Tuzla.

There was no confirmation, and no other details were available on that report.

Two ex-US Congressmen allowed to visit Myanmar detainees

RANGOON, Apr 1: Two former US Congressmen have become the first foreign visitors allowed by Myanmar's military authorities to meet with jailed political dissidents, diplomats said here Wednesday, reports

The two, Robert Leggett and Seymour Halpern were taken Monday to Insein Jail, just outside the Myanmar capital, to meet five prominent political prisoners, the sources

The prisoners included Tin U and Kyi Maung, both former Chairmen of the National League for Democracy (NLD), which has swept 1990 elections on an anti-military government platform.

Leggett and Halpern are currently visiting here for discussions on narcotics and human rights, the sources said. They had requested a meeting with the five jailed dissidents.

development.

reports AP.

dinner.

NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who is also held in Yangon, has been able since last year to receive visits by her husband, British Academic

Michael Aris. Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner, is not technically jailed but under

house arrest at her home, The three other political prisoners with whom Leggett and Halpern had a meeting were another senior NLD politician. Win Tin, a popular comedian known as Zarganar, and Nay Min a lawyer, the

sources said. Earlier requests to meet political prisoners had been denied, including those by two united nations' investigators sent to Myanmar to look into

human rights violations. No further details were available on the former Congressmen's visit to Insein Jail, Myanmar's main detention centre.

Off the Record

People with doctorate degrees who work at the nation's

China's move to create a smart society supersedes the one

Working couples living in cities, where the policy's im-

It said the new measure is mirrored after policies in

plementation is strictest, tend not to have children while

those living in rural areas have two, creating an illiterate or,

at best semi-literate nation, the newspaper, quoting an un-

Singapore, where educated people are encouraged to marry

He also plays First Lady

WASHINGTON: Al Gore played vice president, president

and first lady this week while the Clintons were out of town,

named Chinese government department, said.

each other and have children.

Gore filled in for Hillary

Rodham Clinton at a

grueling but lively, 13-hour health reform hearing on Monday. He substituted for

Clinton at meetings with

corporate executives and state attorneys general. He also presided over a Cabinet

"It just made sense,"

White House press

secretary Dee Dee Myers

said of Gore's multiple

roles. "Al Gore's at the table

every single day. He knows

what's happening throu-

ghout the administration.

decision-making and policy-making."

president also thinks he's hysterically funny."

Sunday and was returning late Tuesday afternoon.

He's intimately involved in

science and technology institutes will be allowed to have a

second child to help secure the future of the country's 1.39

billion population, the Beijing-funded New Evening Post said.

child policy, introduced decades ago to curb the country's

rapid population growth, then blamed for the nation's under-

Kashmiri doctor shot dead

SRINAGAR, India, Apr 1: The bullet-riddled body of a prominent Kashmiri surgeon who mediated between the Indian government and Muslim militants in kidnapping cases was found early today, polices said, reports AFP.

Abdul Ahad Guru, 52, was shot and killed by suspected Muslim guerillas who snatched him late Wednesday from a leading medical, institute in Srinagar where he was employed as a cardiac specialist, a police spokesman said.

Guru, who is survived by his wife and two sons, helped newho took her hostage to secure freedom for jatled com-



TUZLA: A UN convoy carrying Muslim refugees fleeing the Serb-besieged Bosnian enclave of - AFP/UNB photo Srebrenica arrives here Wednesday.

It is only for intellectuals HONG KONG: China is to relax its policy of one child per family, but only for intellectuals, a press report said yesterday, according to AFP.

gotiate the release in 1989 of then-Home Minister Musti Momammad Sayeed's daughter Rubaiya from Muslim militants

Crackdown on Palestinians: 500 held

Israeli army get permission to fire without warning

in Pakistan. Later that month, the JERUSALEM, Apr 1: Police United States added Pakistan to a watch list of countries allegedly sponsoring terrorism and said it would review the decision in four to six months. Western diplomats said recently Washington no longer

planned to declare Pakistan a terrorist state.
Islamabad in January gave Peshawar an April 3 deadline to expel or resolve the status of foreigners and non-governmental organisations.

Most of the Arabs have been in Peshawar, the main support base for the Afghan War, since the fighting began in 1979 and most have valid visas. Khan

Washington was monitoring

suspected terrorist activities

One official said 6,170 Arabs had come to Peshawar since 1987, but that 3,340 have since left.

1992, figures from the

placed the KGB- showed

242,000 foreigners had left

Russia without having been

sponsible for 531 crimes, in-

cluding five murders, 43

rapes, 40 robberies and bur-

victims of 1,435 crimes.

glaries, while immigrants were

fear ciandestine immigration

could pose a health hazard.

from infectious diseases such

as AIDS, tuberculosis and

The Russian authorities also

Security Ministry- which re-

detained at least 500, Palestinians Wednesday while enforcing a seal on the occupied territories and the army said it would allow soldiers to fire on armed Palestinians

without warning, reports AP. The crackdown ordered by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin after the slayings of 13 Israelis this month could put yet another obstacle in the way of getting Middle East peace talks back on track.

The unrest has also claimed 26 Palestinian victims in March, most shot during clashes with soldiers. Among those killed were six children.

Violence persisted on Wednesday. A Palestinian stabbed and injured a worker from Thailand at an Israeli

farm in the Hamra settlement in the occupied West Bank, Israel radio reported.

"He came into the house all bloodied," his employer, Zipi Elbaz of Hamra said. She said he was assaulted by three Palestinians.

Gen Matan Vilnai, in charge of the Gaza, said Israelis should protect themselves against assailants by killing anyone who lifts up a knife.

"It should be clear that he who rises to kill you, you kill him first," Vilnai said on national television.

In Jerusalem, police confronted about 200 right-wing protesters outside Rabin's home, and detained four who tried to block a main road. If the Prime Minister

thinks he has to pay in blood for the peace talks in Washington, then the people on the streets are telling him no, said protester Uri Ariel, head of the West Bank settlement council. Palestinians warned that

the closure of the occupied lands, preventing about 110,000 Palestinians from going to work in Israel, could stir more violence and encourage extremists who oppose peace

"I think the closure is an escalation of collective punishment," said Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian negotiators. "It will contribute to the causes that ... have created the cycle of vio-

Israeli officials said they

were keeping Palestinians away in an attempt to maintain a climate for peace talks despite a fearful public and rightwing calls for stronger mea-

The Palestinians were detained in most of Israel's major cities for remaining in Israel in violation of the closure order.

The army sent more forces to the occupied lands but declined to say how many. Israel television said the troops would actively seek out wanted Palestinians by conducting more house-to-house searches.

Soldiers also were given permission to fire without warning at armed Palestinians, military officials said. In the past, warnings had to be given before shooting.

She was alone in restroom KISSIMMEE, Fla: A 7-year-old girl was raped at school after going unescorted to a restroom that opens onto the

Gore is "someone the president trusts implicitly, whose

Mrs. Clinton has been in Little Rock, Ark. for more than a

week keeping vigil at the bedside of her father, who is in

critical condition following a stroke. Clinton flew there

judgment the president seeks on a regular basis. He looks to

him for advice and counsel," Myers said. And added: "The

school's parking lot, police said, reports AP. To get to the restroom, students must walk outside the

classroom building, then enter through an exterior door, said Detective warren Shepard. Anyone can reach the restroom by crossing the school's

parking lot. The victim was attacked during a row-by-row bathroom break, Shepard said. The only girl in her row, she was alone in the restroom.

The second-grader returned to her classroom 'visibly shaken" and told her teacher what happened, Shepard said. Police were waiting for the girl to be released from a local hospital so they could get a composite sketch of the rapist.

It's a rumour

WASHINGTON: The White House has denied rumours of marital spats between President Bill Clinton and his wife,

Hillary, that included a flying vase and Bible headed in the President's direction, reports AFP.

White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers dismissed the rumours as "bizarre" and denied that Hillary Clinton had a run-in with the secret service. Myers also denied the Clintons were looking for a new agency to protect the first family.

"There are rumours about the sources of the rumours, so it's a complicated dynamic," she said on Monday.

"I think every White House is subject to its own particular breed of rumours.

But I think these are particularly ridiculous and unfounded.

time from war.

Battle to save gorillas

KIGALI, Rwanda: Amid the misty volcanoes of Rwanda, naturalist Dian Fossey spent 18 years studying rare mountain gorillas and protecting them from poachers, reports AP. Now researchers are in a battle to save the gorillas, this

Rebels launched a new offensive last month in Rwanda's 2 1/2-year-old insurgency, prompting researchers and staff to fice Volcanoes National Park, where Fossey collected data for her book "Gorillas in the Mist," later made into a movie.

Rebels deny they were in the park when the fighting began on February 8. But witnesses said men in the kind of uniforms often worn by the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front besieged the area in the far northwest corner of the country, home to half of the 600 gorillas in the world.

Buildings were ransacked and research was halted. Worse, the gorillas were left without the protection of anti-poaching squads for the first time since Fossey's arrival in 1967. The rebels say government forces and people from a nearby town did the looting.

Over one lakh illegal Thai govt in bad shape as SAP threatens to quit coalition SAP to stay with the coalition

did not attend last nights

BANGKOK, Apr 1: The Thai coalition government was at breaking point last night after the Social Action Party (SAP) leader unleashed a harsh at tack on Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai and threatened to pull out of the partnership, reports

registered on entry. More than 100,000 for-All the five SAP cabinet eigners, mainly from members said last night they Alghanistan, China, India and had submitted undated resig-Ethiopia, were currently in nation letters to the party's Russia illegally, according to leader, Montree Pongpanich. who would decide whether the official estimates. Last year the interior minparty should remain in the government or not. istry said foreigners were re-

> ing to reporters after a get together of members of coalition government parties late last night, took pains to avoid direct reference to the SAP, but said he had no intention to resign, dissolve the House of Representatives or reshuffle the cabinet at this time. SAP leader Montree, who

The Prime Minister, speak

meeting of the coalition par ties, accused the government of ignoring his advice and listed its faults, saying the gov ernment had achieved nothing in the six months it had been

Meanwhile the Democrat Party Secretary General Sanan Kachornprasart, when asked to comment on the SAP's move, said coalition government partners had not expected the

Russia to build N-plant in India

MOSCOW, Apr 1: Russia has agreed to build a nuclear power station in Iran and may provide a similar plant for India. ITAR TASS news agency said Wednesday, reports government permanently. On Montree's criticism of

the government's lack of achievements, Sanan said Lets ask SAP cabinet members whether they could continue to work with their colleagues in the cabinet. The Democrat Party, the

core of the five-party coalition, has demanded an explanation from SAP for the resignation letters Montree said he was not

worried about the possibility of the coalition government replacing the SAP with one of the parties now in opposition.

Democrat Party sources said that Chuan had met leaders of the two major coalition parties, new aspiration party leader Chavalit Yongchaiyudh and Palang Dharma Party leader Boonchu Rojanastien, respectively, to straighten things out.

ROK begins crackdown on aliens

SEOUL, Apr 1: South Korea

on Thursday began cracking down on illegal foreign restdents under revised laws that provide for stiffer fines and up to one year in jail, reports AP. Illegal aliens, believed to

number about 70,000, had been warned of the crackdown. About 3,700 illegal aliens have turned themselves in over the past two weeks and were allowed to leave without punitive measures, Justice Ministry officials said.

The number of illegal aliens has increased steadily as more and more South Koreans shun the more dangerous or difficult

Ethnic Koreans from China

have led the list of illegal aliens, followed by Filipinos. Many work in factories, reflecting the manpower shortage in labor-intensive manufacturing industries.

Arms for Iraq issue: Police raid Pak human rights body office Thatcher, Major week, declaring his support late 1970s and early 1980s President Asma Jehangir said The commission has dis-LAHORE, Apr 1: Police for Ishaq Khan in his con-

raided the office of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan on Wednesday, confiscating posters which demand the repeal of President Chulam ishaq Khan's power to dissolve parliament, reports Reuter.

The government ordered the immediate removal of the posters and the detection of those responsible, Nisar Ali Khan, Special Assistant to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Pakistan's Minister for Petroleum, told the semi official PPI news agency

tributed 20,000 posters, enti tled "undemocratic powers" which show Ishaq Khan in car icature wielding a cricket bat above the parliament building. Police raided the commis

sion's office in this central Pakistan city, taking away posters and office files and briefly detaining three commission officials We are ready to go to jail

but we will not give up our rights to have political and

country." Commission

in an interview. The Human Rights Commission is a respected

private organisation and Pakistan's only independent human rights watchdog. It criticises the government frequently but since the death of military ruler General Zia ul-Haq in 1988 has seldom seen any direct retaliation

ing back to martial law in the

which empowers the President to dissolve the National Assembly and Senate. The amendment also gives the head of state power to ap-

point chiefs of staff of the armed forces. These amendments create parallel judiciaries ... and curtail the sovereignty of parliament," the human rights

poster says. Minister of State for Zakat (Islamic tax) Senator Gulsher Khan resigned on Wednesday, the fourth minister to quit this

frontation with Sharif. Diplomats have warned the hardening antipathy between Sharif and Ishaq Khan could prompt the President to exer-

liament.

cise his power to dissolve par-

Ishaq Khan, who used his powers to dismiss Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on

charges of corruption and misrule in 1990, has said, he feels betrayed by her successor's bid to curt his authority, officials

Prime Minister Sharif opened a bitter rift with Ishaq Khan last month by suggesting changes to an amendment dat democratic discussion in our