

Pindi sends 1000 troops to stop PPP march

ISLAMABAD, Apr 4: Pakistan sent about 1,000 paramilitary troops to the disputed region of Kashmir to prevent a political group from storming the Indian-defended ceasefire line...

US pleads for revision of Bosnia peace plan to gain Serb support

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Apr 4: Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Saturday offered to revise a peace plan for war-torn Bosnia to gain the support of Serb nationalists...

the one-year war in Bosnia-Herzegovina and set up 10 semi-autonomous provinces and a weak central government. The political power of the Muslim, the most populous ethnic group and the target of Bosnian Serb assaults, would be weakened.

optimistic view Saturday in a CNN interview. He said, "there may be some adjustments that can be made to the satisfaction of all the parties". He called the Serbs' rejection "regrettable" but added: "We're not ready to give up... It's a negotiation."

weapons shipments to the Muslims if the Serbs did not sign the peace accord quickly. But after consultations with allies and UN Security Council members, he reported: "I don't think we have the votes in the United Nations right now."

Mahathir criticises UN

TEHRAN, Apr 4: Muslim countries must rally in support of Muslims in Palestine and in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad here Saturday, reports AP.

Off the Record

Pray for peace
VATICAN CITY: Pope John Paul asked the world's Roman Catholics on Saturday to pray for peace in Bosnia during the Easter season next weekend, reports Reuter.



Shri Lanka cancels airbus deal

COLOMBO, Apr 4: Shri Lanka's national carrier Air Lanka has cancelled a deal with the European airbus consortium and decided to buy only two of the seven planes it originally ordered...

recent years," the newspaper said. A spokesman for Air Lanka declined comment on the matter and the newspaper said that Air Lanka Chairman Dunsan Jayawardena had also refused to speak to the press.



VANCOUVER: President Bill Clinton (L), Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (C) and President Boris Yeltsin walk together following their arrival at the summit luncheon site on Saturday. Mulroney is hosting a lunch before Clinton and Yeltsin privately.

UN tightens security at its Phnom Penh HQs

PHNOM PENH, Apr 4: The UN mission in Cambodia is drastically stepping up security at its sprawling Phnom Penh headquarters following an increase in violence that is dogging the country's peace process, a UN official said, reports Reuter.

She is active at 15

NEW YORK: A book co-written by Amy Fisher is due out Monday, full of details about her alleged affair with Joey Buttafuoco and other personal revelations, reports AP.

I'm not a refugee

JERUSALEM: Sergei Khrushchev, son of the late Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, says he may remain in America rather than return to the political turmoil in his homeland, reports AP.

US marine found guilty

A US marine was found guilty by a military court on Saturday of punching a Somali vendor and robbing him of two walking sticks, a US military spokesman said, reports Reuter from Mogadishu.

Colonel Fred Peck told reporters first class private Larry T Thomas of Arizona had grabbed two canes from Somali vendor Haroon Hassan outside the military airport on February 15.

Turkey halts passage of European aid Armenians seize Azeri town

MOSCOW, Apr 4: Advancing Armenian forces have seized the western Azeri border town of Kelbadzhar, and Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry says they also control a broad swathe of surrounding territory, reports Reuter.

Ethnic Armenian forces inside Karabakh have virtually driven Azerbaijan's army from the enclave. The Karabakh forces last May opened up a narrow land corridor to Armenia through the border town of Lachin, which penetrated seven miles (12 km) of Azeri territory.

Armenian armed forces seized Kelbadzhar and continued east. They have occupied the rest of Kelbadzhar district and neighbouring Lachin district, the statement said. Meanwhile another Reuter report adds: Turkey said on Saturday it had halted the passage of European aid to emergency-starved Armenia, locked in an escalating battle with Azerbaijan over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Guzman shifted to naval prison

Caged and escorted by 30 heavily-armed marines, Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman was moved from prison on an island military base to an "impenetrable" land-based naval prison, an official said Saturday, AFP reports from Lima.

Guzman was taken on an hour-long trip by torpedo launcher from San Lorenzo island prison near Callao, just north of Lima, to the Punta Naval Base prison, where a navy officer said, Guzman will spend the rest of his days.

DPRK accuses IAEA of bias

TOKYO, Apr 4: North Korea, defending its refusal to accept further nuclear inspections, accused the United Nations' inspection agency Sunday of unfair bias against the Communist state, reports AP.

IAEA demanded special inspections of two additional sites to help clear up what it called discrepancies from earlier inspections of sites designated by the North. The move reinforced suspicions that the hard-line Communist state was developing nuclear arms, despite its denials.

The IAEA last week ruled that Pyongyang had violated the nuclear controls accord and referred the issue to the UN Security Council. North Korea's statement accused the United States of having transferred nuclear technology to South Africa in violation of the nuclear treaty.

2 Hezbollahmen die in clash

Two militants of the Iranian-backed Shiite Muslim Hezbollah (party of God) were killed on Saturday in a clash with Israeli troops in South Lebanon, a report from Beirut said, according to Xinhua.

Security sources were quoted as saying that the fighting flared in the area of Jezzine, the largest Christian town in South Lebanon that sits on the tip of a corridor leading to Israel's self-styled security zone.

Over 200 held in Egypt

ASSIUT, Egypt, Apr 4: More than 200 suspected Muslim extremists have been arrested around the country in the latest crackdown on anti-government militants, police said Saturday, reports AP.

Against you, know that God is on your side." Anti-terrorism legislation passed last year effectively bans political tapes. Egyptian officials remember that tapes of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini smuggled into Iran helped bring down the monarchy in 1979.

Attacks on the constitution or harming national unity or social peace are punishable by up to five years in prison. The sentence is doubled for material discovered in mosques or in military or police buildings.

Iraqi warplanes take part in maneuvers

BAGHDAD, Apr 4: Iraqi warplanes transporting commandos and firing live rounds at ground targets took part in maneuvers Saturday that also involved armoured vehicles and artillery, reports AP.

The Defence Minister, General Ali Hussain Al-Majid, attended the maneuvers which were conducted in the area of the Tigris river and which Baghdad Radio described as mobilization exercises.

Egyptian extremists want to defend Islam with sword

CAIRO, Apr 4: "No, no no!" cried the seller of religious cassettes, holding up his arms as if handcuffed, when a customer asked for tapes of clerics damning the government, reports AP.

Kishk, banned from public speaking since 1981, are among the most popular underground prayer leaders. But for followers of al-Gamaa al-Islamiya (The Islamic Group), the words of Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman are the most prized. From his storefront mosque in Jersey City, NJ, the blind 54-year-old preacher serves as their spiritual and political guide.

Al-Gamaa's membership is estimated at 200,000 of Egypt's 56 million people, including 10,000 prone to violence. Their gunfights with police, and other violence related to the group, have left more than 150 people dead and 230 injured in 15 months.

22 miners killed in China blast

BELING, Apr 4: An explosion in a coal mine shaft killed at least 22 miners and injured four others, the official People's Daily newspaper reported Sunday, says AP.

The explosion occurred before dawn Friday at the Lingsheng Coal Mine in Shenyang in northeast China, the paper said in a three-sentence report. It said a preliminary investigation found 22 miners were dead and one was missing.

The cause of the explosion is under investigation, it said. Nearly 10,000 miners were killed in accidents in 1991, the latest year for which official figures are available. Many Chinese mines lack safety equipment.