

More Pak troops for Somalia: Pakistan began sending more troops to Somalia on Monday to join a multinational force deployed there to restore order and

protect famine relief, reports Reuter from Islamabad. The 190-strong contingent left for Mogadishu on a special flight, marking the beginning of the movement of two additional battalions, a military statement said. The rest of the

troops are likely to leave shortly, it said. A Pakistan army battalion consists of 800 to 1,000 troops. Pakistan already has two battalions in Somalia.

US-led forces deployed in Somalia since last December are due to hand over command to the United Nations next month.

Arafat in Cairo: PLO leader Yasser Arafat arrived in Cairo Monday for talks with Egyptian President ilosni Mubarak on reviving the Middle East peace process, officials said, reports AFP from Cairo.

Arafat, who met with Foreign Minister Amr Moussa immediately after his arrival, is accompanied by Faisal Husseini, the head of the Palestinian delegation to Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The PLO chiefs visit comes ahead of a visit Wednesday to Egypt of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who will also meet with Mubarak. The resumption of the peace talks is set for April 20 in

Washington, but the Palestinian side has still not said it will attend. Palestinian shot dead: An Israeli man

returning home from an evening out in Jerusalem chased three Palestinians he thought were trying to steal a car and shot one of them dead, police said on Monday, reports Reuter from Jerusalem.

They identified the dead man as an 18 year-old Palestinian from the nearby occupied West bank town of Ramallah. Police arrested Israeli and confiscated his gun. He told them he fired after one of the Arabs pointed what he thought

was a weapon at him. Sow named PM of Mali: Former Mali Defence Minister Abdoulage Sekou Sow was named Prime Minister of the impoverished West African country in a presidential decree on Monday, reports Reuter from Bamako. The decree, issued by president Alpha Oumar Konare, was

broadcast on national television on Monday night. Sow was Defence Minister in the 10-month-old government led by Younoussi Toure, who resigned on Friday after student riots in which parliament and other state buildings were set ablaze.

One person was killed and at least 45 injured in what Konare said was a deliberate attempt to destabilise the coun

Two Indians killed in New York: A man and woman said to be an Indian prince and princess

were found dead in their posh Park Avenue apartment on Monday in what police are calling a double murder, reports Reuter from New York

The man was found face down in a pool of blood in the liv ing room of the fourth floor flat on Manhattan's upper east side, police said. A police spokeswoman said the man may have been an

Indian prince, but did not identify him. An unidentified woman, possibly his wife, was found face down in the bedroom, the spokeswoman said.

CBS radio identified the couple as Prince Khedker and Princess Nenescha of the Indian town of Khed Anjavel, but police would not confirm the identifications.

Angolan peace talks open

ABIDJAN, Apr 13: Angola's government and rebels have begun face-to-face peace talks after six months of renewed civil war, and the government says it is ready to agree to a cease-fire, reports AP.

The two side met Monday and said they were committed to ending the civil war, and a UN envoy hinted that 700 peacekeepers in the country may be withdrawn if the negotiators do not make progress.

UN and US officials insist that both sides agree quickly to allow aid distribution. About 3 million Angolans face starvation after 18 years of civil war, in which some 400,000 people

"Angola is tired of war," said Fernando Faustino Muteka who heads the Angolan government delegation. "My delegation is ready to resume dialogue with our brothers and reach peace.

Chief rebel delegate Jorge Valentim said, "We are here with our minds open ... with the profound desire that Angola should have peace."

He said the two sides should take this opportunity in order to present realistic solutions, no matter if they are modest, in order to give hope to the Angolans, a sense of se-

A government statement on Angolan radio, meanwhile, called for a cease fire.

Plane carrying Bush, his wife makes emergency landing

, here on Monday after part of the left wing peeled away,

Bush spokesman Andrew carried Bush's son Netl and his wife Sharon, George Bush jr's wife Laura, two Bush staff members, about 15 secret service agents, and Kuwaiti gov-

Maner said Bush's departure for Kuwait was rscheduled for Tuesday afternoon on another Kuwait Airways jet.

Shamlan said in an interview, the aircraft was in no danger at any stage of the flight.

wing was starting to peel away, causing the wing to flap.

Roadside bomb kills

MARJAYOUN (Lebanon). Apr 13 A remote-controlled roadside bomb killed three Israeli soldiers and injured two in southern Lebanon on Tuesday security sources said A Shi ite Muslim group's mili tary wing claimed responsibil-

The attack on the Israeli patrol occurred just a week before Arab and Israeli negotia tors are due to resume negoti-

attend. The Iranian-backed group Hezbollah's military wing elaimed responsibility for

Tuesday's attack in a state ment that said the blast destroved an Israeli Merkava tank and killed or injured its entire crew Hezboliah has vowed to sabotage Middle East peace talks

force it to abandon its selfproclaimed "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

The blast occurred at midday on a road between Qantara and Taibeh near the Good Fence gateway that links Israel's border with the security zone, said security sources, who spoke on condi-

tion of anonymity. The sources, inside and outside the security zone, said the bodies of the dead and injured Israelis were flown to hospitals in Israel.

They said israeli troops retaliated with artillery and tank barrages on several Shi ite villages opposite the zone's centrai sector, where the roadside bomb was detonated.

Four Israeli helicopter gun ships later starfed a ravine suspected of being used by Iranian-backed Shi'tte guerillas of Hezbollah to filter into the security zone.

Serb artillery attack kills 56 in Srebrenica

SARAJEVO, Apr 13: The deadliest Serb artillery attack in the year-long siege of Srebrenica killed 56 people and severely wounded 73 more in eastern Bosnia on Monday.

Minutes after NATO planes began enforcing a UN no fly zone over the embattled republic, Serb shells -apparently set to explode in mid-air to wreck the greatest havoc on people caught in the open -- rained death on the town, said John McMillan, the UN High Commissioner for

Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman. 'Goddamn, it's just horriblc," he told Reuters. "There had been a ceasefire declared. Then the barrage came and the people were running around terrified trying to find shelter. They are all hiding He expected the death toll

to rise a as the wounded succumbed in the town's hospital. Local doctors appealed to the UN to evacuate the wounded

"There is blood all over the place," a local Ham radio oper-

WTC bombing

suspect's family

off to NY

and four children of Mahmoud

Abouhalima, a main suspect in

the World Trade Centre (WTC)

bombing, flew to New York on

Abouhalima's German wife

Abouhalima entered Egypt

on German travel papers a few

days after the Feb 26 bombing.

which killed six people and

wounded more than 1,000. He

went to the family home south

of the Mediterranean port

police, who handed him over

to US officials. He was flown

back to New York on March

He was arrested by Egyptian

Tuesday, reports AP.

from 1 to 7.

Alexandria.

CAIRO, Apr 13: The wife

ator said of the Srebrenica attack." It was a massacre in the

centre of town. "The hospital is having great difficulties. Wounded are lying on the floor in hallways. Store rooms have just been opened to hold the wounded,"

he told Reuters. But a spokesman for the UN protection force in Bosnia said it was still not clear which side shot first, breaking a shaky ceasefire that took effect on March 28.

"We're not entrirely sure

this was a Serb provoked or initiated attack, whether the first shots were not fired by the Bosnians. We just don't know at this time," he told Reuters. He said the UN's top generals, frustrated after Muslim military chiefs boycotted talks

on bringing peace to

Srebren'ca, had urged both

Muslims and Serbs to show

restraint. In central districts of Sarajevo, one person died and 35 people were hurt in an hour-long artillery assault after the planned peace talk with government commanders col-

lapsed. The artillery barrage on Sarajevo was the first sustained attack on the encircled Bosnian capital since the UNmediated ceasefire came into

Bosnia's rebel Serbs denied shelling Srebrenica and alleged Muslim-controlled government forces were stepping up an offensive designed to win political support for tougher UN sanctions against the rump Yugoslav state.

"I think the Muslim side will intensify fighting in order to influence the Security Council, Bosnian Serb Leader Radovan Karadczic told Reuters. They (Muslims) are avoiding any talks, intensifying operations and violating the ceasefire."

At the urging of Russia, the Security Council has delayed a vote on tightening Yugoslav sanctions until after Russia's crucial referendum on April 25, dipicmats at the UN said.

In the skies over Bosnia. operation "Deny Flight" put NATO jets into a combat zone for the first time in the alliance's history.

The western warplanes encountered no resistance, but one French Mirage 2000 jet had to ditch into the Adiatic Sea after developing engine trouble.

The pilot safely ejected and was rescued.

AFP from Zagreb adds: Members of the United Nations protection force expressed outrage today at the Serb bombardment of the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica and called for the immediate deployment of UN troops in the town.

"Today's events make it imperative that the parties to this conflict allow the UN to deploy its troops and observers in eastern Bosnia," general Lars-Eric Wahlgren, the commander of the UNPROFOR. said in a press release in Zagreb.

UK, China agree to hold talks on HK polls

BEIJING Apr 13: China and Britain have agreed to hold talks about elections in Hong Kong starting on April 22 in Beijing, the British embassy said today, reports Reuter.

Mariana Wiper and their sons, The two countries have who carry US passports, were been at loggerheads for seen off by members of months over plans by Hong Abouhalima's Egyptian family. Kong Governor Chris Patten They refused to speak to refor democratic reforms in the colony before it reverts to The children range in age China in 1997.

> The Beijing talks will be between Sir Robin Mclaren, British ambassador to China, and Jiang Enzhu, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Michael Sze, Hong Kong's Secretary for Constitutional affairs, his deputy Peter Lai and William Ehrman, political adviser to Patten, will be present at the talks to provide support to the ambassador, according

to a British embassy spokes-

She quoted Patten as saying his bill on democratic reform would not be put to the colony's legislature while the talks were in progress.

She said she expected the first round of talks to last about four days.

The Chinese and British sides have agreed that the government representatives of the two countries will, starting from April 22, 1993, hold talks in Beijing on the arrangement for the 1994-95 elections in Hong Kong in accordance with the Sino-British joint declaration, the principle of convergence with the basic law and the relevant agreements and understandings reached between China and Britain, the embassy statement said.

US C-in-C in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD, Apr 13: General Joseph P Hoar, Commander-in-Chief of the United States Central command, arrived here Monday on an official visit, an official statement said, reports AFP.

He will meet with top Pakistani military officials during his week-long stay to discuss further strengthening professional relations between the armed forces of the two countries, it added

The US suspended military and economic aid to Pakistan in October 1990 because of suspicions that Islamabad's nuclear programme was weapons-oriented, a charge denied by Pakistan, which says the programme is entirely meant for peaceful purposes.

Pakistani army chief General Abdul Waheed is due to make an official visit to the United States this month, a move seen linked to Islamabad's efforts to improve bilateral ties.

Ban on Palestinians entry hits Israeli farmers

JERUSALEM, Apr 13: Israeli farmers, hit by a twoweek-old government ban on Palestinians entering Israel, will be able to employ up to 9,000 of them from today, the Agriculture Ministry said, reports Reuter.

Ministry spokeswoman Batya Keinan said on Monday that 2,000 Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip had obtained special permits to work in Israeli fields and the government on Sunday had approved the issuance of 7,000 more.

Israeli farming and construction have suffered for lack of cheap Arab labour during the closure. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin imposed the ban after Arabs killed 13 Jews in

Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, who rely on jobs in Israel for their livelihood, assail the closure as a collective punishment. Israel Radio said 20,000 had worked in agriculture before the clo-

Agriculture Minister Yaacov Tsur announced a committee would study technological innovations that could help reduce Israel's reliances on the Palestinians.

A Treasury spokesman said Finance Minister Abraham Shohat would press Rabin to also let building contractors hire 10,000 to 20,000 Palestinian workers during the closure.

Rabin's government decided on Sunday to extend the closure indefinitely.

"The closure provides an answer to our internal security problems... whoever wants to prevent terror has to cut israel off from workers in the territories," Health Minister Haim Ramon said on Sunday.

One stabbed to death in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Apr 13: A white man was stabbed to death and set on fire in a black township south Johannesburg on Monday, police said, reports Reuter.

A police spokesman said the killing did not appear to be motivated by anti-white anger over the killing of black leader Chris Hani last Saturday.

The man was found in a squatter camp outside the town of Sasolburg. He had told his wife he was going to the camp to look for spare parts for his car.

Three white men were burned to death in a black township near Cape Town on

Grenade attack kills four in Thai new year festival

BANGKOK, Apr 13: A drunken youth hurled grenade into a crowd of That New Year celebrants early Tuesday, killing four people including an infant, FM107 radie in Bangkok reported, says

Two youths who had been drinking heavily started fighting while watching a film outside a temple just after midnight at Ta Phraya, about 230 kilométres (145 miles) east of Bangkok near the Cambodian

One of the youths later returned and threw a grenade at the other in the crowd.

The film was being shown at a temple fair as part of Thatland's three-day New Year which festival. ends Wednesday. Military weapons have been common along the border stnce the late 1970s because of the civil war in Cambodia.

12 killed as Indian cargo ship sinks

GIJON (Spain), Apr 13: The death toll in the sinking of an Indian freighter rose to 12 on Tuesday, with 28 people still missing, authorities said, re-

ports AP. The Vishva Mohini was headed from the English port of Middlesborough to Bombay on Monday when its cargo of machinery slipped, punching a hole in the hull, merchant marine officials said.

Helicopter crews rescued 16 people as the 10,000-tion, 156-meter (514-foot) ship sank in heavy seas and galeforce winds, but one person later died. Rescue workers found 11 bodies Tuesday.

There were originally a total

of 55 people on the ship, including 47 crew members.

The unidentified captain at first declined helicopter evacuation of the crew, apparently because he thought the situation was under control, the merchant marine said in a statement.

Chernobyl reactor shut down

MOSCOW, Apr 13: The number one reactor at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station in Ukraine has been shut down because of a turbine fault, the Itar-Tass news agency said Monday, reports

Off the Record



the author of the Spirou Comics, Robert Velter, on the first anniversary of Euro Disneyland in Suburban Marne-La--AFP/UNB photo Vallee Monday.

Kidnapper jailed for 109 years

MARTINEZ, Calif: A man convicted of kidnapping two young girls as they slept in their homes and molesting them was sentenced Monday to 109 years in prison, reports AP.

Tracy Arthur Stone, 31, was convicted of 16 felony counts in the kidnapping of a 6-year-old girl in June and a 9-monthold girl in March 1992.

A grand jury charged Stone in a third similar case involving a 2-year-old girl, but the charge was dropped for lack of evidence. Prosecutor James Picco said the sentence was close to the

maximum. He estimated Stone won't be eligible for parole for nearly 55 years. Defence attorney Chris Weir had asked the judge not to

give Stone the maximum sentence, saying his client had a deep mental problem. Stone pleaded innocent by reason of insanity. Weir said

Stone developed multiple personalities as a result of abuse suffered as a child; experts testified the disorder left Stone in a dreamlike state. He waived his right to a jury trial, which meant Superior

Court Judge Richard Arnason decided the case, ruling Stone guilty and sane. In the abduction of the 6-year-old, Stone was charged with injecting her with methamphetamine and raping her. Her detailed descriptions of her attacker, particularly his distinetive tattoos, helped lead to the arrest.

Second saddest day of celebrity divorce lawyer

LOS ANGELES: Celebrity divorce lawyer Marvin Mitchelson was sentenced Monday to 30 months in prison and ordered to pay dirs 1.8 million restitution for his conviction on tax-

evasion charges, reports AP. US District Judge William D Keller, who imposed the sentence after a three-hour hearing, allowed Mitchelson to re-

main free on bail pending an appeal. In a tearful statement to the court, Mitchelson said, This is the second saddest day of my life." The first, he said, was

the death of his mother. Mitchelson, 64, was convicted February 9 of failing to re-

port nearly dirs 2 million on his federal income tax returns from 1983 to 1986 Prosecutors said Mitchelson reported no taxable income and seldom paid taxes voluntarily over the past 20 years.

Mitchelson represented celebrities including Joan Collins, Bianca Jagger, Carl Sagan, Roxanne Pulitzer and Michelle Triola, who sued the late actor Lee Marvin in the landmark "palimony" case in 1976. It established the right of unmarried partners to sue for property division when they break up.

'In my 36-year career, some good has been done, Mitchelson said in his statement to the court. "I opened courthouse doors due to the Marvin case."

Outside the courtroom after Monday's hearing, Mitchelson said, "When you think you're innocent, there is no fair sentence".

She doesn't bother people's perception

BOSTON: Vanna White, star of American television's toprated syndicated game show, acknowledges that some people perceive her as an empty-headed letter-turner, but says that doesn't bother her, reports AP.

"If I was sitting there watching TV and saw this woman turning letters for 10 years, I would probably think the same thing," she told the Boston Sunday Herald. White, in town to tape several "Wheel of Fortune" shows,

has started her own enterprise, Vanna White Inc. to market her image, and has other business interests.

3 Israeli soldiers

ity, reports AP ations in Washington, although Arab delegations have not yet announced whether they will

and to keep up its guerilla war against Israel in an attempt to

HOUSTON, Apr 13: A

Kuwait Airways jet carrying former President George Bush and his wife Barbara to Kuwait made an emergency landing Aviation officials said, reports

None of the 59 people aboard the Boeing 747 was injured in the 10:25 am cdt (1525 GMT) landing at flouston Intercontinental Airport, about an hour after leaving nearby Ellington field.

Maner said the aircraft also ernment officials.

The planes' pilot Husam Al-

He said the plane was over Louisiana at an altitude of about 33,000 feet (10,000 metres) when it encountered turbulence. An examination found that the skin covering the left

First Lady Hillary Clinton (2nd L) reacts as US President Bill Clinton blows a whistle to officially signal the start of the annual White House Easter Egg Hunt Monday. Thousands of children take part in the event which dates back to 1809.

TEHRAN, Apr 13: Iran

warned Monday it could resort

to "concrete measures" if the

fighting around the Armenian

enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh

in neighbouring Azerbaijan

Hashemt Rafsanjant, in a meet-

ing with Azerbaijan Vice

President Hossein Panahov,

called for Armenian forces and

Azeri forces to withdraw to

previous positions and resume

neutrality in the conflict, he

stressed Iranian security was

also at stake and delivered an

implicit warning to Armenian

forces on the offensive in

the question directly affects

our security, notably because of

the proximity of the fighting to

our border, Iran will be obliged

to take concrete measures if it

Raisanjani did not elaborate

drags on," the President said.

Taking into account that

While reasserting Tehran's

President Ali Akbar

dragged on, reports AFP.

peace talks.

Azerbaijan.

-AFP/UNB photo Iran warns of 'concrete measures'

if Azeri-Armenian fighting on and gave no deadline but added that Tehran was "ready to cooperate with any other country to try and settle the conflict," according to a presidential statement.

The Iranian President stressed "the interest of the region demands that the fighting between the two countries stop immediately on the basis of the Tehran accords."

The President was referring to an Iranian peace mediation in May 1992 to halt the fighting around the Armenian en clave of Nagorno-Karabakh that has not been implemented.

Never has the occupation

of another country's territory been a reasonable and lasting solution," he said in a warning to the Christian Armenians capturing land around their enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. But Rafsanjani fell short of pledging material support for

Iran's fellow Shi'ite Muslims in

Azerbaijan, as requested by

Before leaving Tehran at the

end of a 24-hour visit, Panahov warned of a "new phase in the Armenian aggression" and that the situation in Azerbaijan was "very critical." But Baku was capable of defending its own territory, he

His Iranian counterpart Hassan Habibi called for an Armenian withdrawal but also expressed "Tehran's displeasure with the declarations of

certain (Azeri) officials" against

Azeri President Abulfaz

Elshibey has repeatedly accused Islamic Iran of trying to spread its influence to secular Azerbaijan. On Saturday, Basib Nasibzadeh, Azerbaijan's am-

bassador to Iran, urged Tehran to provide "material and spiritual aid' to protect the Azeri town of Fizuli, 30 kilometers (18 miles) north of Iran's bor-