34 patients killed in ROK hospital fire

SEOUL, Apr 19: Thirty-four patients were burned to death in pre dawn fire that swept through a mental hospital in a provincial town on Monday, police said, reports AP.

Two patients were in critical condition and nine others were rescued unharmed, police said.

Quoting firefighters, the state television, KBS, reported that some dead patients were found with their feet shackled or their hands chained to hospital beds.

Forty-five patients, under treatment for alcoholism or mental problem, were asleep

Channel Tunnel opening may be delayed

LONDON, Apr 19: The opening of the Channel Tunnel could be delayed again beyond the end of 1993, the project's chief executive Sir Alastair Morton said Monday, reports

The tunnel should open "within a year," Morton said in a letter to the London Stock Exchange. Morton previously forecast a Dec 15 opening date, and that was six months later than originally planned.

"This magnificent project ought to open within a year and will represent a triumph of the determination, engineering skill and cooperation of many parties, including our bankers," Morton's letter said.

Morton blamed the delay on Transmanche-Link, the consortium involved in building the tunnel.

AFP reports from Phnom Penh.

near central Scoul, they said.

Scoul with two passengers.

from Seoul.

in three rooms when the fire broke out at Scoul Neuro-Mental Hospital in Nonsan. 150 miles (240 kilometers) southwest of Scoul, at 2 am (1700 GMT Sunday), police

In the initial confusion, police had reported that 35 people were killed but later refused a just peace settlecorrected the figure to 34.

Some patients were found dead with their feet shackled or their hands chained to hospital beds, apparently to prevent them from fleeing, po-

The front door of the two story-building was shuttered, which also contributed to the high death toll, they said.

Kim Hyong-kon, a firefighter, told police that the entire building was ablaze when he arrived about 10 minutes after the fire was reported.

We broke open with axes one side of the wooden building and found about a dozen bodies huddled in one corner of a hallway, police quoted Kim as saying. Three patients were alive and were immediately brought out."

The state television, KBS, quoted Ha Jong-hwan, a hospital official, as saying that the fire appeared to have started in a first-floor room.

It was like hell. Smoke was all over and patients were crying for help, KBS quoted Ha as

The blaze, whipped by string winds, was brought under control in one hour by 10 fire trucks, police said.

Police said they were investigating the cause of the fire and why so many patients were crowded into three small

BEDEFIN

Peacekeeper killed in Cambodia:

A large group of Khmer Rouge guerillas attacked a village west

of the capital early yesterday killing one Bulgarian UN

peacekeeper and injuring two others, a UN spokesman said,

an armoured personnel carrier when the guerillas attacked

with an anti tank grenade, UN spokesman Eric Falt said. One

Bulgarian died and two others were injured, one seriously.

They were taken to the UN Hospital in Phnom Penh, he said.

lasted two hours. It was apparently airried at a Phnom Penh

government army position in the village of New Oral, Falt said.

ROK army deserter shot dead: An

army deserter, armed with a rifle and grenades, held two

people hostage and shot two pedestrians near central Scoul

yesterday before being gunned down, police said, reports AP

sharpshooters after a 30-minute standoff in Hachwadong.

munition, deserted his unit in eastern South Korea before

side Seoul, Lim setzed a mini-van passing by and drove it into

dawn Monday and headed to Seoul, police said.

said yesterday, reports AFP from Hong Kong.

sengers, the Hong Kong commercial daily said.

to kill the two passengers, police said.

before being shot down, they said.

Pvt Lim Chae-sung, 21, was shot down by police and army

Lim, armed with 22 grenades and 13C rounds of rifle am-

When challenged by military police at a check point out-

Police near central Seoul stopped him and he threatened

He then abruptly opened fire, wounding two pedestrians,

11 Killed in Chinese bus plunge:

At least 11 people were killed and 24 injured when their bus

plunged into a reservoir in Southern China, a press report

province from Yunan county, but plunged into a 30 meter

(99-foot) deep reservoir in Zhaoqing Saturday, killing 11 pas-

Of the 24 people injured, nine were in serious condition.

Bid to hijack Colombian plane: An

armed man attempted to httack a Colombian domestic

airliner after it landed in Bogota on Sunday but was

overpowered by passengers, the RCN radio network reported,

9 jet, carrying 81 passengers, while it was on the main run-

way and demanded that it be refuelled to go to an unknown

Zairean diplomat held in Islamabad:

Pakistani customs arrested a Zairean diplomat at Islamabad

airport on Sunday on charge of trying to smuggle eight kg (18

who they said was posted in Warsaw. His rank was not yet

Customs officials identified the diplomat as Ntunda Buana

lb) of heroin to Poland, reports Reuter from Islamabad.

RCN said the hijacker, armed with a pistol, seized the DC

However, passengers overpowered the hijacker and he was

said it was raining heavily when the accident happened.

The cause of the accident was not given, but the report

The bus was on its way to Zhongshan city in Guangdong

The attack began at 2:30 am [1930 GMT Sunday] and

The Bulgarians were arriving at the scene of the attack in

Clinton, Major warn Serbia of hardship, isolation

LONDON, Apr 19: British Prime Minister John Major and US President Bill Clinton on Sunday welcomed tougher UN sanctions against Yugoslavia and warned Serbia of hardship and isolation if it

ment, reports Reuter. During a 50-minute telephone call the two leaders also agreed on the importance of maintaining a UN-sponsored ceaselire agreement for Srebrenica and continuing

humanitarian relief operations. "They welcomed the rapid adoption last night of the further Security Council resolution enforcing tougher sanctions on Serbia," a spokeswoman for Major said.

They agreed it was vital to ensure that these sanctions were imposed effectively and rapidly and that action should be taken to isolate Serbia and close any loopholes on land, sea or river," she added.

The United Nations Security Council voted late on Saturday to impose its toughest sanctions yet on Yugoslavia. The measures intended to isolate Serb-led Yugoslavia from the outside world, will come into force on April 26 if the Serbs do not sign an international peace plan drawn up by mediators Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance.

Major, quoted by the spokeswoman, said Serbian leaders and people must be told they faced long isolation and hardship if they continued to refuse to come to a just and internationally acceptable settlement or try to acquire or

hold territory illegally. Earlier on Sunday, Yugoslav

peace envoy David Owen reiterated his view that selective air strikes against supply lines used by Bosnian Serbs might be necessary if the Serbs refused to sign the peace plan.

Neither Clinton nor Major mentioned international military intervention but the spokeswoman said "they had informal discussions of the pros and cons of various options." She gave no details.

Major has consistently opposed military intervention in

ME peace

CAIRO, Apr 19: Arab league foreign ministers convened Sunday to discuss a number of regional issues including the stalled Middle East peace pro-

League sources said Farouk Kaddoumi, who represented the Palestine Liberation Organization at the meeting, said Israel has to take "encouraging steps" for the Palestinians to participate in the next round of peace talks. The sources did not specify the demands.

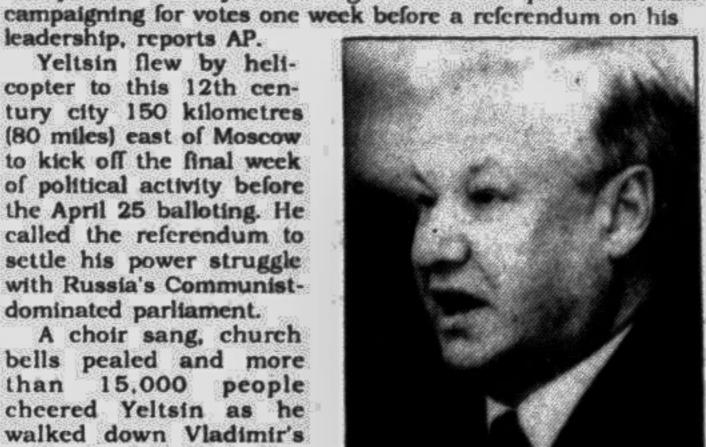
The meeting observed minute of silence for Turkish

Arab League FMs discuss

cess, reports AP.

The gathering is the 21member organization's first biannual meeting at the foreign ministers' level this year. Fifteen foreign ministers attended, along with the permanent delegates of six other countries.

President Turgut Ozal



At the steps of the white stone cathedral topped with golden onion domes. Yeltsin briefly addressed the crowd and asked for support next Sunday.

Off the Record

He makes political

pilgrimage

and politics Sunday, marching in an Easter procession and

leadership, reports AP.

Yeltsin flew by heli-

copter to this 12th cen-

tury city 150 kilometres

(80 miles) east of Moscow

to kick off the final week

dominated parliament.

VLADIMIR, Russia: President Boris Yeltsin mixed religion

"I hope that during the referendum on April 25, Vladimir residents will again remember that we must save Russia, and vote so that Russian will not fall back into the abyss of Communist non-existence," the president said.

Large families foster spirit of competition

TOKYO: The Japanese should have at least three children to preserve the "competitive spirit" necessary in a market economy, the Secretary-General of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party was quoted yesterday as saying, reports AFP.

"You don't need to have as many as ten, but three to five," Seiroku Kajiyama was quoted as saying at an LDP seminar on women in Atami, southwest of here. Kajiyama, himself the youngest in a family of 10 children,

said large families fostered a spirit of competition among children, particularly at meal times when they fight over food, newspapers reported. The Japanese birth rate has been falling for some time,

and stood at 9.9 per thousand last year, too low according to the government.

Press reports said Kajiyama's remarks met with mixed reaction from an audience familiar with his penchant for controversial statements.

In September 1990, when he was Justice Minister, Kajiyama sparked outrage in the United States when he said that foreign prostitutes in Japan, like blacks in the United States "ruin the atmosphere" of neighborhoods.

Parental love falls short of 100 dollars

BARTLETT: A teen-ager killed his parents in their home, brutally slashing their throats with the help of a friend who was paid dirs 100 for the job, authorities charges, reports AP. Neighbours in this quiet Chicago suburb who woke up

Sunday to find a trail of blood on the street expressed shock at the brutal killings. "I wonder what would make a 17-year-old turn on his parents like that, said neighbour Linda Ryan. To have such a violent crime - to slash their throats - it just gives me the

Diana and Peter Robles, both in their 40s, were found Saturday night stabbed and with their throats cut, police said. The people were killed in cold blood and butchered in their own home," DuPage County State Attorney James Ryan

Their son, Eric Robles, and Sean Helgesen, also 17, were charge d Sunday with murder. Both are students at nearby

Elgin High School. Robles, who was scheduled to be confirmed at church Sunday afternoon, also is charged with solicitation to commit murder for allegedly hiring Helgesen, Ryan said.

Tension mounts as 19 massacred ahead of Chris Hani's funeral gas as youth pelted police cars Preparing for an invasion of

JOHANNESBURG, Apr 19: The massacre of 19 people in drive-by shootings in Sebokeng black township has escalated tension ahead of the funeral of assassinated black leader Chris Hant today, reports AFP.

The attack, allegedly by four black gunmen, came barely hours before South African communist party leader Hanf's burial prompting law and order minister Hernus Kriel to appeal for calm.

"I appeal to people not to take the law into their own hands", Kriel said.

Police spokesman Captain Piet Van Deventer said the gunmen hijacked a grey volkswagen jetta, killing the car owner, before rampaging through the township on four-hour murder spree. Gunning down 19 residents in six attacks.

NEW DELHI, Apr 19:

Minister of State for

Internal Security Rajesh Pilot

and Minister of State for Home

PM Sayced said separately the

Islamabad was to blame for the

string of 13 explosions, the

Press Trust of India (PTI) re-

meeting in the northern state

of Punjab that at least eight of

the nearly 80 people arrested

for involvement in the bomb

blast had said they were

Police investigations clearly

trained in the handling of ex-

just hours after she flew to the

plosives in Pakistan.

Pilot told a massive public

reports AFP.

ported.

Witnesses said the victims of the attack were all black, as were the four occupants of the car. The jetta was later found burnt out in the township.

Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal (C) attends the opening of the 99th

session of Arab League Foreign Ministers meeting in Cairo Sunday.

Police said the motive for the attack was not immediately clear.

Sebokeng, a bastion of several black organisations including the racial Pan-Africanist Congress, is one of South Africa's most violent black townships and is notorious for

Mcanwhile, tension was mounting at the soccer stadium where some 80,000 mourners, have gathered since early Sunday ahead of Hant's burial in Elspark cemetery east of Johannesburg.

Early today a car was overturned and set alight near the stadium and police fired tear-

Pak involvement in Bombay blasts:

Two Indian ministers contradict

Dinesh Singh's statement

indicate Pakistan's involve-

parked along the route with stones. Late Sunday two men were wounded in a shooting incident in the stadium and an armoured police car patrolling the area came under attack with automatic gunfire. No injuries were reported.

- AFP/UNB photo

As mourners continued to pour into Johannesburg early today, police and African National Congress (ANC) Publicity Secretary Pallo Jordan appealed to people to stay away as the stadium was packed to capacity.

As organisers were gearing up for the 42 kilometre funeral procession from the stadium, nervous Whites living in the small suburb opposite the cometery where Ilani will be buried later today were arming themselves.

the 250,000 mourners expected at the burial site. Armed members of the ul-

tra-right Afrilaner Resistance Movement (AWB) were seen patrolling the Elspark area Sunday.

A 40-year-old AWB man, Janusz Walus, was arrested 10 days ago shortly after Hani was gunned down in the driveway of his home in the eastern Johannesburg suburb of Boksburg. His arrest was followed by the arrest late Saturday of top right-wing Conservative Party (CP) official Clive Derby-Lewis.

Early today, tow hand grenades were hurled at the CP office in Roodepoort, the suburb where Derby-Lewis lives. The extent of damage was not yet known.

Afghan war takes 200 lives in 3 days

QUETTA, Pakistan, Apr 19: More than 200 people have been killed in fighting in the southern Afghan province of Kandahar in the last few days. sources at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said on Sunday, reports

Fighting in the province near the border with Pakistan's western Baluchistan province has raged for three days between forces loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani and supporters of guerilla groups claiming the

governorship of Kandahar. The rivals were attacking each other's positions with heavy weapons, including field guns and rockets, and at least 200 people had been killed and many more injured in the

tal Kabul, the sources said. The seriously injured, most

with shrapnel wounds were

(250 miles) south of the capi-

transported to the Baluchistan provincial capital of Quetta for treatment, the ICRC said. The battles were between the forces of Kandahar Governor Gul Agha, who be-

bloody clashes some 400 km

longs to Rabbani's Jamiat-I-Islami Party, and supporters of three other parties - all once allies in the 14-year insurgency against the former communist government.

The fighting for the governorship of Kandahar was still raging into Sunday night, the ICRC sources said, adding that hundreds of people had pled across the border from Afghanistan into neighbouring

weds in Italy, Imelda shocked

says Reuter from Bogota.

arrested, it said.

President Ferdinand Marcos only son married his Filipino flancee in Italy this weekend, his staff announced Monday, reports AP.

Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. 35, a member of the Philippine House of Representatives. married Louise Araneta on Saturday at the chapel of St. Francis in Ficsolc, Italy, his staff said.

mother, said she wasn't invited and was shocked at the news which came out in two nationally-circulated newspapers

Monday. I was surely surprised at the news item, Mrs Marcos said in a statement. In the case of Bong-Bong's wedding, as his mother, I will pray for the

Benazir transformed from political pariah to powerbroker ISLAMABAD, Apr 19: Former

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto capital, Ishaq Khan invited powerbroker because of the mistakes of her successor and the anger of his mentor, reports Reuter.

> weeks ago the sidelined leader of a weak and splintered opposition to give birth to her third

on Sunday as a kingmaker, courted by the very man who 32 months ago unceremoniously bundled her out of office

Khan on Sunday exercised for a second time his power to dissolve the National Assembly (Lower House). He sacked Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Bhutto's successor, on the same corruption charges he Early on Sunday evening,

had used to oust her.

ment, he was quoted as saying Pakistan was responsible for in the sixth holy city of the deadly bomb blast which Amritsar, almost 400 kilomekilled some 3000 people in ters (250 miles) northwest of Bombay on March 12, two Indian Ministers said Sunday. Sayced, speaking to recontradicting a statement by the country's Foreign Minister.

porters in the southern city of

Sikh militant killed NEW DELHI, Apr 19, AFP:

Indian police shot dead a Sikh militant wanted for more than 100 murders and four other rebels in the northern state of Punjab, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Sunday Baldev Singh Dorangala of

the Babbar Khalsa international organization was killed along with two accomplices in a gun battle at a village in the border district of Gurdaspur late Saturday.

sponsible for the blasts, which devastated the Bombay Stock Exchange and Air India headquarters among other places. The two ministers contra-

Kochir, also held Pakistan re-

dicted External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh's statement Saturday that India had no proof of Pakistan's direct involvement. Maharashtra state Chief

Minister Sharad Pawar, who also governs Bombay, has alleged that the bombings were the work of Pakistan's interservice intelligence. The Bombay police say some of the bombers were trained abroad. Pakistan, which has fought

three wars with India since the two countries' independence in 1947, has denied involvement in the blasts, which also injured more than 1,400

tunism on both sides."

Sharif's espousal of the

UN N-experts team in Iraq MANAMA, Bahrain, Apr 19:

High-powered

A high-powered team of UN nuclear experts went unannounced Monday to Iraq, and UN Officials declined to give any details of its mission, reports AP. Maurizio Zifferero, deputy

chief of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, led a 17-member team into the Iraqi capital for a fiveday visit. Jan Fisher, the Bahrainbased regional chief for the UN Special Commission, said the

because it was not a regular inspection team. He said Zifferero's group will be conducting "a feastbility study" and that no details would be provided until it re-

turned to regional headquar

departure was not announced

The UN Special Commission is in charge of eliminating Iraq's non-conventional wea-

to the constitution, Martial Law-era legislation that empowers the President to dissolve the National Assembly and appoint the Armed Forces Bhutto decided at that time not to offer Shartf her 42 votes

in the 217-member National Assembly to back his modification. It sealed his political death warrant. "She has sacrificed her

Chicfs of Staff.

democratic ideals on the altar of political expediency," said one former government minis-

Her reward was the installa tion on Sunday of her deputy. Farood Leghari, as one of two new ministers and the promise of at least 10 ministries in the three-month interim government. Elections are scheduled for July 14.

that the eighth amendment is necessary for Pakistan," said one of the President's closest-

advisers. "Now no one will touch the eighth amendment until at least the year 2000". Some analysts questioned whether Bhutto's decision to

identify the 44-year -old Shartí as her main political enemy rather than the ageing President was shortsighted. "It was an ideal opportunity

to get rid of the eighth amendment," The Nation's Mahmood said. "She will never get another opportunity to repeal it". It was the third time since

1988 that a President had used the amendment to get rid of a Prime Minister who began to act independently of his or her mentor.

face was no such thing but just part of her commitment to the holding of fresh elections. She had said repeatedly that the 1990 vote was rigged and Sharif's government therefore lacked a real mandate.

Voting on political reform resumes in Italy

on political reform expected to pave the way for a new era in Italian government after decades of crisis and scandalridden administrations, reports AFP.

majority for two key proposals: replacement of Italy's proportional voting system with a "first past-the post" result and the abolition of state financing for parties.

ment of socialist Premier Oscar Scalfaro. Amato says his work is nearly done but reports suggested he might be kept on for lack of an alterna-

Marcos' son

MANILA, Apr 19: The late

She returned to the capital But Imelda Marcos, his after less than two years. President Ghulam Ishaq

has been transformed from po- Bhutto to meet him in his litical pariah to Pakistani white pillared Presidential Palace. It was their first meet ing since a brief and bitter discussion shortly after he sacked Bhutto left for London six

Two hours later troops were deployed outside the state television building and the President sacked Sharif, the man he had groomed to fill Bhutto's shoes. "We decided that at a time of

The President had no option, he had to have her support", said Khalid Mahmood, Editor of The Nation. "There are only two political parties in Pakistan - Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (PML)."

crists the way to resolve it is to go to the people," Bhutto said. That is why we decided to support the cause of fresh

elections".

early today for her decision to align the PPP and its liberal manifesto with the 78-year-old democratic cause led to his

downfall. President, widely regarded as Pakistan's firmest enemy of more democratic freedoms 'It was the height of oppor

He enraged the President when he tried in February to modify the eighth amendment

"The politicians have seen

Bhutto insisted her about-

ROME, Apr 19: Voting resumed today in a referendum

Opinion polls forecast a solid

The referendum could also mark the end of the govern-Giuliano Amato who was to meet today with President

