NATO to tighten naval blockade

Ghali against action in Bosnia

The UN chief avoided say-

ing whether he approved or

disapproved of air strikes

against Bosnian Serb positions,

President Bill Clinton.

of being implemented.

an option being reviewed by

In Brussels last week he

appeared to favour continued

negotiations rather than mili-

tary intervention, saying that

he thought an international

peace plan, rejected by Bos-

nian Serbs, still stood a chance

lieves that no further UN

Security Council resolution is

necessary to use military force

The United States also bc-

India to step up security measures at airports

NEW DELHI, Apr 29: India will initiate a series of measures, including setting up a new aviation security force, to increase security at airports and prevent hijackings, Civil Aviation Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Four domestic Indian Airlines flights have been hijacked this year and the ministry has been asked to set up new security measures within three months, Azad said in parliament.

In the latest incident, the lone hijacker of a Delhi-Srinagar flight was shot and killed on Sunday, about eleven hours after he had taken over the aircraft and demanded to be flown to Pakistan or Afghanistan,

The plane was grounded in

Amritsar, in northern India, while authorities negotiated with the hijacker. Paramilitary commandos stormed the plane an hour after midnight and released the other passengers and crew unharmed. Azad said the ministry will

make a detailed report on the Japanese which allowed the Wednesday he did not want hijacker to board the aircraft the United States or any other in New Delhi with two pistols. country to take unilateral military action in Bosnia-Harz-Police said he had hidden egovina without UN Coorthe weapons in crutches and

tered right leg. They said four security officers, responsible for X-raying luggage and body-searching passengers had been sus pended from duty.

in the bandages of his plas-

"The special aviation force will be highly trained," Azad

without UN coordination UNITED NATIONS, Apr 29: Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali made clear on

dination, reports Reuter. "I hope that any kind of intervention will be done in coordination with the United Nations," he told reporters.

"It is very important that the United Nations maintain the coordination of any kind of operation in the former Yugoslavia," he added.

and that Resolution 770, adopted August 13, would suf-

But some European envoys said they would insist on another resolution since 770 was aimed at guarding humanitarian convoys on the ground and not military strikes to stop Serbs offensives.

Resolution 770 allows states to take "all measures necessary" to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Sarajevo and wherever needed in other parts of Bosnia.

Clinton has been reviewing his options on Bosnia. On

Monday he insisted the world must act to end the bloodshed and he hoped to announce new steps against Bosnian Scrbs

within the "next several days".
But most diplomats believe any announcement will wait until Secretary of State Warren Christopher consults with European allies.

Another report from Brussels says: NATO allies agreed on Wednesday to tighten the naval blockade of former Yugoslavia, allowing western warships to enter coastal waters to enforce tougher UN sanctions, alliance sources

Sino-British talks end without progress

BEIJING, Apr 29: The second round of Sino-British talks on how to conduct Hong Kong's 1994 and 1995 elections ended Thursday with no announcement of any progress in resolving the dispute, reports AP.

Sir Robin McLaren, Britain's ambassador to China, and Vice Foreign Minister Jiang Enzhu, met for about two hours, their shortest meeting in the two rounds of talks that began last

"We have had a full morning's work and we have finished our discussions for this round," McLaren said when he returned to the British Embassy from the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

From the outset, both sides declined to comment on whether any progress was made or give any other details about their discussions.

The two sides will meet again at an evening banquet at the British Embassy, McLaren

He added that a joint statement would be issued later Thursday with dates for the third round.

In Hong Kong, Gov. Chris Patten warned Wednesday that time was running out for finding an acceptable arrangement for conducting Hong Kong's elections in 1994 and 1995, the last under British rule.

Patten, the British-appointed governor, enraged China last October when he proposed expanding voter participation. China fears doing so would result in more liberal democrats being elected, and would feed demands for more democracy on the mainland.

The terms of the legislative and executive council members elected in 1994 and 1995 will extend beyond 1997, when Hong Kong returns to Chinese rule. China has threatened to replace both bodies if it doesn't like the election procedure.

Patten has delayed submitting his democratic reform plan to the Hong Kong legislature for approval while the Sino-British talks are continu-

Off the Record



Singer David Dixon (R) poses for a photographer during the final rehearsal of \$ 3m Australian production of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat in Sydney yesterday." Sir Andrews most performed work will open in Syciney tomorrow.

Couple goes to court to claim kiss in famed photo

- AFP/UNB photo

PARIS: A retired couple took photographer Robert Doisneau to court Wednesday, claiming he stole a moment of youthful passion in a famed photo of two lovers embracing on a Paris street 43 years ago, reports AP.

"The civil trial before the Paris Correctional Court should determine whether the legendary photographer violated the privacy of the plaintiffs, Denise and Jean-Louis Lavergne.

It may also forever shatter the powerful mystique of anonymity surrounding the couple in the 1950 photo, "Le Baiser de L'Hotel de Ville" (The Kiss at City Hall).

The Lavergnes, retired printers in their 60s, insist that they are the couple captured in the spontaneous, passionate Kiss amid a crowd of indifferent strollers outside Paris City

One of the world's best-known photographs, the black and white shot has been reproduced on posters, postcards and T shirts and is studied as an example of the photographer's art.

Though the Lavergnes seek 500,000 francs [dlrs 100,000] in damages, they claim that the bigger issue is recognition of their young love - even though Doisneau claims he used ac-

The court will also decide the case of Francoise Bornet who claims to be the actress. She is suing Doisneau for

100,000 francs (dlrs 20,000) and a percentage of the sales. Ms. Bornet says she would have remained anonymous, but that the claims made by the Lavergnes made her assert her

own case. Her reported male partner refuses to get involved. The Lavergnes believe that they were shopping near the

city hall, buying goods to set up house, when the photo was taken. They married three months later.

Thailand's newest newly-weds

BANGKOK: Thailand's newest newly weds, crocodiles ploy an petch, are "getting acquainted" at their new home in a pond in northern pitchit province, an official there said today, reports AFP.

Bridegroom petch and bride ploy were "married" on Wednesday by Agriculture Minister Nipon Promphan at a ceremony attended by hundreds of local people in the province. some 350 kilometers (220 miles) north of Bangkok, the offi

Ploy, the 16-year-old, 3.5 meter (11.6 foot) bride was brought to the ceremony from Thailand's largest crocodile farm in Samut Prakarn province just south of the capital. She

was escorted by provincial governor Paithoon Sunthornwipat. Waiting for her was the 60-year-old, 4.4 meter (14.5-foot) petch, accompanied by Pitchit provincial governor Adirek

Uthaipon. In keeping with Thai custom, petch also brought a

crocodile-sized dowry for ploy consisting of three Buddha statues, three big baskets of pomelo fruit, which symbolized gold, and three large baskets of green mangoes, representing emerald, the official said.

LONDON: Britain's Princess Diana on Tuesday spoke publicly of the anguish of people who suffer eating disorders before exceptionally attending the same official banquet with

Anorexia and bulimia, she stressed before an audience of 400 international experts, had their roots in childhood and

ing her unhappy marriage to the Prince of Wales.

Libya asks OIC to help lift UN air embargo

KARACIII. Apr 29: Libya's Foreign Minister Omar Almu ntasir asked Islamic countries meeting here to help lift the UN air embargo on his country during the pilgrimage season, saying Libyans could no longer go to the Mecca by camel, reports AFP.

Almuntasir said Libya had asked Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers meeting in Karachi to pass a resolution to help lift a UN air embargo on Libya during the remaining one month of the Islamic pilgrimage season to Muslim holy

OIC condemns Babri Mosque demolition

KARACIII, Apr 29: Islamic countries have condemned last December's destruction by Hindu zealots of the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya, India, a Pakistani foreign ministry spokesman said here Wednesday, reports AFP.

places in Mecca and Medina. The UN resolutions have been in force for more than one year because Libya refuses to release two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan-Am airliner over Lickerbie, Scotland for Trial in the United States or Britain.

"We are seeking a resolution from the OIC so that the organiation... will manage to open a corridor for pilgrimage between Libya and Saudi Arabia,' he said.

Asked by Pakistani journalists why Libyans could not make the trip by road or ship, Almuntasir shot back "do you want us to go by camel as we did centuries ago, or walking?"

Almuntasir said nearly 1,000 people have been killed in Libya in the past year in road and air accidents because of the UN air embargo.

"They have to use the crowded road to Tunis which is not designed for such heavy traffic," he said.

BREFFE

Angolan refugees entering Namibia: People fleeting attacks by UNITA rebels in southern Angola have started crossing the border into Namibia, a United Nations official said Wednesday, reports AP from Windhock.

Francesca Okaya of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees told the South African Press Association the number of refugees was increasing daily.

They are old and hungry and have hardly anything with them," she said. "There are also lots of babies and small children.

There was no official figure for the numbers so far, but Ms. Okaya called the situation " easily the worst we've seen" since Namibia gained independence in 1990.

Two Palestinians killed in Gaza : Israell soldiers killed two Palestinians and wounded at least 24 others Wednesday as Arabs protested the presence of new army lookout towers in Gaza Strip refugee camps, Arab reports said, reports AP from Jerusalem.

In the Shati refugee camp, troops fired on crowds throwing stones at a new rooftop post, fatally wounding Rami Abu Nahil, 12, and injuring at least seven others, the reports said Residents in the Buretj refugee camp said an army patrol killed a second man and wounded 17 after youths hurled

stones at a patrol vehicle and two army observation towers. The dead man was identified as Kaled Mahmud Holeal, 22, and hospital officials said he had been shot in the heart. One of the 17 wounded in Buretj was a nine-year-old boy in serious condition with a bullet in his abdomen, hospital officials said.

2,000 yrs old tomb found in China: Chinese archaeologists recently discovered a tomb more than 2,000 years old containing the bodies of 83 children and

babies in the central province of Hubei, the Guangming daily newspaper said Thursday, reports AFP from Beijing. The discovery was made in a cave at the edge of the Yangtze river by a team of paleontologists from the Academy

of Sciences. The bodies, whose sex was difficult to establish because of the state of decay, were alongside each other in no apparent order in a cave 14 meters (45 feet) high.

Peres to visit India May 17-19 : Israelt Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is to make a visit to India may 17-19, the Foreign Ministry announced in Jerusalem Wednesday, reports AFP.

It will be the first visit by an Israeli Foreign Minister to India since the countries restored diplomatic relations in January 1992

On April 18 the Press Trust of India announced that Percs would be making a visit in May, without giving a precise date. According to the Indian news agency, India might be seeking israeli anti-terrorist know-how

- AFP/UNB photo Israel to allow 5000 Palestinians to settle permanently in WB, Gaza

JERUSALEM, Apr 29: Israel is ready to allow 5,000 Palestinians living abroad to settle with their families in the occupied territories this year as a gesture to boost the peace talks, official sources said to-

day, reports AFP. The 5,000 many of them women and children, have until now been granted only three-month summer visitors' permits for the West Bank and

Gaza Strip. But from this year they could stay permanently, the sources said, provided in the coming days "progress is made in talks with the Palestinians delegation.

A ninth round of Middle East peace talks opened in Washington on Tuesday.

Israel has announced that 30 long-term Palestinian deportees can also return home as the first of what is expected to be a series of gestures.

Israel radio said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was also prepared to hand over tax collecting in the territories to the Palestinians before an autonomy agreement is reached. Palestinians have bitterly resented paying taxes to the oc-

The Israeli delegation to the peace negotiations would also propose to the Palestinians to take administrative and budgetary control for education, health, tourism, and employment services in

the autonomy framework. The Israelis have also worked out plans to allow the Palestinians to set up a 4,000strong armed police force, the

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said Wednesday: "These policeman will take care of all civil and criminal affairs concerning the Palestinians population of the territories."

Israeli settlers and Israeli visitors to the territories would remain under the jurisdiction of the Israeli police.

Shahal added that Palestinian "Security" prisoners now jailed in the occupied territories would be transferred to Israel for the period of autonomy while common criminals would fall under Palestinians jurisdiction.

Another report adds: Syria's top negotiator to Middle East peace talks said Wednesday the peace process could be jeopardized by the lack of progress in discussions with

"Unless there is that change in the Israeli position, which has prevented so far any meaningful progress in the peace process, it's going to be difficult," Mouafaq Allaf said after par icipating in a morning session on the second day of

ried. It's only the second day but all of us know that this round is very crucial after more than four months of interruption. If we do not make more efforts this time to have something different, then the peace process will be jeopar-

"I have started to be wor-

the ninth round of talks.

Allaf added, "Syrian leaders have already done more than anyone can accept. It is very clear when the Arabs say land for peace they're not asking Israel to pay any price." Israeli delegate Itamar

Rabinovich acknowledged the lack of movement, but said Syria had failed in getting past a major obstacle. "We detect a serious intent

but also a difficulty in getting over the hurdle," Rabinvich said. "The Syrians have to get over the hurdle."

Muslim soldiers remove the bodies of 96 victims who were

killed in the fighting between ethnic Croats and Muslims

in the central Bosnian town of Vitez on Wednesday.

US President Bill Clinton (R) speaks to the press in Washington Wednesday as Lee Brown (L), the newly appointed drug Czar, looks on. Clinton answered questions about the situation in Bosnia and said that the US must take tougher steps to end the war in Bosnia despite the lack of consensus in Congress on how to proceed

2000 Kashmiri policemen refuse to resume work guarding armouries where

NEW DELHI, Apr 29: Some 2,000 Kashmiri policemen disarmed by the Indian army refused to resume work in Srinagar today to press for the arrest of an officer they hold responsible for a Muslim constable's death, reports AFP. They are out but they have

not joined duty," said K R Menon. Operations Deputy Chief of the Border Security Force (BSF), the Indian paramilitary unit blamed for last week's death of Kashmiri constable Riaz Ahmad.

A Kashmir administration official spokesman said that only police wireless operators had returned to their posts. Menon said BSF men were the army after an operation early Wednesday ended a sixday takeover of Srinagar's police headquarters by the protesting officers. The protesters were confined to barracks after the army crackdown. They were

weapons of the disarmed po-

licemen have been dumped by

dered to resume work. The Kashmir government spokesman, however, said some 1,000 of the disarmed policemen were being interrogated by the army and the BSF in connection with their strike which led to the siege of po-

subsequently released and or

Diana had eating disorder during ill marriage to Charles

her estranged husband Prince Charles, reports AFP.

adolescence and could obscure the sufferer's real problems. Diana is said to have suffered similar eating disorders dur-

The royal couple, whose separation was announced in December, attended a dinner in honour of visiting Portuguese President Mario Soares, seated at the same table but

Pakistan wants to improve

ISLAMABAD. Apr 29 Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Balkh Sher Mazari told the US ambassador on trust and confidence be

continue the 'market friendly' economic policies of his sacked predecessor Nawaz Shartf and hold free and fair elections on the promised date of July 14.

economic aid to Islamabad

China-Taiwan accords to open a new chapter of relations SINGAPORE, Apr 29 : China and Taiwan signed historic formal agreements today that both sides said would open a new chapter of relations after

more than four decades of enmity, reports Reuter. The bridge we have built is milestone for orderly ex changes and future relations between the two sides, chief Taiwanese delegate Koo Chen-Fu, head of the semi-official

> One of the four facts, signed in Singapore at the end of the highest-level contact between communist China and nationalist Taiwan since the end of the Chinest civil war in 1949, launched a formal channel for talks between the two old ad versaries.

told reporters.

Other agreements charted directions for future economic and cultural cooperation, and specified ways to verify each other's documents and deliver registered mail from each side.

This meeting was a historic moment in relations between the two sides. It was very important for the future development of relations, said Wang Daohan, Chairman of China's association for relations across straits exchange foundation, , the Taiwan Strait.

In a signing ceremony tele vised to Taiwan, Koo and Wang

swapped their seats in a ges ture of cooperation and exchanged signed documents and champagne toasts. The two semi-official bod

tes set up to handle relations

in the absence of official ties

left differences over economic

issues out of the joint state-

- AFP/UNB photo

The talks scheduled to end on Wednesday, were extended a day after the two sides failed to bridge differences on some issues — particularly demands by Taiwan for protection of investment in China and by Beijing for direct air and sea

China said it did not plan to take legal steps to heighten already adequate protection of Taiwanese investment, while Taiwan refused to discuss such political issues as opening direct trade and air links. Koo a close associate of

Taiwanese President Lee

Teng-Hut and a member of the

ruling nationalist party's top

policy-making committee, said

it was impossible to agree on

everything in the first round of Establishing a systematic channel of communications

and reaching consensus on principles for resolving problems was a good foundation for better future relations, he said This indeed is the opening of a new chapter in the exchanges between both sides of

the Taiwan Straits, Koo said. A western diplomat said the establishment of a framework for dia ogue would contribute to healing wounds left from four decades of cold war confrontation.

The agreements call for a working-level meeting of the semi-official bodies every three months and a meeting at the Secretary-General level every changes between China and six months, alternately in

Beijing or Taipei. "I understand the two sides

lice headquarters.

are also talking about setting up branch offices of the semiofficial organisation on each other's territory. This virtually is establishing a quasi-diplomatic t.e. the diplomat said. The agreements also cover

arranging business conferences and exchanges of visits this year by youths, journalists, technicians, researchers and scientists. The two sides also agreed

to harmonise technical terms

and standards and promote technical cooperation computer and other industries. The high-level talks were held against a backdrop of rapid growth in economic ex-

Taiwan. Taiwan's Board of Foreign Trade said on Wednesday China would replace Japan as

three years. It said Taiwan's exports to China would reach US 8 billion dollar this year and US 10 billion dollar in 1994.

Taiwan's third largest export

market in the next two or

The growing ties have sparked some concerns in Taiwan, the main opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), which wants the island to declare independence and abandon the idea of reunification, demonstrated outside the talks to protest what they called political deals with Beijing.

Gas explosion kills 13 in Turkey UMRANIYE, Turkey Apr 29.

Thirteen people were killed and some 20 missing Wednesday after an explosion of methane gas at a garbage dump in this Istanbul suburb buried slum dwellings in an avalanche of rubbish, officials said, reports AFP Some 1.500 firemen and army rescue workers aided by

helicopters were digging through the trash in search of those buried beneath a 25-meter (75-foot) thick layer of garbage that covered a dozen shacks, rescuers said. By nightfall, the rescuers

said they had found 12 dead bodies and pulled 11 survivors from the smoking heap, one of whom died later in hospital.

ties with US

Wednesday that Islamabad wanted to transform source tics with Washington to the old tween allies, reports Reuter. Ambassador John Monjo also heard Mazari assuring him that his administration would

Relations between the United States and Pakistan have soured since Washington stopped all military and new