State employees barred from wearing Islamic dress in Algeria

ALGIERS, May 18: Algeria's military-backed government announced Monday a ban on state employees wearing Islamic dress in a further crackdown on Islamic fundamentalism, reports AFP.

In a statement published by the state-controlled press, the

President Francois Mitterrand

inaugurated France's latest su-

per-speed train line Tuesday,

by disappointment over high

service to London and

The chisel-nosed Train a

Grande Vitesse - TGV or high-

speed train — rolled from the

Gare du Nord station in Paris

across 220 kilometers (136

miles) to the northern city of

Lille in 1 hour, 18 minutes

Nord-Europe has been marred

by complaints over huge price

hikes and new delays in con-

necting the line overland to

Brussels and to London via the

Channel Tunnel.
Disputes between operators

and contractors have pushed

the scheduled opening of the

Channel Tunnel to May 1994.

Belgium has meanwhile de-

Lille from 1994 to 1996.

layed a high-speed linkup to

protesting price hikes and re-

ductions in the number of

standard trains. Non-reserva-

tion fares at peak times will

rise from 178 francs (dlrs 33)

one way to 301 francs (dlrs

reported, AP reports from Rome.

anti-Mafia prosecutors last year.

after 13 years on the run.

reports from Rome.

"for at least another week."

AFP reports from California.

taken by surprise as he slept, RAI-TV said.

Consumer groups are

with Mitterrand on board.

Brussels, reports AP.

particularly targeted 'Kamis', a France launches long white Islamic garment, and beards favoured by memsuper-speed train bers of the now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). LILLE (France), May 18

The ban also covers the dress worn by former Afghan veterans which has been imported into Algeria by Muslim but the triumph was dimmed fundamentalists. prices and postponements in

Interior Ministry said govern-

ment workers could be sacked

if caught wearing "clothing

emblems or accessories which

express in an ostentatious way

- membership of an ideologi-

cal, political or religious cur-

The press said the ruling

However, it was unclear whether the ruling also applied to the 'Hijeb' garments worn by women, a style of dress introduced into Algeria from the Middle East and criticised in the Media even before Monday's announce-

The dress regulations also order all hostesses, drivers, guards and policemen to wear The christening of the TGVregulation outfits.

> The order further bans 'partisan activities' such as political meetings and opinion - sounding at work places, although it says trades union rights are guaranteed.

> The government has been fighting a bitter and bloody campaign against Islamic fudamentalists since the military stepped in to cancel elections in January 1992 that the FIS had been poised to win.

> Since being banned the FIS had conducted a guerilla-style campaign against the authorities, provoking a crackdown by the authorities on Islamic ac-

Top Mafia boss held in Sicily:

Special agents arrested the reputed No 2 boss of the Mafia in

a dawn raid Tuesday at a farmhouse in Sicily, state television

Benedetto "Nitto" Santapaola, a fugitive for 10 years, was

Santapaola, 55, has been implicated in a series of

He was considered the No 2 man in the Cosa Nostra,

Italian authorities, with the help of Mafia informers, have

Mother Teresa improving: Mother

Teresa, who was hospitalized after breaking three ribs in a fall

here last week, is improving slowly but will remain in clinic

for at least another week, her doctor said Monday, AFP

"Mother Teresa remains at risk because of her age and

He said the 82- year-old nun "is still suffering greatly but

she would like to leave hospital to resume her activities,"

adding that he would try to keep Mother Teresa at his clinic

Quake hits California: A powerful

earthquake Monday shook parts of California and Nevada, but

there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

scale, said John Misc of the US Geological Survey's National

populated region 35 miles east - southeast of Bishop,

Earthquake Information Centre in Golden, Colorado.

Yucca Valley, Bakersfield and Lone Pine.

Tuesday, AP reports from Seoul.

development by North Korea.

men to give up, they said.

reports from Jerusalem.

the West Bank, the sources reported.

of Palestinian children killed by Israeli troops.

government.

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Jiang Enzhu.

exempt itself from international nuclear controls.

California, said Pam Tatalaski of the Information Centre.

The temblor measured 6.0 on the open-ended Richter

The quake hit at 1120 GMT and was centered in a sparsely

It was felt in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the California cities of

DPRK, China hold talks on N-issue:

North Korea and China held secret in-depth talks last week

on the crisis precipitated by North Korea's decision to leave

the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, a news report said

Communist north, and is expected to play a key role in

resolving concerns over suspected nuclear weapons

unidentified high-ranking Western diplomat as saying secret

talks took place in a VIP room at the Beijing airport May 9-10

between North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam and

urging North Korea's Pyongyang government to reverse its

decision to ban inspections of suspected nuclear facilities and

3 militants held in Egypt: Egyptian

police on Monday arrested three militants in clashes in upper

Movement, had opened fire on policemen who surrounded an

apartment where they were hiding in Manfalut, north of the

The four members of the outlawed Jamaa Islamiyya

The policemen, using megaphones, had called on the four

One of the extremists was wounded in an exchange of fire

The other three were arrested, they said, adding that

police found large quantities of arms, explosives and leaflets

Palestinians in the territories. 18 on the Gaza Strip and six on

meanwhile issued a protest Monday against the rising number

Rabin, found that 35 children had been killed by military

gunfire in the territories since December 9, 1992 - of whom

13 were under the age of 13 and 22 were between and 16.

The Israeli Human Rights Association B'Teselem

The association, in a report to Prime Minister Yitzhak

(southern) Egypt, police said, AFP reports from Cairo.

city of Asyut - a fundamentalist stronghold, they said

that lasted until the militants ran out of ammunition.

China is the closest superpower ally of the isolated

South Korea's national news agency Yonhap quoted an

The talks would have preceded a UN Security Council vote

assassinations of top officials, including the murders of two

behind Salvatore Riina, who was captured earlier this year

struck major blows at organized crime over the past year.

cardiac problems," said the physician, Vincenzo Bilotta.

US looking for new ways to Off the Record end fighting in Bosnia

WASHINGTON, May 18: The United States is looking for new ways to end they fighting in Bosnia even while rejecting a Russian proposal for a foreign ministers meeting at the United Nations on worldwide peacekeeping operations, re-UN peace plan. ports AP.

The State Department on Monday dismissed the Russian proposal as untimely while Congress is still deciding how much money to commit to UN peacekeeping operations in the Balkans, the Middle East and other world trouble spots.

But Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher has begun talking to individual ministers by telephone and may invite some to Washington in his search for ways to settle the ethnic conflict in Bosnia since Bosnian Serbs have rejected a

Christopher was appearing Tuesday's before the House Foreign Affairs Committee to discuss the budget but was likely to face questioning on the Bosnia issue.

Without pronouncing the plan drafted by mediators

Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen dead, State Department officials said Monday there could be other ways to achieve a settlement in the 13-month-old

The peace plan would end the fighting and give Serbs more territorial control than they had before the war. But over the weekend, Bosnian Serbs rejected the plan in a referendum, just as their selfstyled assembly had earlier.

Christopher, skeptical of the Serbs from the outset even thought their leader, Radovan

Karadzic, had signed the agreement, said this could lead to new opportunities for US-European cooperation to resolve the dispute.

The State Department immediately endorsed the idea of posting monitors at the Serbian border with Bosnia to see if Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic keeps his pledge to stop providing arms and other supplies to Bosnian

'The monitors' presence should be effective," department spokesman Richard Boucher said, implying the United States may ask the UN Security Council to arm the monitors.

Boucher said some traffic had crossed the border. But he declined to say whether weapons still were being delivered to the Bosnian Serbs, who have seized some 70 per cent of the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Karadzic declared on Sunday that no military or political pressure could stand in the way of a "Greater Serbia." "Bosnia never existed, and

it will never exist," he said. In response, Boucher said: "We support a Bosnian state. We always have." Quickly rejected by the administration was a Russian proposal for a foreign ministers meeting at the United Nations on Friday to discuss peacekeeping operations generally.

"It's not the time for it right now," Boucher said, since Congress is in the midst of deciding how much to spend on peacekeeping and other budget items.

42 Japanese

peacekeepers

in Maputo

two Japanese soldiers arrived

in Maputo Monday to serve in

the United Nations Peacekee-

ping Operation in Mozambique

Japanese soldiers, six of whom

arrived as an advance party last

Thursday, will be engaged in

the port and airport operations

in Maputo and Mozambique's

The UN military presence

in Mozambique is now virtually

complete. The principal force

is made up of five infantry bat-

talions. They have now all ar-

rived and total 4,721 soldiers.

units also present, the total

number of armed 'blue hel-

mets' comes to just over 5,000

- a figure well short of the ex-

largest battalion of 1,320 sol-

diers who will be protecting

the corridor from Malawi to

The Italian battalion of

1,039 soldiers is guarding the

Beira corridor- the road, rail

and oil pipeline which runs

across central Mozambique

from the Zimbabwean border

Storms kill 43

in China

least 43 people were killed in

a series of rainstorms, hail-

storms and tornadoes that hit

southern China's Guangxi

Province over the past five

weeks, a report said today, re-

the natural disasters which be-

gan in mid-April also injured

more than 400 people in 160

countries in Guangxi, which

borders Vietnam, the semi-of-

ficial China News Service

ple were affected by the rain-

storms, hailstorms and torna-

does that struck more than 40

per cent of the province, CNS

vestigations showed estimated

property damage and eco-

nomic losses at (21 million

The report said initial in-

More than 1.6 million peo-

In addition to the deaths,

ports AFP.

(CNS) said.

dollar

HONG KONG, May 18: At

to the deep sea port at Beira.

the northerns port of Nacala.

Bangladesh has sent the

pected 7-8,000 UN force.

Adding the smaller support

second city, Betra ... shw in

The total contingent of 48

(UNOMOZ), reports AFP.

MAPUTO, May 18: Forty-

gton from a weekend trip to New York with her formerly shoulder-length hair cut to just below her ears. The new style is layered on the sides, slightly tousled and swept away from her face. The White House wasn't saying who wielded the shears. But the Washington Post said in Tuesday editions the first lady's new hairdo was the work of Frederic Fekkai, a New York-based frenchman who charges 275 dollar a cut and counts among his clients actresses Marla Maples, Sigourney Weaver, Ellen Barkin, Meryl Streep and TV jour-

She returned to Washin-

sue, reports AP.

nalist Lesley Stahl. "I know it's been on all of your minds," Mrs Clinton told a commencement crowd of nearly 30,000 Monday at the University of Pennsylvania.

"It is after all the No 1 issue. I had a friend call me from Japan" after seeing her on TV, the first lady said dryly. "I told him the truth, that when the president called for

First Lady's new hairdo

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton has a new hairdo.

PHILADELPHIA: Suddenly, the main issue is the mane is-

sacrifice and asked everybody at the White House to give him a 25 per cent cut. I decided to go for a 50 per cent cut and Mrs Clinton, who received an honorary degree and deliv-

ered the keynote speech, was wearing a cap and gown. The full effect of the new do was lost under the black mortarboard, but there was no question that it was shorter.

> It's never too late to quit smoking

ORLANDO: It's truly never, ever too late to quit smoking, a study shows, reports AP.

Researchers found that the lucky few who are cured of lung cancer improve their chances dramatically of avoiding new bouts with the disease if they kick the habit.

Lung cancer is notoriously hard to treat. Only about 6 per cent of people with small cell tumors, a common form of the disease, can be cured. However, the latest study found that these survivors are five times more likely to suffer recurrence of their cancer if they keep smoking.

Dr Gary E Richardson, who directed the study, said he remembered as a medical student seeing wards of lung cancer patients who continued to smoke. "Doctors often told them that it was too late to stop," he said.

He said his work shows that to the contrary, "it's never too late to quit".

Richardson conducted his study while at the National Cancer Institute. He now works at Monash Medical Center in Clayton, Australia. He presented his findings Monday at a meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

She escapes after being run over by train WILLINGTON: An 8-year-old girl lay frozen in terror on

railroad tracks as a freight train passed over her, missing her by no more than a foot, reports AP. "Don't tell Mom," were Nicole Bernier's first words to her

brother when she got up screaming and crying. Her only injuries were the bruises she suffered when she fell trying to get out of the way of the 12-car train Sunday afternoon, state police said.

Nicole, who lives near the tracks, said she tripped twice trying to get out of the way of the train. She remembers little of the moments when the train passed over her and thinks she passed out.

"A little bit at the end I woke up. I thought it was going to hit my head because my head was up," she said Monday. Nicole, her brother, Robert, 10, and a friend had wan-

dered down the tracks when the Central Vermont Railway train suddenly appeared around a bend traveling 40 mph (64

After the train passed, David said Nicole made no sound. "I thought she was dead," he said. Then, she got up crying

and screaming, "Don't tell Mom," he said. The engineer thought he had hit the child, and radioed a

dispatcher to send an ambulance, officials said. The engineer had begun braking when he ran over the girl. Jacqueline Duguette said she kept her daughter home

Monday from school because she was still shaken and tearful. "The great message here is don't ever play on train tracks," she said.

Trial of former Soviet coup plotters put off

MOSCOW, May 18: A court Tuesday indefinitely suspended the treason trial of the alleged masterminds of the August 1991 Soviet coup, agreeing with the defendants that Russia's chief prosecutor was biased, reports AP.

Families of the 12 defendants smiled and burst into applause when presiding Judge Anatoly Ukolov read the decision. The defendants themselves, however, showed little reaction.

The three judges said they would formally ask the Supreme Soviet legislature to consider the "serious violations" by Prosecutor-General Valentin Stepankov and his deputy, Yevgeny Lisov, who together wrote a book about the

coup, "Kremlin Plot."

to consider how the independence of the prosecution team could be guaranteed. Stepankov and Lisov are not participating directly in the trial and the nine prosecutors handling the trial have said they are acting independently. But defense lawyers argued

Ukolov said the judges

would ask the Supreme Soviet

that the prosecutors' careers depend on their boss, Stepankov. "The very title of the book

shows that the Prosecutor-General has an opinion on the case and is not objective," said defense lawyer Alexet Gologanov. "It is a very crude infringement on the rights of the accused."

The trial is now indefinitely postponed until the Supreme Soviet considers what to do.

Demand for punishment of 2 ex-presidents on

Police-students clash in Seoul

calling for the overthrow of President Hosni Mubarak's SEOUL, May 18. Rtot police Three Palestinians shot dead: Israeli troops on Monday shot dead two Palestinians in the occupied territories while an 11-year-old boy shot by soldiers on Sunday died of his wounds, Palestinian sources said, AFP In a series of confrontations, troops wounded 24

the anniversary of the 1980 crackdown in southern Kwangju city and to demand that former Presidents Chun Doo-hwan and Roh Tae-woo be punished. The students say they ordered soldiers to shoot civilians. Both former presidents have denied direct involvement

"Let's punish Chun Doohwan and Roh Tae-woo, who are the main culprits of the Kwangju massacre," shouted more than 4,000 students as they marched from the main gate at Scoul's Yonsei University.

moved in to block the march, hand-to-hand fighting broke out. Students kicked and punched, and police pummeled students with clubs and

There were many injuries, but the number was not immediately available.

An estimated 11,000 riot police were deployed in Seoul

to guard the streets around the homes of the two former presidents, US installations including the US Embassy, and government buildings. Chun, helped by Roh and

other generals, setzed power in a coup in December 1979. The coup triggered nationwide protests that lasted for months, leading to a 10-day uprising in Kwangju.

About 200 people were killed and hundreds more wounded in armed clashes between civilians and soldiers in the provincial capital, 260

investigation.

be uncovered," said the Rev Kang Sin-suk, leader of a citi-

who succeeded Roh in February, becoming South Korea's first civilian president in three decades, has appealed

In Kwangju Tucsday, some 30,000 citizens rallied in the city center and thousands of mourners visited a cemetery where victims of the 1980 bloodshed are buried.

to South Koreans to forgive the

two former presidents.

"We anxiously hope that the real truth of the incident will zens group demanding a new

30 Afghan war veterans arrested in Jordan

AMMAN, May 18: Security authorities have detained at least 30 Muslim fundamentalist veterans of the Afghanistan war as they returned home over the last month in a new crackdown on Muslim militants, security officials said

Monday, reports AP. The officials, speaking on

condition of anonymity, gave no details. But Jordanian authorities, determined to prevent Islamic extremism crupting as it has in North Africa, have cracked down on militant fundamentalists in re-

cent years. The Muslim Brotherhood, one of Jordan's most powerful parties, said at least 13 of the

detainee remain behind bars. It is pressing the government to release them.

Ibrahim Khreisat, a leading Brotherhood official, said all the men were arrested at Amman airport after they arrived from Pakistan. Brotherhood legislators met

with Prime Minister Zeid bin Shaker Saturday to demands the detainees' release. Government officials confirmed that the detainees issue was raised, but gave no details.

Jordanian and Western intelligence officials say that several hundred Jordanians went to Pakistan in 1981, shortly after the Soviet's intervened militarily in Afghanistan.



Two soldiers from the Bosnian army's 101st Brigade on patrol in the Hrasno quarter of Sarajevo watching Monday Sert positions in Lukavica, a suburb of the Bosnian capital. The Bosnian army is fighting against both Bosnian Croats and Bosnian Serbs in different parts of - AFP/UNB photo Bosnia-Herzegovina.

BRIFFY Khmer Rouge accuses US of arming Vietnam, Phnom Penh the United States was accused

BANGKOK, May 18: For the first time in years the Khmer Rouge Monday singled out the United States for a violent attack, accusing it of secretly arming Vietnam and Phnom Penh in a bid to eradicate the

Marxist group, reports AFP. In a radio broadcast monitored here, the Khmer Rouge cited "accurate reports from Phnom Penh, New York, Washington" and "other" unspecified Asian countries revealing a "secret plan" hatched by Washington and "its close

allies" to destroy the group. The aim was to weaken Khmer Rouge forces to make it easier to integrate other resistance factions into the Phnom

Penh government, it said. The Khmer Rouge said the United States came up with the idea after plans for elections to be held this month under the auspices of the United Nations ran into prob-

lems. However, it went on to say the plan was already "well under way" by July 1990, when then Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and US Secretary of State James Baker The peace accord on

Cambodia, which paved the way for the elections, was not signed until 1991. A US diplomat here said he was unaware of what meeting

the report was referring to, adding the story was a product of Khmer Rouge "imagination". He said Monday's attack on Washington was exceptional. The Khmer Rouge, saying

the May 23-28 election is a ploy to legitimise their foes in the Phnom Penh government, have launched a campaign of violence in a bid to disrupt the

with other western countries in the past, this is the first time the United States has been singled out for such a violent attack in years, observers

Ironically, when between 1979 and 1991 the Khmer Rouge were fighting alongside two other resistance groups against the government installed by Vietnam in 1978,

by Phnom Penh of secretly providing the group with indirect aid despite claiming neutrality.

Vietnam invaded the country in late 1978 to oust a genocidal Khmer Rouge regime.

Meanwhile, the Phnom Penh government claimed Tuesday that 800 agents from the Khmer Rouge and its allies have infiltrated the Cambodian capital in order to create chaos during this weekend's UN election.

"Not all of these agents are terrorist troops. Some are Although criticised along commuting psychological warfare, such as spreading ru mours," said senior govern ment advisor and Deputy Minister Khieu Kanharith.

> Up to 10 people have al ready been arrested on suspicion of such activities, he said "The Khmer Rouge are try

> ing to invite people to demonstrate against the government, to organize some riots inside the city", Khieu Kanharith said.



The Miss Universe contestant from Colombia, introduces herself during the semifinal in Mexico City Monday. The winner of the pageant will be chosen May 21. - AFP/UNB photo

armed with truncheons and shields battled thousands of students Tuesday to block them from marching to the homes of two former presidents to demand a new investigation of a bloody military crackdown, reports AP. Students protested to mark

As about 1,000 riot police

kilometers (160 miles) south of Seoul.

President Kim Young-sam,