# 30 hurt as ROK students clash with police

Iran frees 100 Iraqi POWs: Iran

released one hundred remaining Iraqi Prisoners of War

(POWs) unilaterally today, a spokesman for the POWs

of representatives of the International Red Cross, the

Prisoners of War as a sign of good will and a respect to such a

Gunbattle kills 5 in Pakistan: Three

police officers and two bandits were killed in a gunbattle

after bandits firing rocket-propelled grenades ambushed a

police van in southern Pakistan, officials said Friday, reports

as dacoits, attacked the police van late on Wednesday in hills

on the border between the provinces of Sind and Baluchistan,

lawless southern province of Sind since May 1992 when the

army was deployed in the province to halt a mounting wave of

Quake shakes California: An earthq-

uake measuring 5.0 on the Richter Scale shook a wide area of

central and southern California on Thursday night,

seismologists said. There were no reports of damage or

(0477 GMT Thursday) was centred about 16 miles (26 kms)

south-southwest of Bakersfield, about 100 miles (160 kms)

north of Los Angles, according to a spokesman for the

He said the preliminary magnitude was 5.0, which ranked

It was felt from the skyscrapers of downtown Los Angeles

to desert communities 200 miles ( 320 kms) north of the

RAF plane crash leaves 5 dead:

Royal Air Force Hercules transport aircraft crashed Thursday

in the mountains of northern Scotland, killing at least five of

the nine people on board, the RAF said, feports AP from

Wreckage, some burning, was spread over a wide area of

Rescue teams and medics found five bodies as they

searched the rugged terrain late Thursday, said an RAF

spokesman, who was not identified. The search would resume

at Glen Loch in the Grampian mountains northeast of Blair

Atholl - a sparsely populated region on the edge of the

Peruvian bus mishap takes 21:

Twenty-one passengers died and 11 were injured when a

bus plunged 50 metres (160 feet) off a road in the southern

heard the plane's engines and then an explosion.

The Hercules went down shortly before 4 pm (1500 GMT)

Eyewitness Alasdair Keillor, a local gamekeeper, said he

The quake, which struck at 9.47 on Thursday evening

The gunbattle erupted when the gangsters known locally

Police and troops have killed more than 200 bandits in the

The release of the Iraqi POWs took place in the presence

He said Iran released the remaining number of Iranian

Commission said Friday, reports Irana-Pool from Tehran.

SEOUL, May 28 : Riot police firing teargas battled more than 2,500 students Friday to block a march on the homes of two former presidents, reports AP.

It was the second day of violence near the homes of former Presidents Roh Tae-woo and Chun Doo-hwan in western Seoul. Dissidents say Chun and Roh ordered the bloody military crackdown on pro-democracy protests in 1980.

In eastern Seoul, about 40,000 students held an overnight rally Friday to form a new nation-wide radical campus alliance. They vowed street protests to demand the punishment of the two ex-presidents.

Dissidents and militant students have demanded the two ex-president be held accountable for the 1980 bloodshed that left about 200 people killed in the southern city of Kwangju.

Lets punish Chun and Roh, students shouted as they wielded steel pipes to break through about 1,500 riot troopers several blocks from the

spokesman added.

humanitarian measure."

Reuter from Karachi.

kidnappings, sabotage and violence.

injuries, says Reuter from Los Angeles.

California Institute of Technology.

as a moderate earthquake.

the remote, hilly countryside.

at first light on Friday, he said.

Highlands.

officials said.

homes of the two former presi-

Police used volleys of teargas and truncheons to repel a wave of attacks that lasted for three

hours. At least 30 students and police were injured, bringing the total injured in 10 days of protests to at least 250 people. There was no immediate report of arrests.

Clouds of teargas wafted over western Seoul. Shops closed and pedestrians rushed for cover. Traffic at nearby Yonsei University came to a halt as thousands more students staged a sit-down on a main boulevard.

Kim, a former dissident and victim of past military-dominated governments, has pushed a reform drive to end the authoritarian legacy of his prede-

In Kims three-month-old campaign, about 1,000 government officials, educators and business leaders have been arrested or purged.

# Iranian pilgrims barred from Off the Record staging rally in Mecca

NICOSIA (Cyprus), May 28: Saudi Arabian authorities on Thursday blocked thousands of lranian pilgrims from staging a mass anti-western demonstration in Mecca similar to one that led to a blood bath six years ago, Iran's news agency said, reports AFP.

Hundreds of security forces with anti-riot equipment and backed by armoured personnel carriers and water cannons moved into the streets-leading to rally site Thursday morning. imposing a virtual curfew on the area, the Islamic Republic News Agency said.

Iranian officials in Mecca said the more than 100,000 Iranian pilgrims were allowed to hold the traditional "Deliverance from Pagans" ceremony, but only in dispersed groups.

There was no immediate comment from Saudi officials.

but there could have been some sort of silent compromise to allow the ceremony in small groups due to the improving relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

In 1987, an attempt to march on the Grand Mosque touched off a confrontation with police that led to the death of 402 pilgrims, mostly Iranians. Iran boycotted the hajj for three years after that."

Residents of Mecca said that there was no evident tension from the overseeing Saudi The Shi'ite Muslim function

at the annual Islamic pilgrimage, or hajj, is intended for pilgrims to stress their disengagement from infidels. Many speakers take the floor denouncing atheists and hailing Islam, usually turning it into an anti-Western demonstration.

The Iranian news agency, which is monitored in Nicosia,

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif (C) addressing the members of the

National Assembly Thursday during its first session after the Supreme Court declared

Indian dailies say

SC judgement may make

Benazir biggest loser

"The full text of the judge-

pulsory reading wherever

democracy is cherished," said

the Calcutta-based Statesman

back upon periodic declara-

tions of martial law and bouts

of dictatorial rule, history will

record that the foundation was

laid by the superior judiciary.

Said the Economic Times:

"India can only feel pleased

that its little neighbour is

growing up. Democracy is

about responsive governance

and its progress in Pakistan

can only help improve rela-

The papers agreed that

"Khan has suffered an unac-

Khan's future was seriously in

tions with India."

"If Pakistan finally turns its

in an editorial.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's April 18 dissolution of the National Assembly illegal.

Cyprus, reported that Saudi authorities prevented Thursday's ceremony altogether. Tehran television denounced the "ban", saying it violated an agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia on the rights of Iranian pilgrims, which allowed the rally the past two years away from the centre of the holy city.

But an official reached at the Iranian centre in Mecca by telephone told The Associated Press in Jeddah: "It's not prevented. We performed our prayers, but in small groups."

Asked whether this was done by prior agreement or because the Saudis prevented them, he said it was "by agreement of all."

The man, who spoke in broken Arabic, refused to give his name.

On Wednesday, the Iranian agency reported that Moha-

- AFP/UNB photo

ceptable loss of face. After a

has no option but to resign

the Statesman said. The ob-

server called his position un-

But it was Bhutto's future

"Benazir Bhutto's future, al-

that seemed gloomiest, the

ready jeopardised by her collu-

sion with the President for

small gain, is in peril," said the

tunistic deal with the

President, which involved her

husband getting a job in the

caretaker cabinet, has severely

tarnished her public image and

could also lead to rumblings

within the PPP (Pakistan

People's Party ) and may be

even a call for her ouster," said

"As for Bhutto, her oppor-

mmed Mohammadi Reyshari, the leader of the Iranian contingent estimated this haji at 116,000 had called for a turnout in large numbers for

the ceremony. The agency, IRNA, reported that Reyshari said the rally would "voice the cries of people who are fed up with US hegemony and oppression of those deprived people whose wealth is plundered by international thieves."

In the decade of rule by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the ceremony was often also used to incite against the

Saudi ruling family. Relations with Iran were ruptured by Saudi Arabia following the 1987 riots. They were restored in 1991 in appreciation for Iran's neutral stance over the US-led Operation Desert Storm that ended Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

# Iraqi drug smuggler beheaded in S Arabia

RIYADH, May 28: An Iraqi drug smuggler was publicly beheaded Friday in the northeastern city of Hafr al-Batin, the Interior Ministry announced, reports AP.

At least since the Gulf War, it was the first apparent case of an Iraqi caught in the Saudi Arabian dragnet for drug smugglers and peddlers.

Drug traffickers have faced the death penalty since the mid-1980s when the oil-enriched region became a target for dealers.

The kingdom rules by Islamic Sharia or law, which prescribes beheading for convicted murderers. Theologians later decided drug dealers merited the same fate.

The scores beheaded by sword since then have been mainly Pakistanis, but have also included Saudis and Nigerians.

# Security in Colombo tightened

COLOMBO, May 28: Security in Colombo has been intensified following the government's move to disarm all persons possessing illegal firearms, Defence Ministry sources here said today, reports Xinhua.

Security persons in Mufti have been deployed in busy city areas where extremist elements are reportedly roaming in the city planning to disrupt normaley. In the past few days the police took into custody a number of Tamil youths who had entered Colombo.

Certain groups who were earlier allowed to carry arms have been disarmed now, according to Defence sources. Only the police and the three armed forces can carry arms

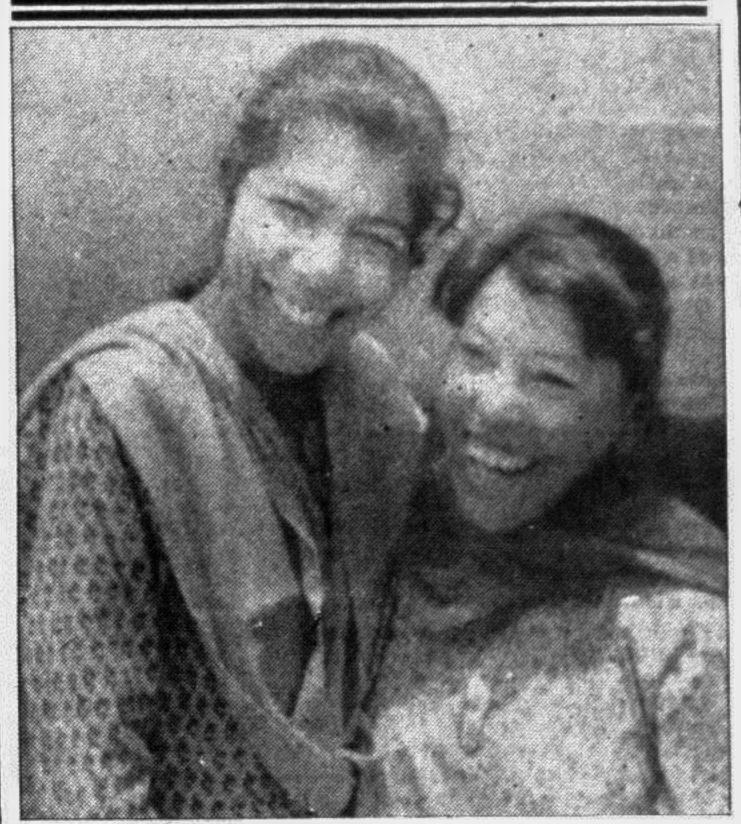
here now. The sources added that even personal bodyguards will not be allowed to carry weapons into state institution during the visit

of politicians. Meanwhile, the police are regularly checking lodges and hotels suspected of harbouring disruptive elements entering the city to carry out violent opera-

# Clash displaces 2000 blacks in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, May 28: More than 2,000 blacks have been displaced by township violence near Johannesburg in which more than 50 people have been killed since the weekend, the Red Cross Society said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

A Red Cross statement said it was distributing food and blankets to people who had fled the carnage in Thokoza and Katlehong townships, about 25 km (15 miles) southeast of the city.



KATHMANDU: Two Indian mountaineers, Santosh Yadav (L), 25, and Dicky Dolma, 18, smile for the camera. Yadav is the first Indian woman to have conquered Mt Everest twice between May 1992 and May 1993 and Dolma is the youngest climber to have reached the top of Everest via the south-east - AFP/UNB photo ridge route.

## Surgeons refuse smokers heart by-pass surgery

LONDON: Surgeons at two leading British Cardiology Hospitals have ignited a controversy in the medical profession by refusing to perform heart by-pass surgery on patients who smoke, reports AFP.

They say it would be pointless, costly and unfair to nonsmoking patients on long national health service wait lists for the same operation.

The practice has been both supported as realistic, and condemned as unfair, unethical and immoral. "It's Fascist," said Fleur Fisher, Director of THICS, science

and information for the British Medical Association. "One can understand that these surgeons are under great

pressure," she said. "They have a great many patients and very limited resources. But we have to be very careful. In British society, smoking tends to be a habit of the poor, the disadvantaged and the ill-educated.

"Refusing medical treatment on the basis of such a habit... smacks of a totalitarian approach," said Fisher, a non-smoking physician

Christopher Ward, a cardiologist at Wythenshawe Hospital in Manchester, said his service had some 600 patients on a six-month waiting list for by-pass surgery.

# Cow's death videotaped

LYNCHBURG: A bicycle race spectator videotaped a cow's race from a slaughterhouse into a crowded street and its demise under the wheels of a truck, reports AP.

The tape, shot May 12, has been shown repeatedly by television stations and animal rights activists sent a copy to the US Department of Agriculture.

The cow leaped from a window of a Dinner Bell Meat Products plant and galloped toward a street where the Tour Du Pont, an internationally televised race, was scheduled to pass later in the day.

The video shows race fans watching as police cornered the animal and fired at least one shot, hitting the 1,100-pound (4.950 kilogram) cow in the nose and sending it running through a chain-link fence.

A slaughterhouse truck chased the cow and pinned it against a bridge before a police officer shot the cow in the head at close range. The truck than accidentally ran over the

twitching animal's hind legs.

Police and Dinner Bell officials said the cow had to be shot to death because it posed a threat to pedestrians and cars and could have interfered with the bicycle race.

## He whistled at the female juror

LONDON: A court on Thursday quashed a 14-day jail sen tence slapped on a man who whistled at an attractive female juror, reports AP.

Paul Powell, 21, couldn't contain his appreciation of juror Alexa Hamley, 22, when he spotted her in Cardiff Crown

Court last week He let out a piercing wolf call as Miss Hamley and her fellow jurors filed into the Welsh court to deliver a verdict.

Powell, who was in the court for the sentencing of a

Miss Hamley said she didn't mind. But Judge Geofferey Kilfoil did. He found Powell guilty of contempt of court and sentenced him to 14 days in jail.

friend, spent one night in jail before being released on bail. On Thursday, the Court of Appeal quashed his sentence, saying it was "inappropriate."

Miss Hamley told Independent Television News that instead of being offended by the wolf-whistle, "I was rather flat-

But if the court was determined to impose a punishment, "a few hours in the cell to cool off would have done it, she

#### Smoking changes cervical cells of women LONDON: Smoking causes genetic changes in the cervical

cells of women, which may be a reason why smokers are four times more likely to develop cervical cancer, scientists said in a report published Friday, according to Reuter. A study reported in the British Medical Journal found ge-

netic changes in the cervical cells of smokers. The changes were seen in DNA, the basic genetic material in cells.

The changes can be attributed to the binding of carcino gens in tobacco to the DNA in the cell." Dulcte Coleman of the Imperial College Medical School wrote in the report.

The study covered 39 women, 18 of who identified them

sclves a smokers.

Virtually all the women had some changes in their genetic

material but 13 of the smokers had a high level of change in their DNA, Coleman said.

3 pro-democracy

#### Andean foot hills, police said Thursday, reports AFP from Ica. The vehicle was carrying some 40 business owners to conference in Santiago de Chocorvos when the accident occurred Wednesday. Police blamed the crash on mechanical problems.

China, UK open fourth

round of talks on HK

BEIJING, May 28: Chinese and British negotiators opened a fourth round of talks Friday on the political future of Hong Kong after making little apparent progress in previous sessions, reports AP.

"Although we only have two days for this round, we hope we can make some progress," said Sir Robin McLaren, Britain's ambassador to China.

As usual, neither McLaren nor Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Jiang Enzhu would say how the talks are going.

The two sides are trying to work out an acceptable ar-

rangement for holding Hong Kong's last elections under British rule. The colony returns to Chinese rule in 1997.

Last October, the British-appointed governor of Hong Kong Chris Patten, proposed expanding voter participation in the 1994 and 1995 elections for local government. His proposal enraged China, which broke off diplomatic contacts for six

Friday's talks opened a day after the news that the two sides would also resume talks on a dirs 10.6 billion new airport for the territory.

# UN okays 900 observers for El Salvador's election

NEW DELHI, May 28

Leading Indian newspapers

applauded on Friday the

restoration to power of

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz

Sharif by a Supreme Court

judgement that they said gave

hopes of better relations with

overturning President Ghulam

Ishaq Khan's dismissal of the

Sharif government last month

was courageous and that the

biggest loser may turn out to

be opposition leader Benazir

Bhutto, who backed the dis-

hope that Pakistan was finally

on a firm road to democracy,

which India has long said was a

prime requirement for normal

relations with its old enemy,

The judgement spurred

missal.

they said

They said the judgement

New Delhi, reports Reuter.

UNITED NATIONS, May 28: Thursday approved unaniforces, reports Reuter.

Boutros-Ghali, in a recent report, expressed alarm that the training of a new civilian police force was moving slowly.

The Security Council on mously 900 UN observes to monitor El Salvador's planned 1994 elections and urged the government to phase out its rightwing paramilitary security

Secretary-General Boutros

### Russian missile sale to China concerns US major missile producing coun-WASHINGTON, May 28: tries to limit the spread of

ment bids fair to become com- decent interval, he may feel he

tenable.

newspapers said.

Hindustan Times.

the Pioneer.

Russia's delivery of dozens of surface-to-air missiles to China is raising concerns that Beijing might apply the technology to ballistic missiles or export it to anti-western countries, US officials say, reports AFP.

The shipment of SA-10 anti-aircraft and anti-missile missiles from Russia in recent weeks went ahead despite Washington's expression of concern to Moscow over the sale, an administration officials

The SA-10 sale does not vi-

cials and nongovernment experts said. The classified reports surfaced as President Bill Clinton

missiles that can carry nuclear

or chemical warheads, US offi-

plans to announce Friday that he will extend Most Favoured Nation (MFN) trading status to China for another year despite criticism The State Department has

warned that it would impose sanctions against China if it violates arms transfer agree-

# olate an agreement among One-third quota to give Indian women voice in local council

CALCUTTA, May 28: When West Bengal votes on Sunday in village-level elections, one third of the 71,119 seats under contest are reserved for women, reports Reuter.

The quota scheme, to be implemented in states across India, is designed to bring grassroots power to rural

The initiative, passed by parliament but still awaiting ratification by several of India's 25 states, could have a far reaching impact on the social structure on rural India, where women have long been treated as inferior and in some places as little more than

We expect a tremendous West Bengal for 15 years.

While agreeing she wants true equality rather than reservation, she argues that the one-third quota will give women for the first time a voice in how local councils are run in a country where many

women remain downtrodden victims of unremitting toil and "Women cannot achieve full Gupta told Reuters at the Communist Party headquarters in Calcutta," the West Bengal capttal. "But it provides scope for development. We are getting

equality through reservation,"

mains an clusive dream for Around half of Indian women are illiterate. Female infanticide, child marriage and dowries remain common. Women are raped in police

custody and sometimes burnt

by in-laws if they do not bring enough dowry on marriage. "All over India, women's position is dismal, " says

Gupta, who leads the party's women's wing in West Bengal. Women are the worst sufferers from social injustice across the country." Women activists see the

try of 880 million people. Although education is free

to all to the age of 12, more girls drop out of school be-

their mothers at home with younger children. Educating women and

helping them take part in viland prompting them to act on their own, social workers say.

nutrition and children's education," said Kochi Thagavel, a community health and development worker who helps run a church-based project in vil-

lages near the central Indian cause they are needed to help city of Nagpur.

The quota scheme has al ready been implemented in several other Indian states, including Orissa and Assam where community workers say women council members focus more on social and welfare needs than male counterparts, who are more concerned with power and money.

Karnataka has had a reservation of one-third seats for women since 1983. "The majority of these

poorly educated says Revathi

#### rested in Shanghai as authorities prepare for the fourth anniversary of the crackdown on the 1989 democracy movement, a veteran dissident said Friday. reports AP The three, Gao Xianliang, Yao Tiansheng and Han Lifa,

activists held

in Shanghai

BEIJING, May 28: Three po-

litical activists have been ar

Gao and Yao, both factory

were arrested Wednesday

workers, were picked up on their way to work.

# Smoking kills 3m a year: WHO GENEVA, May 28: The

World Health Organisation (WHO) reported on Thursday that smoking was killing three million people a year - three times as many as in the 1960s and the death toll was rising steadily, reports Reuter. In a report marking World No-Tabacco Day next Monday,

the United Nations agency

urged doctors and nurses to

set an example by abandoning

ernments to make hospitals

and health centres into no-

cigarettes and called on gov-

smoking zones. Tobacco use caused two million deaths annually in the industrialised states

impact on women and the rusocial system," said Shyamali Gupta, an All-India Secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) which has ruled the eastern state of

sexual repression.

the chance. Despite equal wage legislation introduced by the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi,

equality in the workplace remost women.

lack of education of young girls as helping to perpetuate the unequal status of women, sustaining a vicious circle of deeprooted poverty and rapid population growth across the coun-

lage-level politics are the first steps in tackling rural poverty

"By bringing women into the village level decision-making process, you are more likely to make progress on a whole host of issues, such as family planning, safe water,

The southern state of women were illiterate or

morning, the dissident, Zhang Xianliang, said by telephone from Shanghai.

Social Studies in Bangalore.