PARIS, July 8: France confirmed on Wednesday it had stopped supplying nuclear fuel to India and said it would await a full inspection of installations by the International Atomic Energy Agency before deciding whether to resume, reports Reuter.

"Our contract to supply uranium to India, which expires

Pak bunker on border protested

NEW DELHI, July 8: India has objected to Pakistan digging bunkers on the India-Pakistan border and has expressed concern that Pakistan is training and helping armed terrorists cross into India, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said Wednesday, reports AFP.

said on Wednesday about 130

Georgian soldiers had been

killed in fighting with sepa-

ratist forces in the Black Sea

gion of Abkhazia during the

agency reported, says Reuter.

The report, monitored by

the British Broadcasting

Corporation (BBC) quoted

Sigua as saying the situation

remained serious on the front-

line and both sides had suf-

Tiblisi, said more than 280

wounded Georgian soldiers

had been taken to hospitals in

been killed since Georgia sent

troops to the Black Sea region

last August to suppress nation-

alist demands for more auton-

most of the territory except

for the capital Sukhumi and

Abkhazian separatists hold

Hundreds of people have

Sigua, speaking from

fered heavy losses.

the Georgian capital.

hist five days, Interfax news

at the end of October 1993, has been entirely honoured," Foreign Ministry spokesman Richard Duque told reporters. There will, therefore, be

no new deliveries since France's external nuclear policy is conditional on a complete inspection by the IAEA." India has so far refused to submit to a thorough IAEA in-

The French position, first reported in an Indian newspaper on Tuesday, conformed to policy by all supplier countries of nuclear fuels, Duque added.

spection.

130 Georgian soldiers

killed in Abkhazia

Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua The Georgian Health

LONDON, July 8: Georgian the town of Ochamchira.

The Hindu Daily, quoted by the Press Trust of India news agency, said the decision would primarily affect the Tarapur Nuclear Power Station. However there would be no immediate problem with supply as Tarapur had fuel stock piled, it said.

Ministry said earlier on

Wednesday that 58 Georgian

soldiers had been killed in the

fighting since last Friday alone.

quoted Georgian sources on

Wednesday as saying fighting

was intensifying along the

Gumisia river near Sukhumi,

where Abkhazian forces were

lieved it was possible for

Russia and Georgia to conduct

a "civilised dialogue" on a set

tlement in Abkhazia. Georgia

has repeatedly accused Russia

talks resumed in Moscow on

Wednesday. Last week UN

Secretary-General Boutros

Boutros-Ghali proposed that

50 UN military observers be

deployed in Georgia in the

Sukumi and Ochamachira dis-

Russian-mediated peace

of supporting the separatists.

Sigua said he no longer be-

ltar-Tass news agency

Nearly 400 were wounded.

Militants invited to participate in elections

Delhi rejects tripartite talks to solve Kashmir crisis

NEW DELIII, July 8: The chief administrator of Kashmir has invited militants to partic ipate in elections to be held "as early as possible in the northern state," the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Wednesday, says AFP.

The invitation of KV Rishna Rao, a former Indian army chief and the federally-appointed Kashmir Governor, coincided with the overnight deaths of three people and separate clashes which left 59 people injured, PTI said.

Rao ruled out suggestions of a tripartite talks between the two South Asian rivals and the militants to resolve the

Troops also rescued three state administration officials Wednesday, a day after they were kidnapped from the northern Bramulla district by Muslims rebels spearheading a campaign for Kashmir's sepa-

ration from India, it added. The Kashmir governor said the provincial elections would be "absolutely free and fair and whichever party was returned to power would be allowed to function its full term."

The militants are free to join any of the old political parties or form a new party if they so wish, the retired general added.

"If they think they have popular support why do they not dare to face people at the ballot instead or trying to stall or disrupt the political process at the best of Pakistan," he

India has accused Pakistan of arming and training the militants. The charges were denied by Islamabad.

The last elections in Kashmir in 1987 were marred by allegations of widespread irregularities. The state has been under Federal Rule since

Rao, who took over as governor on March 12, said the objective of his administration

was to restore normaley and revive democracy as early as possible.

To achieve this the security forces have been directed to put down militancy at the earliest. He said in a late Tuesday state-wide broadcast.

The governor asked the militants to lay down their arms since it would be futile for them to carry on with their

present activities. Nearly 100 people, a majority of them suspected militants, have died since July 1 in a stepped up Indian offensive to crush secessionism in troubled Kashmir, Indian's only Muslim majority state.

in Somalia for exercise

TOKYO, July 8: About 2,000 American troops have landed in Somalia as part of a military training exercise and humanitarian relief effort under the United Nations, a senior US official said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The officials, who accompanied President Bill Clinton to Tokyo for the Group of Seven economic summit of top industrial nations, stressed that the unannounced operation was only a training exercise and not a move aimed at countering the renewed violence in Somalia.

"It was connected to both a

He said the amphibious African nation where UN manitarian relief.

160 fundamentalists arrested in Egypt

and sixty five suspected Muslim extremists were rounded up in upper Egypt on Wednesday, a day after the arrest of two suspected terrorists in Cairo, police said, reports AFP.

damentalists were arrested in Minya province, while 14 wanted in connection with attacks against police were picked up in Abu Tig and 17 more in villages around Dairut, in Asyut province, police said.

This followed the arrest on Tuesday in Cairo of two alleged leaders of the military wing of the fundamentalist Al-Jihad Clandestine Organisation.

The men, identified as Antar El-Zayat and Yasser Shahbun, were alleged to have received guerilla training in Iran and to have been involved in the killing of three policemen in Cairo in January, along with several petrol bomb at tacks against police vehicles

2,000 US troops

training exercise and a humanitarian efforts," the official

force landed north of Mogadishu, the capital of the forces have been trying to restore order and provide hu-

CAIRO, July 8: One hundred

A total of 134 Muslim fun-

which injured four.

BAGHDAD: Deputies raise their hands in Iraqi parliament Wednesday to support a motion calling on the United Nations to stop committing "unfair action to Iraq". Parliament Speaker Saadi Mahdi Saleh said, "We shall do whatever we can to respond to aggression and UN - AFP/UNB photo Fresh US sanctions

Drascovic to BRANGERFERY

building up.

King Hussein hospitalised: King Hussein of Jordan was admitted to hospital on Wednesday with an irregular heart-heat but his doctors said he was in very good and satisfactory condition, Reuter reports from Amman.

The state-run news agency Petra gave no further details. The king, who had a successful cancer operation in a US hospital last August, was treated for arterial fibrillation - irregular heart beat - in Uune 1991.

Andorra may get UN membership: The Security Council on Wednesday considered tiny Andorra, wedged in the Pyrenees mountains between France and Spain,

for UN membership, Reuter reports from United Nation. The Council in a formal meeting began the procedure to accept Andorra into the United Nations, which is expected to proceed without difficulties. The general assembly must then approve the application.

The principality of Andorra, with an estimated population of 56,000, would be the 184th UN member. Its application follows that of Monaco, which was the last member accepted and has a population of 29,7000.

16 killed in Kashmir violence: At least 16 people were killed in incidents involving separatist

militants and security forces in India's northern Jammu and Kashmir state, police said on Wednesday, Reuter reports from Srinagar. An Indian army Major was killed by a landmine, thought to have been planted by militants, in Larkipora village in the

southern Anantnag district. A soldier was also injured. . In a her incident, soldiers opened fired on a bus in the same district, killing a passenger and injuring 18 others, wit-

Gunbattles were reported from other areas of the Kashmir valles for the second day running, police said.

Sanali gunmen kill 6 UN men: Gunmen shot dead six United Nations employees in Mogadishu on Wednesday, according to Radio Mogadishu, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, Reuter says from London.

The radio, quoting the Somali National News Agency Sonna, said two UN employees were ambushed and killed near the Bannadir Hospital in the Somali capital and the other four were killed elsewhere in Mogadishu.

Earlier, a UN spokesman told reporters in Mogadishu that gunmen shot dead two Somalis working for the UN. He said there were reports that the two had been shot in cold

blood. Three of their colleagues have been abducted and a fourth was missing, he said.

Landslides claim 22 in Nepal: At least 22 people were killed when torrential rains triggered landslides in mountainous eastern Nepal, police said Thursday, Reuter reports from Kathmandu.

They said rescue workers had retrieved 22 bodies after much of a hill village in Okhaldhunga district, about 120 km (75 miles) cast of Kathmandu, was swept away on Tuesday.

7 fundamentalists shot dead in

Islamic fundamentalists were shot dead Wednesday in a hostage-taking incident in western Algeria, bringing the number killed here in violent incireports AFP.

In a day of violence five ctvilians were also shot dead by Algiers.

they burst into their groundfloor apartment, the Algerian agency APs announced without giving the number of hostages.

LONDON, July 8: French

Scientists say the technique could be used to predict vol canic eruptions and together

The method, known as synthetic aperture radar interferometry," requires no

journal Nature, the re-National Centre of Spatial Observatory in Toulouse, said

hunger strike

BELGRADE, July 8: Serbian opposition leader Vuk Draskovic pledged in a letter published today to continue his hunger strike in protest at his and his wife's incarceration, despite appeals for him to resume eating, reports AFP. "I will not stop my hunger

continue

strike so long as my wife Danica is still being held,' Draskovic said in the letter, which was dated Wednesday, the seventh day of his strike. The letter was written at

the Belgrade Clinic where the writer and his wife are undergoing treatment under armed police guard.

"I am not suicidal," said the leader of the Serbian Renewal Movement. "But I know that a hand is in the process of tightening the knot around my neck and that of Danica.

JERUSALEM, July 8: An

Isracli MP said Wednesday that

a majority of cabinet ministers

tions with the PLO to break the

deadlock in Middle East peace

Party which leads the ruling

coalition, said in parliament

that Foreign Minister Shimon

Peres was among those who

wanted talks with the Palestine

Health Minister Haim Ramon,

Justice Minister David Libai,

Finance Minister Avraham

Shobhat, Police Minister Moshe

Shahal and Labour Minister

Meron said the seven labour

Ora Namir were also in favour.

Tourism Minister Uzi Baram,

Liberation Organisation.

Hagai Meron of the Labour

talks, reports AFP.

were in favour of direct negotia-

"I know whose hand it is. The whole world knows," he

on Nigeria likely WASHINGTON, July 8: The Nigeria's two army-created political parties agreed on Wednesday to the formation of an interim national govern-

United States warned Wed nesday of new sanctions against Nigeria if the African country's military leadership continues to refuse to allow the transition to civilian rule, reports AFP.

State Department spokesman Joe Snyder said Washington was following the situation closely in Nigeria to determine if tougher sanctions were appropriate. He declined to elaborate.

Washington already has suspended aid to Nigeria except humanitarian assistance.

spread in Nigeria since General Ibrahim Babangida annulled the June 12 Presidential elections, refusing to allow the results to be published. The regime has called for new elections July 31.

Unrest has been wide-

Reuter from Abuja reports:

ministers had told him "in pri-

vate on several occasions that

they favour a direct dialogue

wing Meretz Party, also in the

18 member coalition cabinet.

talks with the PLO to break the

But Prime Minister Yitzhak

called Sunday for Israel to open

stalemate in the peace negotia

Rabin, as well as Peres,

promptly turned down their

Russia and the United States

reported progress in multilat

eral Middle East peace talks on

Wednesday but said there could

be no breakthrough without the

political will of Israel and the

Reuter says from Moscow:

Four ministers of the left-

with the PLO."

proposals.

the present military government," Tony Anenih, chairman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), told a news conference. The SDP is the party of

Babangida.

Moshood Abiola, a millionaire Muslims businessman who claimed victory in last month's presidential election before it was scrapped by the govern ment following alleged malpractices.

ment to help defuse a political

nounced in Abuja, the federal

capital, after a meeting with

military President Ibrahim

on the formation of an interim

national government which, on

August 27, will take over from

"Both parties have agreed

The agreement was an-

crisis, their chairmen said.

Majority of Israeli ministers favour direct talks with PLO

less Israelis and Arabs showed a genuine desire for peace. "There's only so much we can do as the honest broker. They have to want peace as well," he told a news confer-

Palestinians and Israelis have held 10 rounds of peace talks over 20 months, but the latest ended last week with still no agreement on principles to guide future Palestinian selfrule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Assistant US Secretary of

State Edward Djerejian said

there were limits to how much

Washington could achieve un-

Djerejian was speaking after the latest meeting of a multilat

eral steering committee that reviewed the progress of five working groups, all including representatives of Israel and diaspora Palestinians. Djerejian said the groups

dealing with economic development, water resources, refugees, arms control and environmental issues, were making good progress.

But he said: "All parties recognise that only at bilateral negotiations and through resolution of political issues that di vide them can real peace be achieved between Arabs, Israelis and Palestinians."

He added: "The conditions are right for peace making and the opportunity is here.

Off the Record

Women in weaker position to negotiate safer sex

NICOSIA: Women in many Commonwealth countries are more vulnerable to AIDS than men because of their subordinate status, according to documents submitted on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The documents, submitted to a meeting of Commonwealth ministers responsible for Women's Affairs, say more women than men are infected with the HIV virus and the rate of infection among women is increasing faster than among men. Women also seem to be infected at a younger age than men.

"Women in many communities are powerless, socially, and economically dependent on men, and in a weaker position to negotiate safe/safer sex regardless of their status," one of the documents said.

The World Health Organisation estimates the world has 13 million people infected with the HIV virus, which causes "Women are caught in a vicious circle where they are more

vulnerable biologically, culturally, economically, and politically, each factor reinforcing the other," one document says. This is the first time a Commonweath women's meeting

has discussed AIDS and its impact on wo nen. The discussion focused on women's role in preventing the disease, caring for victims and the ways in which governments could address cultural constraints hindering AIDS prevention.

Tropics nurseries of world's most species?

LONDON: A US researcher said Thursday that they had analysed ancient fossil records to prove that the tropics were the nurseries of most of the world's species, reports Reuter.

David Jablonski of the University of Chicago said he had studied the fossils of hundreds of sea animals dating back hundreds of millions of years. In an article in the science journal Nature, Jablonski said

he had set out to test whether the tropics were home to more species than anywhere else on earth because more life originated there or because they were a last haven for life gone extinct in harsher climes

"Few historical data have been available ... to test directly whether the tropics are a cradle or a museum," he wrote.

He found that more species originated in the tropics than elsewhere. This provides direct evider ce that tropical regions have been a major source of evolutionary novelty, and not simply a refuge that accumulated diversity owing to low extinction rates," he concluded.

Environmentalists have fought for the preservation of tropical ecosystems because of the diversity of life they har-

Valium able to save feverish children

BOSTON: Giving Valtum to feverish children who have had a seizure in the past seems to safely prevent the reappearance of new convulsions, researchers from Jufts University and Boston University reported, says Reuter.

Most doctors now give a daily dose of Phenobarbital to children who have had one fever-related seizure, hoping to prevent future ones. But Phenobarbital treatment may sedate youngsters and reduce their IQ.

Boston University's Theodore Colton said the treatment could be important because some children who have a seizure during a fever risk developing epilepsy later in life.

The advantage of treatment with Valium, also known by its generic name Diazepam, is that the drug only needs to be given every eight hours when the child develops a fever. A report on the research is published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

In tests on over 400 youngsters who received either Valtum or a placebo, a team led by Paul Rosman of Tufts' Medical School showed an 82 per cent reduction in new seizures among children whose parents properly gave the drug when a fever appeared.

Heparin antidote to asthma

BOSTON: Inhaling an acrosol form of the blood-thinner heparin may prevent asthma attacks that occur after exercise, three Miami researchers report in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine, reports Reuter.

A dozen volunteers, all of whom were known to suffer from exercise-induced asthma, inhaled either heparin, a placebo or the currently prescribed drug, cromolyn sodium, for 20 minutes before exercising.

The heparin treatment produced the best results, the re-

Compared with placebo treatment, 10 out of 12 people were breathing easier when they took the heparin before their workout. Cormolyn produced improvements in only seven cases out of 12 and two people got significantly worse. The study was involved only with trying to understand why

the asthma attacks occur after exercise. But the research

team, led by Dr Tahir Ahmed of The University of Miami

School of Medicine, said the work "May form a basis of novel therapeutic approaches". Heparin thins the blood, reducing the likelihood of clot-

ting. But it also carries a risk of excess bleeding. The Ahmed team found that inhaling the heparin did not increase the bleeding risk. The treatment apparently works by preventing the release

of chemicals from cells known as mast cells, the cells in

volved in allergic reactions, which spark the chain reaction

Wedding in prison

that creates asthma attack after a person has exercised.

JERUSALEM: A Lebanese guerilla jailed for life for a fatal attack in 1979, married an Arab Israeli woman on Wednesday and then returned to his jail cell alone, a Prison Service spokesman said, reports Reuter. He said Samí Kuntar, 32, married a woman from the

northern Israel town Acre, ten km (six miles) from the coastal town of Nahariya where he came ashore 14 years ago and killed three members of a Jewish Israeli family in their A fourth family member, an infant, suffocated while hiding.

Last month an Israeli life prisoner who shot dead seven Palestinians in May, 1990, married his Canadian girl friend and was allowed to consummate the wedding in a special

The spokesman said if Kuntar, who is serving four consecutive life terms in a remote desert Prison, wants a similar privilege, he can apply for it, and the request will be weighed on its merits."

Algeria

ALGIERS, July 8: Seven dents to 38 in less than a week,

armed groups at Blida, south of The seven fundamentalists had taken members of the same family hostage in Tlemcen when

scientists said today they had been able to map an earthquake using a new technique that provides a clearer picture than ever before, reports

natural disasters...

ground measurements, using satellite observations instead.

In an article in the science searchers, working at the Studies and The Mid-Pyrences they had used satellite data to

Scientists map quake in California

map changes on the earth's surface after an carthquake in southern California in June

They found it showed a

clear picture of deep quakes

that cause little surface dam-

"For deeper earthquakes associated with little or no surface rupture, radar interferometry will become a powerful tool for measuring surface displacement," the article said "Unlike surveying techniques,

there is no need to install ground stations before the earthquake."

The method is safer and more accurate than any used before, one top geologist said. "No other technique has

been able to map the actual

displacement filed with any thing like this kind of detail, William President of the US geological survey commented in an accompanying article. "The image contain information about the earthquake-

produced motion of some 300

million points."

President said the tech nique could be used to predict volcanic eruptions, watch for ground subsidence due to oil or water wells and to detect landslides safely.



A Bosnian Muslim girl (C) cries as she reunites with her parents after arriving in Travnik Wednesday together with some 250 other refugees from the Serb-controlled town of Banja - AFP/UNB photo Luka and surrounding villages.

Azerbaijan may not join CIS ISTANBUL, July 8: Azer-

baijan has no intention of joining the Commonwealth of Independent States formed by other republies of the former Soviet Union, visiting deputy premier Resul Gultiyev said here Wednesday, reports AFP. Some degree of economic

the CIS as having no existence in reality, only in rhetoric. Refa Gulizade, state adviser for Azerbaijan's oil industry.

contact would be maintained.

Guliyev said, but he dismissed

said the policy of rapprochement with the west pioneered under ousted President Abulfaz Elehibey would remain unal tered.