15 hurt as Indian troops use batons, teargas

Kashmiris rally for independence

SRINAGAR (India), Aug 5: At least 15 people were injured here today as Indian troops used batons and tear-gas to break up protests by thousands of Kashmiri Muslims demanding independence, police said, reports AFP.

The security forces also fired shots over the heads of stone throwing, slogan-shouting protestors in several areas of the city, a hotbed of Muslim separatism, witnesses said.

The largest demonstration took place in the Sonawar area of Srinagar, where a curfew imposed Sunday was lifted this morning, they said.

Some 10,000 Kashmiris chanting "we will die for Islam" and "we want freedom" took to the streets in Sonawar, witnesses said.

Downtown Srinagar remained under curfew for a fifth straight day but several thousand people ignored the order to remain in their homes and held anti-Indian protests, witnesses

The demonstrators included about 100 Kashmiri lawyers who marched through Srinagar's main square, Lal Chowk, demanding that Indian troops leave Kashmir, India's only Muslim majority state, they

Two lawyers were injured when border guards charged the demonstrators and beat them with batons, the witnesses said. Journalists were also attacked and three were slightly injured, including an AFP re-

Police said that 12 people were injured elsewhere in clashes between the security forces and demonstrators.

At least seven people have been killed and dozens injured since anti-Indian protests erupted here Sunday following

the killing of a 10-year-old Muslim boy and his parents by Indian border guards.

A sub-inspector in the paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) has been arrested in connection with their deaths and faces murder charges, according to a BSF spokesman.

Shops and business have been closed across the Muslimmajority Kashmir valley since the killings and protests spread to the town of Anantnag, 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of Srinagar, today.

Police said that an indefinite curfew had been imposed in Anantnag.

Thousands of people have died since Kashmiri Muslim militants launched a violent champaign for the secession of the northern state in 1989.

Tens of thousands of Indian troops have been deployed across Kashmir to crush the

militancy and the security forces have been frequently accused by international groups of committing human rights vio-

Reuter adds from Islamabad: Markets were closed in Pakistan-ruled Kashmir on Wednesday by a strike called to protest at alleged killings in the Indian-ruled part of the disputed region, Pakistan's official APP news agency said.

Transport remained off the roads and protest marches were held in the Azad (free) Kashmir capital of Muzaffarabad and other towns, it said. The strike was called by the

pro-independence Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), which urged the United Nations in a memorandum to take immediate steps to end "genocide of Kashmiris and afford them their right to selfdetermination."



PAKISTAN: Amanullah Khan (C), Chief of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chants anti-India slogans with his supporters in front of the United Nations office on Wednesday. The JKLF organised the protest rally to condemn the Indian atrocities in Indiaheld Kashmir. - AFP photo

Birds use light

to find ways

LONDON, Aug 5: Birds use natural light to adjust their in-

ternal navigation systems when

they migrate, two studies pub-

lished today find, reports

Scientists believe birds use a

kind of compass inside their

heads to find their way. But

how they actually set the com-

pass to account for the earth's

teams published studies in the

science journal Nature showing

that birds use natural light in

learning the direction in which

looking at the sun. Light pho-

tons interact with the electrons

But they do not do this by

they are supposed to migrate.

Two husband-and-wife

rotation remains a mystery.

Extremists for death of Mubarak

CAIRO, Aug 5: An underground Islamic militant group in Egypt on Wednesday called for the death of President Hosni Mubarak to avenge the hangports AFP.

ings of militants this year, re-He, who "kills unfairly," must face the same fate, the Jamma Islamiya said in a statement. Mubarak last year ordered trials of Muslim militants held in mili-

tary courts, which have since issued many death sentences. Fifteen have been carried

The group urged the .
"Egyptian Muslim people to get rid of the tyrant Mubarak, responsible for the pools of blood, poverty and dependence on the

The Jamma Islamiya also challenged Mubarak to prove it was involved in recent bombings in Cairo, charging that they were carried out by the Israeli Intelligence Service

BRIFFIY

Iran denies Iraqi charges: Iran denied Iraqi allegations on Wednesday that it was involved in a car bombing outside a hospital in central Baghdad, AFP reports from Tehran.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman here, Morteza Sarmadi, issued the denial carried by the official Irna news agency saying Baghdad had systematically but unsuccessfully tried to defame Iran in the past few years.

In Baghdad, an Iraqi Information Ministry statement blamed "agents supervised by the Iranian regime" for the attack Wednesday, using official Jargon for members of the Shi ite Muslim opposition, some of whom are based in Tehran.

Sanchez new Bolivian president: Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada was officially selected president of Bolivia Wednesday as the Congress confirmed results from popular elections June 6, AFP reports from La Paz.

The US educated businessman won 97 of the 155 votes of lawmakers in the required second round of voting, after having received 36 per cent of the popular vote in the first round.

After no candidate won an outright majority in the June vote, the election went to Congress. Second placed Hugo Banzer, a former military ruler in La Paz, withdrew from the contest a few days after the vote, ensuring Sanchez de Lozada's victory.

Rebel ambush kills 5 in Manila: A police chief, two of his aides and two communist guerillas were killed as a result of a rebel ambush in the northern Philippine province of Cagayan, police spokesmen said yesterday, AFP reports from Mantla

The guerillas of the communist New People's Army (NPA) ambushed police inspector Juanito Somera and his party in the town of Gonaga late Tuesday, resulting in the death of Somera and two of his men.

However, responding policemen managed to kill two of the guerillas before the group fled, police spokesmen said.

TV journalist shot dead: An Algerian television journalist has been shot dead in predominantly Muslim fundamentalist district near the capital, the television reported on Wednesday, AFP says from Algiers.

of his parent's house in Cherarba, east of Algiers, by one or two unknown gunmen on Tuesday evening, the television said.

Rabah Zenati, 35, was shot three times in the head in front

Zenati had reported on the "march of the democrats," against Muslim fundamentalist "terrorism" which took place last March.

die in Santiago gas leak: An attempt to rescue workers suffocating in a gas leak down a manhole ended with six people including their rescuers dead, state television reported on Wednesday, Reuter says from

Two workers installing telephone lines down a manhole in the southern city of Concepcion fainted following a gas leak from a burst pipe, Television Nacional reported.

On seeing their suffocating colleagues two other men went down the manhole to save them but they too were struck down by the gas, the news programme said. As the four workers lay dying, two passers-by joined the rescue effort but were also hit by the gas fumes, it said

Newsman jailed in S Africa: A South African journalist was sentenced to one year in jail Wednesday for refusing to give police information about controversial ANC youth league leader Peter Mokaba, AFP reports from Johannesburg.

Andries Cornelissen, 23, a reporter for the Africans newspaper Beeld, was subpoenaed under Section 205 of South Africa's criminal procedures act to reveal information about Mokaba's actions at a rally in April, where the youth leader led supporters in chanting "kill the boer, kill the farmer".

The sentence was immediately condemned by the African National Congress (ANC) and the white minority government's National Party (NP).

Abiola to visit US: Moshood Abiola, the presumed winner of Nigeria's annulled presidential elections, told the BBC in London that he was going to the United States to discuss his country's political crisis, AFP reports from London.

Abiola -- who took everybody by surprise when he flew into Luton Airport on a private jet Wednesday night -- re-iterated that he would not accept the military regime's plan to hand over power to a provisional civilian government on August 27.

He said he was going to Washington for talks about the crisis caused by Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida's annulment of the June 12 presidential elections.

WASHINGTON, Aug 5: The United States has cancelled a nuclear test planned for 1995, the last test for which a date had been set, the pentagon said

Wednesday, reports AFP. The cancellation had been seen as likely after President Bill Clinton's decision last month to extend a US moratorium on nuclear testing until at least September 1994, although he did not rule out tests after

George Ullrich, Deputy Director of the Nuclear Defence Agency, said that the nuclear testsite in Nevada where the 1995 test, codenamed 'mighty uncle," was to have taken place would be maintained in working order although the cancellation means there are no more US nuclear tests scheduled.

Israeli minister meets PLO official to end deadlock

Israeli Cabinet minister met secretly with a top adviser of PLO chief Yasser Arafat in an attempt to break the deadlock in the Middle East peace talks, radio reports said, according to

The late July meeting in Cairo came as Secretary of State Warren Christopher was preparing for his Middle East trip to bring the parties back to the negotiating table. He was to meet Thursday with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The meeting was the highest level contact yet between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, which Israel has refused to negotiate with di-

Legislators urge

Babangida not to

hand over power

Northern Kaduna state have

urged General Ibrahim

Babangida not to hand over

power to civilians on August 27

as scheduled, an official state-

ment said Wednesday, reports

State Assembly told Babangida

in Abuja that a postponement of

the handover date was needed

because of the prevailing politi-

cal climate and to allow time for

a fresh, properly-conducted

The Assembly for neighbour-

ing Katsina state last week

made a similar proposal to the

June 12 presidential election,

widely held to have been won by

Mashood Abiola of the Social

Babangida annulled the

presidential poll.

Democratic Party.

military.

A delegation of the Kaduna

LAGOS, Aug 5: Legislators in

JERUSALEM, Aug 5: An rectly, calling it a terrorist or- by Sarid, radio reports said

Rabin opposes open negotiations with the PLO, fearing it would raise the stakes for Israel. But a growing majority in his center-left Cabinet backs such talks as the only way to reach an agreement with the Palestinians.

Israel army radio said Environment Minister Yossi Sarid of the left-wing Meret bloc met with Nabil Shaath, Arafat's political adviser. Sarid was accompanied by Dedi Zucker, a Meretz legislator who has previously met with Arafat. Radio reports said Rabin

knew ahead of time about the meeting and was later briefed

WASHINGTON, Aug 5: The

submarines Iran recently ac-

quired from Mostow pose a po-

tential threat to US interests in

the Gulf, the Commander of the

US Submarine Force in the

Atlantic said Wednesday, re-

told reporters at a breakfast

session here that the Iranian

submarines did not represent

an immediate military threat

since the Iranian crew still re-

military picture in the Gulf

more than you or I might ap-

Other nations in the Gulf

"are quite concerned that now

Iran has got a new weapon that

might be used to destabilize the

situation in the Gulf. That's

But, he said, "it changes the

Vice Admiral Henry Childs

ports AFP.

quire training.

Sarid could not immediately be reached for comment.

"The prime minister's knowledge or lack of knowledge about meetings with PLO officials doesn't turn them into meetings on his behalf, even if they involve a Cabinet member," Ben-Ari told The Associated Press.

Shaath told reporters in Cairo Thursday that he had met Sarid "several times" in the past but refused to confirm a specific meeting in recent days.

The first sign of a new thing will be when (Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin) sees fit to announce he will talk with the PLO," he said.

something of a concern and

we're going to have to deal with

Moscow three kilo class con-

ventional submarines equipped

with torpedos. The first was de-

livered last year. A US official

said a second vessel arrived this

week in the Iranian port of

The first submarine is op-

erating only occasionally, Childs

said. "A year from now I think

they'll have a greatly improved

Although the Iranian sub-

marines would be no match for

US submarines, he said, there

was always the risk they could

get "a cheap shot off at an air-

craft carrier of other Americans

who happen to be over in that

part of the world".

military capability," he said.

Bandar-Abbas.

Tehran has bought from

that create magnetic fields inside birds' eyes, helping them to realise where they are. Kenneth and Mary Abel of the State University of New York Iranian subs threat to US interest in Gulf

found that nestlings exposed to unnaturally filtered light seemed confused, while those under a normal sky knew which way to go despite attempts to confound them with artificial magnetic fields.

In a second study, Roswitha and Wolfgang Wiltshko of the Frankfurt University found that birds exposed to red light lost their sense of direction, although light of other colours did not sense of direction, although light of other colours did not have the same effect.

James Gould of the Princeton University commented in an accompanying article that this indicated light photons slam into the electrons that create the magnetic field inside a bird's 'eye, changing

their spin. This could explain why birds use light, rather than the position of the sun or the stars, to help them navigate. But Gould added that all animals, if really lost, would look at the stars or sun to see where they were.

2 arrested for criticising rule of Myanmar junta

BANGKOK, Aug 5: Myanmar's military junta Hasa arrested two opposition members for criticising its rule, state television reported, says Reuter. It named the two as Aung Khin Sint, a National Assembly member from the National League for Democracy (NLD)

and an assistant, Than Min. "U Khin Sint was arrested for writing leaflets criticising the government and Than Min was responsible for distributing illegal documents," state television said on Wednesday night in a broadcast monitored in Thatland, it did not say when they were detained.

A diplomat contacted in Yangon said the announcement of the arrests appeared to be a warning against opposition to efforts by the ruling state Law and Order Restoration Council to institutionalise military dominance of politics in a new constitution.

Off the Record

I want some peace and quiet

LONDON: Princes Diana expressed exasperation Wednesday at always being followed by the popular press, saying she wanted "some peace and quiet." reports AFP.

The estranged wife of Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, was looking tired and strained while attending a go-kart race with her young sons Prince William, 11, and Prince Harry,

She suggested that popular press photographers virtually ruled out her taking a holiday abroad. "There seems little point in going away because don't ever get a break," Diana

They follow me everywhere go and I'd just like some peace and quiet."

On Monday Diana angrily snapped at a photographer waiting for her outside a cinema where she had taken her children. "You make my life hell," the Princess said.

apparently annoyed at press rumours of a "new man in her life."

Benefits for homosexual lovers

PARIS: France has extended medical benefits to non-working partners in homosexual couples; reports AP. 1 19855 200 An anti-discrimination group, Ornicar, brought to public attention Wednesday a previously overlooked decree by health

authorities earlier this spring to extend the benefits. The order has been sent around France to authorities dealing with benefit claims in the state-run health system. It took effect Tuesday in Paris.

The order marks a milestone for homosexual couples in having their unions officially recognised. Court rulings in recent years have leaned the other way, with judges refusing to view homosexual couples as normal and thus eligible for state benefits.

Under the new rules, each person qualifying for state medical benefits - generally everyone who has worked within the past three years - can claim coverage for one person living from his income. The couple must have lived together for at least 12 months.

Besides homosexual lovers, the law applies to, for example, adult children still living with their parents who have not yet found a job and are not covered by special student benefits

It was not immediately clear how many people would qualify for the benefits or how much they would cost.

Ornicar said that the benefits would help assure coverage for victims of the deadly acquired immune deficiency syndrome and prevent AIDS from spreading, thanks to more regular medical

The extension comes at a time that the government, anxious to reduce a swelling deficit, is cutting the state health budget, mostly through greater supervision of claims.

100 tonnes to follow her

JERUSALEM: US rock star Madonna will give a one-off concert in a Tel Aviv park on October 5, the promoter said Thursday, reports AFP.

The American singer will be accompanied by 100 tonnes of equipment and 112 musicians, dancers and technicians. Promoter Zeev Isaac

expects a sell-out 50,000 crowd in Yarkon, where Michael Jackson is scheduled to perform on September 20. Isaac brought Elton John's

to Israel in mid June but the British Pianist walked out complaining of a lack of security after he was mobbed by photographers.



John returned to sing 24 hours later after the British

US cancels '95 | It will not be easy for Hosokawa to lead coalition

TOKYO, Aug 5: Parliament prepared to convene Thursday to choose as prime minister a political outsider who has vowed to clean up a government grown corrupt after 38 years of one-party rule, reports AP.

Japan's new head of government is to be Morihiro Hosokawa, a virtual unknown in national politics 15 months ago when he singlehandedly formed the Japan New Party and declared that the days of the once-invincible Liberal Democratic Party were numbered.

Voters deprived the LDP of its majority in Parliament in an election July 18. Seven opposition parties then formed a ruling coalition, which controls 260 seats to the LDP's 228 in the more powerful 511-seat

But Hosokawa learned quickly that it will not be easy to lead a multiparty coalition that controls only a slim majority of seats in Parliament. The Liberal Democrats served notice Thursday that they plan to be an aggressive opposition force by delaying the Parliament session for hours with wrangling over the selection of a house

The Cabinet resigned Thursday morning, except for Prime Minister Kitchi Miyazawa, who was to leave office as soon as Parliament gathered later in the day to elect. Hosokawa.

Symbols of the transfer of power - a democratic ritual that more than half of the Japanese population has never seen - were many.

In the dull, gray 1930s-era Parliament building atop a hill overlooking the government district, Liberal Democrats left offices they had held for 38 years, as did their weakened longtime rivals, the left-leaning Socialists.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin (L) jokes with a group of World War II veterans as he joins in

the celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the battle of Kursk on Wednesday. The

President took time during his trip to meet local officials and also visited several farming

Both parties moved mountains of documents and furni ture into the halls and handed over part of their office space to three new conservative parties that scored big in the elections Hosokawa's party and two groups formed by renegade

Liberal Democratic legislators. "A change of government has long been the dream of the people," Hosokawa told a gathering of legislators in the coalition Thursday. 'At last that dream has become a reality," At his official residence, the

73-year-old Miyazawa · whose 40-year career in politics has spanned Japan's rise to economic superpower status - departed for the last time to warm applause from staff members, making way for a successor 18 years his junior. Mtyazawa, unable to enact

reforms to clean up rampant political corruption, lost a noconfidence vote in June and was forced to call the elections. "This coalition government must accomplish what the LDP

failed to do - and the takeoff point is political reform," said Keigo Ouchi, head of one of the smaller parties in the coalition. Hosokawa, 55, belongs to the 18th generation of a war-

lord family that for centuries

ruled a corner of rural southern

Japan. As a member of the

1983 to 1991 But his soft-spoken, aristo-



Liberal Democratic Party, he served 12 years in the less powerful upper house of Parliament and as governor of

Kumamoto prefecture from

ambassador intervened.

cratic demeanor was unknown to most Japanese voters until he formed the Japan New Party in May 1992, after quitting the LDP in 1990.

Like another former southern governor now sitting in the White House, Hosokawa's experience as an outsider strongly influenced his political views.

He and other reformers see the enormous regulatory powers of Tokyo bureaucrats - which stem from the early postwar period when Japan was a poor nation racing to catch up with the West - as being a root cause of corruption, as well as of trade friction with the United States.

Changes in Cuban cabinet

HAVANA, Aug 5: Cuba has made four cabinet changes, replacing its ministers of Finance, Communication, Agriculture and the Sugar Industry, the of ficial newspaper Granma reported Wednesday, says AFP,

Jose Luis Rodriguez Garcia

is to replace Rodrigo Garcia

Leon as head of the State Committee for Finance while Alpredo Jordan Morales will take over the Ministry of Agriculture from Carlos Perez The Ministry of the Sugar

Industry will be headed by Nelson Torres Lopez and Silvano Colas Sanche was tapped to head the Ministry of Communications, according to the Granma report which did not comment on the changes.