Gaddafi asks 10000 Thais to quit Libya

TRIPOLI, Nov 8: Libyan Leader Colonel Moammer Gaddafi on Sunday effectively ordered 10,000 That workers out of Libya, in response to what he said was Thailand's support for US accusations that Libya was making chemical weapons, reports AFP.

In a speech on state television, Gaddafi told Libyan firms to fire Thai worker, notably the 5,000 Thais working on a canal and tunnel project to channel water from southern Libya to the coastal districts.

"If Thailand wants to turn its back on US, under threats from the United States, and pretend that we are building tunnel to make a chemical bomb, we say to Phailand. We no longer need 10,000 Thais, let them go home.

Libya on Friday rejected allegations that it had hired the That's to help it build chemical

Aideed warns against US troops deployment

MOGADISHU, Nov 8 : Gen Mohamed Farrah Aideed warned US troops not to return to the streets of Mogadishu, saying Sunday that their presence could violate a 4-week-old cease-fire with foreign troops, reports AP.

"There is no need to deploy US troops on the streets of Mogadishu. That may be provocative," Aideed told a news conference. "I cannot see any reason for the massive deployment. Mogadishu is calm."

"Painful memories of US massacres are still fresh in the Somali people. The US government will bear the full responsibility" for any trouble that may break out, he said.

US reinforcements — army troops on the ground, marines still at sea - poured into

Somalia after an October 3 firefight. Their main mission is to protect US and foreign troops, but officials say they also will keep roads open and put pressure on bandits.

President Clinton refterated that position on Sunday, saying on NBC's "Meet the Press" that "our young soldiers there cannot be expected to just sort of hunker down and stay behind walls. That almost puts them at greater risk."

Aideed, accused of launching attacks that have killed dozens of peacekeepers since June 5. told the United Nations to get out of Somalia. He says the humanitarian effort has disintegrated into a bloody military campaign against his people with no chance of reconcilia-

and I don't expect any in the future," said the man who controls south Mogadishu. The UN force " is responsible for the current problems. They are the biggest obstacle to peace."

He dashed the UN's hopes that a newly formed Mogadishu Security Advisory Committee could be a forum for improving the dangerous streets and setting up more substantive talks on the country's future. He said his faction, which attended the second meeting last week, won't

show up any more. In holding a news conference Sunday, Aideed made his most public appearance since late May. Until recently, he was the target of an intense search that has largely been called off with a change in policy here.

Officials of his faction led a convoy of journalists on a winding trip through the city's dusty back streets, stopping once to ensure they weren't being followed. The destination was a compound where anyone entering was frisked.

When Aideed finally arrived about an hour late, he once again was dressed as the politician he wants to be, in a freshly pressed white shirt and dark paisley tie.

Although he welcomed the recent change in US policy in Somalia - pursuing reconciliation instead of his capture -Aideed criticised the arrival of US reinforcements and heavy

He urged the UN to release 43 remaining Somali detainees. including three of his top aides.

Raphel, Sharif discuss Pak-US ties

ISLAMABAD, Nov 8: Assistant US Secretary of State for South Asia Robin Raphel met with Pakistani opposition leader Nawaz Sharif on the first of a three-day visit here Sunday, reports AFP.

During their 30 minute meeting at the central secretariat of the former prime minister's Pakistan Muslim League (PML). Raphel and Sharif discussed US-Pakistan relations and other bilateral issues. Sharif told reporters.

Raphel who was accompa nied by American ambassador John C Monjo decline comment on the meeting.

"I am hopeful Raphel said of the state of Pakistan-US relations hurt by suspension of US aid since 1990 over Islamabad's refusal to halt it's nuclear pro-

Pakistan is widely believed to have an atomic weapon or be very close to completing one.

Picasso paintings stolen from Swedish Museum

STOCKHOLM, Nov 8: Thie ves lowered themselves from the roof of the Museum of Modern Art and stole paintings valued at 52 million dollar and a statue by Picasso, museum officials said Monday, reports AP.

A security guard detected the break-in Monday morning and called police, who believe the crime took place during the night, museum officials said. There was no explanation of why the alarms did not go off or were not heard

The thieves stole "eight of the museum's most important works, five paintings and a statue by Picasso and two paintings by Georges Braques, museum spokeswoman Eva-Lena Lidman said

The paintings were part of the museum's permanent exhibition and are valued at 500 million kronor.

6 killed in Nagaland bomb blast

NEW DELHI, Nov 8: A powerful bomb exploded at a railroad station in remote northeastern India Monday, killing at least six people and wounding 35 others, United News of India

said, reports AP. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the blast at Dimapur in the state of

Nagaland. The eastern border state is the base of a guerilla movement by Naga tribesmen who want to create an independent homeland in parts of India and

It also is the scene of a genocidal feud between the Nagas and Kuki tribes. About 300 civilians have been killed in the past year in the war be-

Pan Am bombing: Tripoli asks Bern to try 2

tween the two tribes.

CAIRO, Nov 8: Libya has asked Switzerland to try two suspects in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, but the request falls short of Western demands and is not likely to affect the United Nations vote Monday on tougher sanctions, reports AP.

Washington and London demand that the suspects be tried either in the United States or Britain. Libya has previously suggested Switzerland as a trial venue, but the Swiss foreign ministry has said it sees no reason why the trial should be held

Ibrahim Legwell, a Libyan lawyer heading the suspect's defence team, told the Associated Press on Sunday that the Libyan Foreign Ministry contacted Swiss authorities on October 27 to ask that country to try the suspects.

Nepal fines British climbing team

KATHMANDU, Nov 8: Nepal has fined a British climbing team 100,000 dollar for sending too many people up Mount Everest, the Tourism Ministry

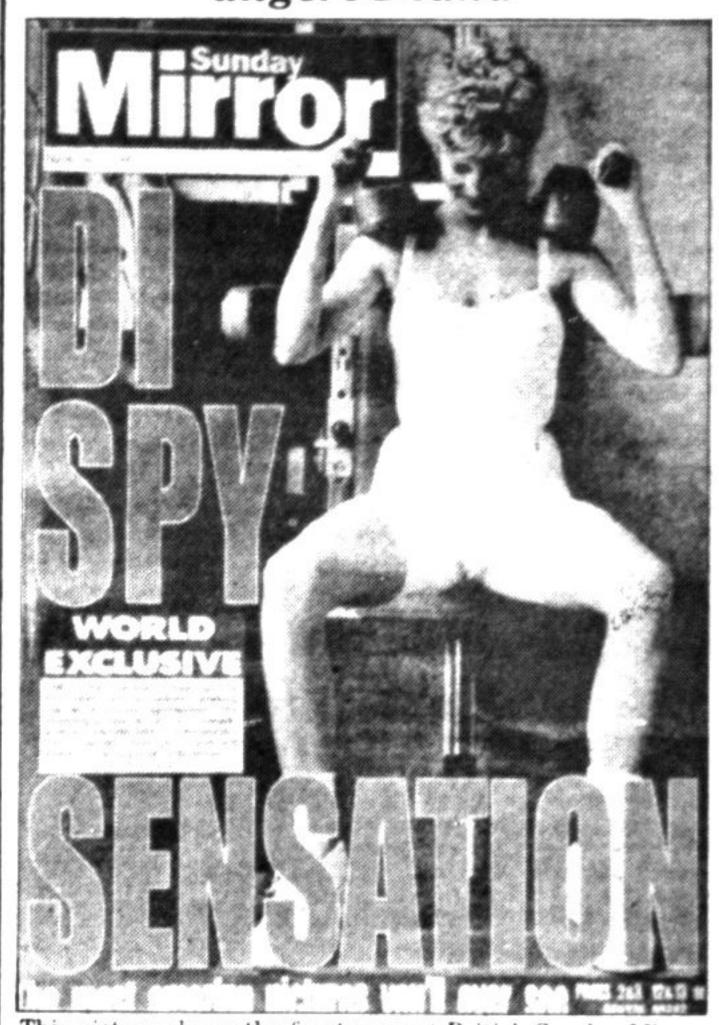
went into effect in September no expedition to the world's highest mountain can have more than

seven foreign members.

The British team which included noted actor Brian Blessed, had 14 members. Seven hoped to climb Everest and seven planned to go up Mount Lhotse, its linked neighbour whose flanks are the usual beginning of the climb up

Off the Record

'Gross intrusion' into privacy angers Diana



This picture shows the front page at British Sunday Mirror newspaper from Sunday showing the Princess of Wales during a fitness training session at a private gymnasium in London.

LONDON: Princess Diana expressed her "distress and a deep sense of outrage" Monday over the publication of photographs captured on hidden camera of her working out in a gym, reports AP.

Britain's latest peek at its royals at play prompted a wall of outrage and predictions the press will pay dearly.

The Daily Mirror, whose masthead slogan boasts "Ho-nesty," published three of the sneak pictures of Diana, 32, in skintight cycling shorts and leotard lying on her back on an exercise ma-

On Sunday, its weekly sister paper, the Sunday Mirror, published five of the nearly identical close-up pictures. It said they

were taken at the LA Fitness Club at Isleworth west London. Diana, in a statement issued by her lawyers, thanked lawmakers and other newspapers for condemning the "gross intru-

sion" into her privacy by the two newspapers. "The Princess of Wales has noted with distress and a deep sense of outrage that without her knowledge or consent, personal photographs of her were taken by means of a hidden camera," said solicitor Misho-con de Reya.

"The Princess's advisers are for their part considering what

legal action may be appropriate," he said. Home Secretary Michael Howard said publication of the photographs was "thoroughly deplorable." The government will consider legislation to make invasion of privacy by the press illegal, he said.

Sex experts lament shy approach to sex

CHICAGO: When these folks talk about sex, there's no ner-

vous giggling, reports AP.

At the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex, about 450 people gathered this weekend for seminars, slide shows and a workshop called "In Search of the Erotic."

Sexologists lamented society's often shy approach to sex. "The United States remains a sexually repressed culture," said Howard Ruppel, executive director of the society. "But accurate information has to be conveyed to the public. People need to be informed and empowered."

There is concern that sex education concentrates on negative aspects of sex, like AIDS. Such an approach makes many people see sex as shameful, dirty and dangerous, said society member Patti Britton of New York.

Permission is given to talk about what is bad about sex, but not what is good about sex. It's not joyful, it's not celebratory, it's something to be feared and guarded about," she said

Shameless show of eroticism!

RIO DE JANEIRO: Given a choice of listening to Madonna or obeying the Roman Catholic Church, more than 120,000 fans voted with their feet, packing the Maracana soccer stadium to hear her rock the socks off Rio, reports AP.

"I love Rio," Madonna told the crowd in Portuguese as she transformed the world's largest outdoor arena into a giant block party Saturday night.

The city's Roman Catholic Archdiocese had condemned the pop star's presence and urged Catholics not to go to the "shameless exhibition of eroticism and depravity." Its warnings appeared to have little effect. Officially, 120,000

fans attended the "Girlie Show" concert, but organisers said up to 150,000 were actually present.

"It was like a giant block party with everyone singing and dancing in harmony," said concert-goer Larry Shapiro. Blocked by a Rio court from using the Brazilian flag in her

show, Madonna instead draped herself in the Flamengo soccer club flag for several songs.

The audience, accustomed to cheering on Brazil's most popular sports team, roared its approval.

Rio's Juvenile Court had raised the minimum age for those attending the show from 10 to 14 - but one fan said gatekeep-

ers at the stadium did not check anyone's ID for age.

said on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Before the 14 climbers left Kathmandu expedition leader Stephen Bell told Reuters he thought it would be all right.

Jewish road blockade paralyses WB, Gaza JERUSALEM. Nov 8: The carefully planned protest Thousands of Jewish settlers began at 4:30 am (0230 GMT)

blocked highways throughout and roadblocks were removed the occupied lands with burning tires and stone barricades Monday to protest the killing of one of their own by Palestinian gunmen, reports AP. Two Palestinian motorists

were wounded by shots apparently fired by settlers near a West Bank roadblock, the army

The barricades in 49 locations paralysed the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip during morning rush hour keeping most Palestinians con-

Israeli troops didn't interfere with the settlers and instead ordered Palestinian drivers to

throughout the occupied lands to protest the killing of a settler. Settler leader Uri Ariel said Monday they would escalate their protests. "We have a lot more things to do until Yitzhak Rabin stops being prime minister," Ariel told the Associated

Press.

three hours later. It marked the

second time in nine days that

settlers blocked highways

Health Minister Haim Ramon, a dove in Rabin's government, accused the settlers of exploiting grief over the killing for their political agenda trying to derail the Israel-PLO agreement on Palestinian au-

tonomy.

Attack on DPRK same as striking US: Clinton

that if North Korea ever tried to invade South Korea he would consider it equivalent to an attack on the United States, re-

ports AP. "They know that any attack on South Korea is an attack on the United States," Clinton said in a Sunday interview on the NBC television programme

"Meet The Press." When asked if he would allow North Korea to build a nuclear bomb, as has been

claimed, Clinton said: "North Korea cannot be allowed to develop a nuclear bomb. We have to be very firm about it. This is a difficult moment in our relationship with them and I think a difficult moment for them. They're one of the most — perhaps the most isolated country in the world, with enormous economic problems, trying to decide what di-

WASHINGTON, Nov 8: rection to take now, sometimes President Clinton said Sunday sceming to reach out to South Korca, sometimes seeming to draw back.

"I spend a lot of time on this issue. It's a very, very major issue. We have got to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and particularly North Korea needs to stay in the control regime. They don't need to

withdraw. "Now, there is a lot of disagreement about what we should do now. I just want to assure you and the American people that we are doing everything we possibly can to make the best decisions, to be firm in this. We are consulting with our allies in South Korea and Japan. They are most immediatcly affected by what we do and how we do it. And we have worked with the Chinese who despite our other differences, have helped us to try to work



PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat (L) meets Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (R) at the Iffihadia palace in Cairo on Sunday to discuss the Middle-East peace process and the resumption of PLO-Israeli talks. -AFP photo

BRITIS

through this."

were killed in an attack Sunday in the southern province of Ransvaal, state television reported, AFP says from Johannesburg. At least eight people were wounded in the attack on a Kraal

At least 10 members of the African National Congress (ANC)

10 ANC men killed in S Africa:

near Nouthu, in the northern part of the province, where an ANC rally was to have been held, the report said. American arrested in Nepal: An

American was arrested Sunday at the Katmandu airport after authorities found hashish in his suitcase just before he was to leave for Bangkok, Thailand, AP reports from Katmandu.

Police identified the man as John David, but refused to give his age or home town. The United States Embassy here also refused to comment on the arrest or give details.

Colombian senator dead: The vice president of Colombia's senate died Sunday of wounds suffered two days earlier when he was gunned down in Medellin by a hit team citing ins role in ... " new drug trafficking law, AP

reports from Bogota. Dario Londono Cardona, 45, died of brain injuries, the Medellin Clinic said. He never regained consciousness after being shot in the head and arm at the University of Medellin, where he taught

Minutes after the shooting, a previously unknown group, Death to Protectors of the Calin Cartel, called a radio station and claimed responsibility for the attack. The station gave the claim credibility because the caller knew details of the attack before they had been reported.

Singapore PM visits S Korea: Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong plans to review and strengthen bilateral ties during a three-day official visit to South Korea starting Monday, AP reports from Singapore.

Goh's office said he expected to exchange views on the future of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum which will hold its first summit next week in Seattle.

Singapore and South Korea are founder-members of the 15nation group set up in 1989 to foster regional cooperation on trade and investment.

Palestinian shot dead by Hamas: A Palestinian suspected of collaborating with Israeli authorities was shot dead Sunday by the Islamic resistance movement Hamas, Palestinian sources said, AFP reports from Jerusalem. Suheil Al-Ahmad, 20, was shot in the head near his place of

tion with Israel. The sources said Ahmad's brother was killed a year ago for

work in the occupied Gaza Strip. His assailant left a letter at the

site claiming that Hamas had killed the man for his collabora-

Aide justifies Yeltsin's avoiding early polls MOSCOW, Nov 8: Beris said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the elections, which he had set for June 12. The president said he wants to stay in office until his Clinton added that after the Decembers 12 parliamentary

Yeltsin is justified in avoiding early presidential elections because they might weaken his authority in the critical period after Russia's new constitution takes effect, a senior aide said

Sunday, reports AP. Sergei Stankevich's comments, made to Interfax news agency, echoed those of other high-ranking presidential advisers who have urged that early presidential elections be cancelled. They argue that Russia needs political stability instead

of frequent balloting. Yeltsin told Russian newspaper editors Saturday that he

was against early presidential

five-year term expires in 1996, and would not seek reelection.

Critics say the new plan breaks a promise to the Russian people and smacks of authoritarian rule.

In Washington, however, the Clinton administration re-Yeltsin.

elections, Russia's new legislature "will have something to say" on the issue of presidential elections.

mained firm in its support for "As long as he is promoting

democracy, as long as he's promoting human rights, as long as he's promoting reform. I think the United States should support him," President Clinton

"They'll be a different source of legitimate democratic power and we'll see how it works out."

Stankevich said the new constitution, which will be put to a popular vote coinciding with parliamentary elections, gives Yeltsin wide powers that must be implemented immedi-



Cambodian Prime Minister Norodam Ranariddh's wife Princess Marie (L) puts a crown on the head of the new Miss Cambodia Hak Srei Moum during a ceremony or Sunday in Phnom Penh. Hak Srei Moum is the winner of Cambodia's first beauty pageant in decades. —AFP photo

Kurdish home set on fire in Germany

the same reason.

FRANKFURT, Nov 8: Assatlants set fire to a home for Kurdish refugees in southwestern Germany early Sunday, but all 14 residents escaped unharmed, police said, reports

One fireman needed treatment for smoke inhalation. Police could not immediately say if the attack was racially motivated. Authorities offered a reward of 10,000 marks (dlrs 6,000) for information.

Seven months ago unknown assailants stoned the same refugee shelter, injuring one woman. The shelter is in Rheinheim, in the southwestern state of Baden-Wuerrtemberg.

In Bonn, police said the leader of a far-right party was beaten late Saturday by suspected leftists.

AMMAN. Nov 8: Jordanians voted nationwide Monday in the first multiparty polls since 1956 - a bold step toward democracy that may influence the fate Deputies, but fall far short of a of the Middle East peace, reports AP.

Early turnout was light in Amman, Campaign workers, including children in paper hats and T-shirts emblazoned with slogans, accosted voters nearing polling places, which opened at 7 a.m (0500 GMT). The turnout was heavier in

of Maan, officials said 70 to 80 per cent of the registered voters had cast their ballots at some stations two hours after the voting began. First returns were expected

rural areas. In the southern city

late Monday, complete but unofficial results will not be available until Tuesday. Muslim fundamentalists and

others bent on wrecking the Arab-Israeli peace talks were likely to remain the largest block in the 80-seat Chamber of majority.

Pro-establishment conservatives and Bedouin tribal leaders staunchly loyal to King Hussein are expected make the largest That would give the king a

free hand to pursue his quest for a negotiated settlement with Israel and to counter the fundamentalists, who want to turn this secular society of 3.9 million people, mostly Muslims, into an Islamic state. . Hussein called on

Jordanians Saturday to vote en masse and opt for moderation in what was seen an appeal of support for the peace process. The new Parliament would

have to ratify any peace accord

with Israel although the king retains final authority over the assembly's decisions. Hussein launched a political

Jordan polls may influence ME talks

liberalisation program in 1989 nated society that the fundaafter price riots. In September 1992, he lifted a 1957 ban on political parties, which had been prompted by an aborted leftist coup. Candidates from 20 widely diverse parties competing for

the 1.2 million votes include

Bedouin leaders. Three women were among the 534 candidates running in

the kingdom's eight gover-"It is time for women's voice to be heard in this country." said Khadija Mahmmoud, 35, a

cess is unfavorable to Arabs. Islamic fundamentalists, com-The Brotherhood vehemently munists, Arab nationalists, opposes any dealings with Baathists, former government Israel. Leftists say the peace neofficials, former prisoners, and gotiations fall short of achieving Palestinian statehood.

veiled housewife who cast her

agenda for peace on September 14, a day after the Jewish state. and the Palestine Liberation Organization sealed a landmark accord on limited self-rule in the occupied territories.

ballot in Amman for one of the

our needs in this male-domi-

mentalists," added Mahmmoud.

who said she voted for the fun-

damentalists in the 1989 elec-

the Muslim Brotherhood, and

the leftists argue the peace pro-

The fundamentalists, led by

Jordan and Israel signed an

"She will be more aware of

Under new regulations that

Everest.

said.

fined to their towns and vil-

turn back