DUBAL June 4: King Fahd of Saudi Arabia said he hoped Yemen's warring North and South would abide by a United Nations ceasefire call to avoid further bloodshed in their month-old civil war, reports Reuter.

"I hope that the Security Council resolution adopted by

Japan to release plutonium stockpile data

TOKYO, June 4: Japan will reverse its strict policy of secrecy and regularly release data on its plutonium stock pile, the daily Yomiuri Shimbun reported today, says Reuter.

"We will release informa tion regarding the amount of plutonium held in Japanese nuclear facilities," Yomiuri quoted Science and Technology Minister Mikio Omi as telling a parliamentary committee on Friday.

"We intend to continue this in the future." the daily quoted Omi as saying.

Data to be released could also include information on location and transportation of plutonium, Yomiuri said.

The sudden shift in the government's policy to place its nuclear programme under public scrutiny reflects continued criticism by North Korea that Japan was secretly building nuclear weapons. Yomiuri

SRINAGAR, June 4: Shops

remained closed and traffic

stayed off. the streets in

Kashmir Saturday in response

to a general strike called by a

top pro-independence mili-

tant leader to condemn attacks

by a rival militant group, re-

The attacks against Yasin

Malik, who was freed on bail

from an Indian prison two

weeks ago, came after he pro-

posed that the dozens of mili-

tant groups fighting for inde-

pendence merge into three

groups and stop killing civil-

been directed against the pro-

Pakistan Hizbul Mujahideen, a

group he later accused of or-

ganising the attacks against

men attempted to abduct

Malik from a Srinagar hospital,

where he was being treated for

Clinton arrives in England: US

President Bill Clinton arrived today at Mildenhall, eastern

England, for an official three-day visit to Britain on his

European tour marking the 50th anniversary of the allied

10:00am (0900 GMT) at the Mildenhall airbase and was

Filipino troops kill 25 rebels:

Philippine troops killed 20 members of a Muslim rebel group

and captured a major camp as they pressed an assault on the

fundamentalists stronghold in the south of the country, a

senior military commander said yesterday. AFP reports from

The report by southern forces military commander Major

General Orlando Soriano brought the death toll in the two-day

offensive in Patikul, Jolo Island to 25. On Friday, five soldiers

Slovaks for fed with Czechs: Most

Slovaks favour links with the Czech republic in a con-

federation or federation, according to an opinion poll re-

Republic and the Czech Republic joined in a confederation,

Thirty per cent said they would like to see the Slovak

The Czechoslovak Federation broke into two independent

11 more executed in China: Chinese

leased on Friday, Reuter reports from Bratislava.

were killed and seven were wounded.

and 26 per cent want a federation.

states on January 1, 1993.

greeted by Prime Minister John Major and his wife Norma.

Accompanied by his wife Hillary, Clinton landed at

landings in northern France, AFP reports from London.

On Thursday, armed gun-

him this week.

Zamboanga.

Malik's statements had

ports AP.

the parties concerned will be implemented. If it is not, then there will be more shedding of blood and villages and cities

will be destroyed," the king prepared a 10-point package said late on Friday of economic sanctions against The king, whose country North Korea including bans on was the main sponsor of the trade and cash transfer but UN debate on Yemen, was refears reprisal by Pyongyang and

sponding to questions by the Middle East broadcasting centre and reported by the Saudi Press agency. Rival Yemeni forces appeared to be regrouping for more battles with no signs that Wednesday's United Nations ceasefire call was taking effect

May 4 The southern government in Aden said it accepted the call unconditionally and the northern government led by President Ali Abdullah Saleh said it was willing to put it into effect after initially opposing it as interference in internal af-

in the war which started on

"I consider the differences we are seeing now between North and South are those which could happen anywhere," the king said, "There is no doubt that our relations with Northern and Southern Yemen are relations from a long time ago.

"We want ... for there to be no problem between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and any Arab country, Yemen included. We respect Yemen completely. It is not the right of anyone to interfere in the affairs of another."

a heart ailment. A day later,

gunmen fired on a procession

Strike paralyses

Kashmir

Aden, Sanaa will abide Japan prepares package of Off the Record sanctions against DPRK

TOKYO. June 4: Japan has Yomiuri Shimbun, the draft

a major political crisis at home, reports Reuter. According to accounts in the dailies Asahi Shimbun and



Hans Blix, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, briefs reporters on the latest developments regarding North Korea's nuclear programme on June 3 at the United - AFP photo flights and officials travelling between the two countries

Government officials refused comment on the reports It was not clear when Japan's reported package would be announced or whether it was drafted to prepare for a United Nations Security Co-

uncil resolution

In New York, the UN Nuclear Watchdog Agency said North Korea breached a nuclear safeguards treaty by refusing to allow unfettered inspection of spent fuel rods at a key atomic plant.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said a full picture of North Korea's past nuclear programme was virtually lost and referred the case to the Security Council.

Foreign Minister Koji Ka kizawa has said Japan favours a two-step approach - an initial Security Council resolution to serve as a direct warning against North Korea to be followed by a second one to impose sanctions

Japan, however, expects China, North Korea's major ally, to veto a resolution calling for sanctions and is now hold ing talks in Washington with US and South Korean authorities to prepare for an economic embargo outside the UN framework.

North Korea said any sanctions would be seen as an act of war and North Korean diplomats made clear that any missile attack would be aimed

Japanese security sources have said the government feared terrorism more than

"It is true that there are numerous (North Korean) agents in Japan, and it is extremely difficult to keep track of them," one source said. "That is more disturbing than missiles.

Japan's package, as reported in the dailies, includes: A ban on trade, including commerce through third countries. A ban on government officials travelling to North Korea.

Korean officials coming to Japan. A strict control of immigration procedures Restrictions on cultural

A ban on allowing North

sports and scientific ex

A ban on flights between two countries.

An export ban on weapons and weapons-related good.

An export ban on nuclearrelated goods and materials.

A ban on investment and loans, including bank transfers. Restrictions on cash carried to North Korea by Koreans in

On the last point. South Korea and the US Congress have specifically demanded that Tokyo put a halt to the estimated annual total of 600 million USD that pro-Pyongyang Koreans bring into North Korea from Japan.

Rattle snake soup makes your skin crawl!

NEW YORK: It was enough to make your skin crawl, re-

Police investigating a burglary report at a store-front early Friday found a one-stop rattle snake shopping outlet. Officers arrested three men and recovered 62 venomous Western Diamond back rattlers.

That's not all they found. There were 30 frozen rattlers, several rattlers cooking in a pot consomme and a dozen baby rattlers floating in pint bottles of vodka.

The snaked-up booze is used by Koreans in the New York neighbourhood as medicine and sells for 100 dollars a pint, authorities said. The other snakes were apparently sold as food — for the meat or as soup stock.

"It was an interesting morning," said John Behler, supervisor of reptiles at the Bronx Zoo. He helped pack the surviving snakes into three sealed drums and took them away.

Each of the three men was charged with reckless endangerment and violating environmental conservation laws, said police spokesman Lt. Raymond O'Donnell. All three worked at the store, which doubled as a rattlesnake shopping outlet for local Koreans, O'Donnell said

Mother gives birth twice in less than 2 months

MANILA: A Filipino woman gave birth to two children in a span of less than two months in a rare medical occurrence.

local press reported Saturday, says Xinhua. Jessica Sabacajan. 24, gave birth to a boy on April 19 in the central island of Cebu and on May 30 gave birth to a girl in the southern city of Zamboanga, the "Philippine Star' quoted

her husband, Siegfried Sabacajan, as saying. Sabacajan, a 30-year-old air force avionics, said that when his wife visited him at the base in Zamboanga where he works a month after the first birth, he thought her stomach was till rather larged, but the couple did not think this unusual until

she started suffering stomach pains. Ronnie Bucoy, director of the Zamboanga Medical Center, said the two children, both in good health, were not twins but

were the result of a rare occurrence called a "double uterus." That is a pregnancy where both of a woman's ovary separately hold fertilised eggs. Apparently, the doctor said, one

Coffin catches fire at funeral

egg was fertilised a month after the other.

BATON ROUGE: Mourners smelled smoke at a funeral and when a mortician investigated, he found a fire inside the coffin, reports AP.

investigators said embalming fluid leaking from the body of 25-year-old Wycliff Robertson, who was shot to death earlier this week, may have caused a chemical reaction inside the coffin, touching off the fire.

After the Thursday night funeral at Mt. Gillion Baptist Church, officials from Winnfield Funeral Home said they would remove the body from the damaged coffin and prepare it for burial in a new one.

Woman to start family using dead husband's sperm

TITUSVILLE: A young widow said Friday she hopes to start a family using sperm surgically removed from her late husband's corpse, and then frozen, reports Reuter.

Manny Maresca was killed in a car crash May 19, just 16 days after he and Pam Maresca married. Within hours of his death, sperm was harvested from his body and frozen for future use.

Pam Maresca, 22, said she hopes to bear a child using a procedure in which one of her eggs will be fertilised with the sperm in the laboratory, and then implanted in her uterus.

"This is the good that came out of something bad. This is what gives me something to hold onto," Maresca told a Florida TV station.

Manny Maresca remained on life support for a day following the fatal crash. His wife and parents arranged for several of his organs to be removed for transplant, then decided to arrange for potential progeny as well.

After he was pronounced dead, some of his semen was removed from the epididymis.

Israeli attacks on Lebanon a 'deadly blow' to ME peace: Syria Tishrin said that the and armour to its northern The Israelis have repeatedly DAMASCUS, June 4: Syria's frontier, preparing to strike warned Syria, the undisputed official media on Saturday bit-

he was leading through Srinagar's streets. terly denounced Israeli attacks Malik called for a three-day on Lebanon, branding them "a general strike immediately after Friday's attack. deadly blow to the Middle East peace process and a stab to US The Hizbul Mujahideen, peace efforts," reports AP. which wants the Muslim-ma-

Israeli warplanes blasted a jority area of Kashmir to be training base Thursday that part of Islamic Pakistan, has disclaimed responsibility for was used by Iranian-backed Shi'ite Muslim militants near the attacks. India and Pakistan Baalbek in the Syrian-conhave fought two wars over trolled Bekaa Valley of east Kashmir, which is now divided between the two countries by Lebanon. As many as 50 people were killed, according to ceasefire line. Lebanese police. The Jammu-Kashmir

Lebanon.

Reuter.

army roadblock.

Leaders of the Tehran-

backed Hezbollah, or Party of

God, vowed revenge for the

killings near Baalbek. And

Israel moved heavy artillery

6 Palestinians

shot in WB

HEBRON, West Bank, June

4: Israeli troops shot and wounded six Palestinians in

clashes that erupted in the oc-

cupied West Bank town of

Hebron today after three

Palestinians were wounded in

a blast, witnesses said, reports

force in the town said the blast

may have been caused by a

hand grenade and the Israeli

army said the grenade was

thrown by a Palestinian at an

thrown from an unidentified

vehicle," a statement from the

temporary, international pres-

Palestinian men and a woman

The army said no troops were

were "moderately" wounded.

hurt. Following the incident,

Israeli troops fired rubber bul-

lets and teargas at Palestinians

who were throwing stones,

witnesses said. The army said

it was checking the report.

Hospital sources said two

ence in Hebron (TIPH) said.

"A possible hand granad was

An international observer

Liberation Front, the oldest The region remained tense Saturday after Islamic guerillas separatist group in the northern Indian state, wants indefired Katyusha rockets into northern Israel and the Israelipendence for the region. occupied border strip in south The heightening of inter-

group rivalries comes at a time when troops have stepped up their offensive, killing more than a dozen suspected guerillas daily and raiding hideouts and bases.

against the guerillas if the missile attacks resumed.

"The Baalbek massacre is a deadly blow to the peace process and a stab to US efforts to break the ice shrouding the peace process due to Israel's stubborn positions," the government daily Tishrin said in an editorial.

But there was no indication that the Syrians, stung by the Israeli action in a region they consider vital for their security, plan to withdraw from the

The Syrian media broadside, a daily ritual in recent weeks with Syria-Israel negotiations stalled, came as Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati visited Damascus for talks with senior officials on the flashpoint situation in south Lebanon.

power in Lebanon, to curb Hezbollah's attacks on the Israeli-occupied zone in south Lebanon.

Velayati, who arrived late Friday from Cairo where he had attended a conference of non-aligned countries, said he was carrying a letter from Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani for Syrian President Hafaz Assad. But he declined to discuss the contents.

Velayati was scheduled to meet Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa later Saturday, with Lebanon and the Middle East peace talks high on the agenda.

Syria, which has 40,000 troops deployed in Lebanon, is Iran's main Arab ally, even though Tehran bitterly opposes the US-sponsored Middle East peace process.

Baaibek attack was proof that Israel "is still far from" ready to negotiate "a just and comprehensive peace." It urged the United States to try to salvage peace talks by restraining Israel Peace talks between Syria

and Israel have been deadlocked since February, despite US efforts to revive them. Syria is pivotal to the peace process, since Lebanon and Jordan were not expected to sign treaties with Israel until Damascus does.

Damascus insists that Israel agree to a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights, a strategic volcanic plateau in southwestern Syria which Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East War and annexed in 1981.

The Israelis so far have offered only a partial withdrawal

Veerappan offers to surrender

BANGALORE, India, June 4: India's most wanted outlaw. described as a menace to "humans, wildlife and the environment," has offered to surrender on condition that he would not be harmed after arrest, police said here Friday, reports AFP.

Veerappan, a 44-year-old fugitive wanted for 94 murders, poaching 2,000-odd elephant tusks and cutting down hundreds of sandalwood trees in the jungles of South India, made the offer through intermediaries, they said.

Karnataka state police chief S C Burman told AFP that the outlaw would not be "harassed or killed" but would have to face trial for his long criminal

"The media is the only way to reach him with our assurance that we do not harbour hatred." Burman said, adding

that "He is not a threat any-

more, only a fugitive." Veerappan's gang has dwin-

dled over the years with 49 members dying in gun battles with Indian troops and 156 arrested in raids. Burman said a special force,

which has been trying to track down Veerappan and his men in the lush forest, lining the border of the southern states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, would not be led into a trap in attempts to capture him.

The mustachioed bandit. who carries a 132,000,000dollar reward on his head, beheaded a senior forest official three years ago after promising to surrender near a stream in the dense Male Mahadeghwar

He renewed the offer in an interview to a Tamil-language weekly in May last year, saying enough lives had been lost in the battle between police and his gang.

All-African force for peace in trouble spots | Hezbollah guerillas

authorities executed eight men and three women for peddling 200 kg (440 perinds) of heroin and opium over six years, an official newspaper said. Reuter reports from Beijing. HARARE, Zimbabwe, June Altogether 16 people were convicted by the people's intermediate court in the Sichuan Province capital of Chengdu, the people's court news said in editions seen in Beijing yesterday. Eleven were put to death promptly after trial. They were

sentenced on an unspecified "recent" date, according to the twice-weekly paper published by the People's Supreme Court. Iranian minister in Kabul: Iranian

Deputy Foreign Minister Alaeddin Broujerdi arrived in Kabul Friday and held talks with Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, Radio Kabul reported, AFP says from Islamabad. Rabbani thanked Iran for its support to the Afghan people during the 14-year war against the Communist government

in Kabul which fell in April, 1992 to the Mujahedeen. The President also called on Iran to help in the reconstruction of the country, the broadcast monitored here said. The radio, controlled by Rabbani loyalists gave no further details about the meeting which took place amid ongoing factional fighting around Kabul.

Quake jolts Pakistan: An earthquake jolted central Pakistan in the early hours of Saturday throwing people out of their beds but causing no damage, local officials said, Reuter reports from Islamabad. The quake, measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale, shook

southern parts of central Punjab Province at 3.40am (2240 GMT) but there were no reports of damage, Mohammad Irshad, an official of the Rahimyar Khan Deputy Commissioner's office said by telephone.

4: Leaders of the "Frontline states" that formed to fight apartheid have backed a UN proposal for a 5,500-member all-African force to keep peace in African trouble spots such as Rwanda, reports AP. But the statement issued

late Friday from a summit here left it to individual nations to decide if they commit troops to the force and made it clear the United Nations would have to pay.

South African President Nelson Mandela, on his first foreign trip since taking the oath of office, said his government would consider sending humanitarian aid, including a field hospital and armoured vehicles. But Mandela and other officials have repeatedly rejected sending South African troops for such a force, at least in the near future.

The statement - issued by presidents Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola, Quett Masire of Botswana, Sam Nujoma of

Namibia and Ali Hassan Mwinvi of Tanzania — said mobilisation of the force would depend on how the United Nations worked the logistics.

since the 60s.

That means the Frontline group wants the world body to foot the bill for peacekeeping in Rwanda, Liberia, Somalia, Angola, Mozambique and Lesotho, flash points reviewed by the leaders at Friday's

Other members of the Frontline grouping.

Chinese dissident held in Shanghai BEIJING, June 4: Chinese

dissident Bao Ge, who defied the authorities by setting up a human rights group, was detained in Shanghai on the eve of Saturday's fifth anniversary of the Tiananmen massacre, a friend said, reports AFP.

Bao, 31, has also written to the Civil Affairs ministry to officially register the group, which another friend said has 167 members in China

Mozambique and Zambia, were represented by their foreign ministers. Mandela spent seven hours with his fellow leaders before flying back

French actress and animal right campaigner Brigitte Bardot (c) tries to push her way

through a cordon of police on June 4 after demonstrating against a meeting of the French

Hunter Association at Saint Tropez' town hall. The actress has left the town after living there

His visit celebrated the triumph of his African National Congress in April's all-race election, the nation's first. The Frontline group formed to collectively fight white rule in South Africa, even though its members traded secretly with the apartheid state in violation of sanctions they endorsed.

With the ANC in power, the Frontline grouping debated its role and possible shifts in the organisation. Mandela endorsed a call by

Mugabe, the Frontline chairman, for the group to provide a diplomatic mechanism to resolve regional conflicts. The statement said foreign

ministers of the eight states now including South Africa, would meet to decide on "a new mandate."

On Thursday Zimbabwe's independent Daily Gazette

Western aid agencies, formed in 1990 to try to ease the development of Africa and confront emerging problems by bringing together the undeveloped countries and money sources from developed na-"The meeting endorsed

newspaper joined South

African Cabinet minister Jay

Naidoo of the ANC in branding

the Frontline group an expen-

sive replication of the

Frontline summit, a meeting of

the Global Coalition for Africa

ended in Harare with a call for

new emphasis on good gover-

The US-based group, com-

prising African states and

nance and improved agricul-

tural policies in Africa.

In conjunction with the

Organisation of African Unity.

AFP photo.

once and for all debt restructuring to sustainable levels for each African country, and donors were urged to review their debt policies along these lines," said Masire of Botswana. the coalition co-chairman.

attack SLA

SIDON, Lebanon, June 4: Hezbollah guerillas attacked Israel's militia allies in south Lebanon today, security sources said, reports Reuter.

They said the guerillas set off a bomb near a patrol of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) in Kfar Falous in a finger of territory jutting north from Israel's occupation zone in South Lebanon. No one was

The pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) said many militiamen in the patrol were killed or wounded by the bomb.

In a second attack a guerilla bomb exploded as a civilian car passed on a road leading to the SLA post at Kfar Falous. Two civilians were wounded, the

sources said The guerillas also fired antitank rockets and machineguns at an SLA post at Qantara, just inside the zone. No casualties were reported.

taliate by firing artillery shells onto hills outside the zone. Israel massed troops on its border with Lebanon after

raid on a Hezbollah camp in

the Syrian-policed Bekka valley

Israeli and SLA gunners re-

guerillas fired Katyusha rockets into its northern territories late on Thursday. The rocket attacks were in retaliation for an Israeli air

which killed 26 guerillas. Another Russian

killed in Tajikistan

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan, June 4: Assassins claimed their fourth Russian servicemen of the week on Saturday when they shot a lieutenant colonel in the border guards near his home in Dushanbe, reports AP.

News agencies said Lt. Col. Sergei Leontikov, 42, died of head wounds.