Yeltsin may visit ROK: Russian President Boris Yeltsin is expected to visit South Korea around November on a state visit, South Korean foreign Minister Han Sung-joo said Friday, AP reports from Seoul.

During a visit to Moscow last week, South Korean President Kim Young-sam invited Yeltsin to visit Seoul, and Yeltsin accepted the invitation.

Briefly governing party officials on Kim's Russia trip, the South Korean foreign minister said Yeltsin is expected to come around November. Yeltsin visited Seoul last year. Moscow, a longtime ally of Seoul's rival, Communist North Korea, opened formal ties with pro-western South Korea in

Landslide kills 3 in Darjeeling: landslide caused by heavy rain killed three people and injured two in Darjeeling, India's mountainous tea growing area, a news agency said Friday. AP reports from New Delhi.

The victims were living in a house that was swept away by

the landslide Thursday. United News of India reported. Many homes in and around Darjeeling are built on stilts on the sides of steep hills and mountains.

Lightning kills 7 in W Bengal: At least seven persons were killed and eight others injured when lightning struck them during a heavy downpour at Sarengabad area in West Bengal's 24-Parganas District yesterday, according to a report received in Calcutta, PTI

The victims had taken shelter at a local school during heavy rain in the area. The Injured were admitted to hospital. Senior police officials rushed to the spot.

9 rebels killed in Philippines: Troops killed nine members of the Communist New People's Army in a class in the central Philippines, the military said yesterday. Reuter reports from Tacloban.

None of the soldiers were hurt in the clash on Wednesday in the Pinabacdao district of western Samar Province.

The gunfight broke out when an army patrol stumbled on a rebel camp, area army commander Brigadier-General Danilo Olay told reporters.

Bus mishap claims 10 in Mexico: Ten people died and 26 were injured Thursday when a bus overturned near the southern Mexico City of Chilpancingo, official news agency Notimex said. Reuter reports from Mexico City. Authorities blamed the accident on "excessive speed" and

said the passengers were returning to the Pacific coast resort of Acapulco after a pilgrimage to a Catholic church in the state of Guana Juato, Notimex said. The crash took place about 140 miles (224 km) south of

Mexico City in the mountains north of Chilpancingo, the agency said. The condition of the injured was not known.

Two bankers to die in China :Two employees of the Agriculture Bank of China in the Eastern province of Shandong have been sentenced to death for the province's biggest theft of public funds, the Farmers Daily said yesterday, Reuter reports from Beijing.

China conducts second underground N-test

Syrians aren't ready for

real peace, says Peres

BEIJING, June 10: Rebuffing international efforts to achieve a nuclear test moratorium. China conducted its second underground explosion in less than a year on Friday, reports AP

The action demonstrated China's sense of insecurity inthe predominantly non-Communist post-Cold War world and its determination to build strong defences against perceived Western bullying.

The Foreign Ministry announced the test in a onesentence statement issued by the official Xinhua News Agency. The statement did not provide any details.

Western experts had detected signs of preparation for the test weeks earlier at the Lop Nor testing site in China's far western Xinjiang Province. It was believed that China put off conducting China's low-tariff trade status.

China last detonated a test device in October. Both than and now, it ignored appeals from Japan, the United States and other governments to re-

JERUSALEM, June 10: Is-

raeli Foreign Minister Shimon

Peres says he does not expect

any breakthrough in the com-

ing talks with Syria because he

doubts the Syrians are ready

wants the Golan Heights back,

but is Syria ready for security

arrangements, for basic no-

frills peace?" Peres told Israel

television Thursday night.

regional freeze on talks was

melting. Israel has resumed

talks with Jordan, and Israeli

ministers said this week that

meetings with Syria would re-

sume soon, with US Secretary

Peres' remarks came as the

"That is doubtful."

"No one doubts that Syria

for real peace, reports AP.

China is the only one of the declared nuclear powers not to join a 2-year-old test moratorium. Chinese officials say they are willing to join in negotiating a global test ban treaty, but until such a treaty is con-"History has shown that a

conditional moratorium, designed to maintain nuclear superiority while refusing to renounce nuclear deterrence ... is of extremely limited significance," the government said in a statement issued after the October test.

It said the countries with the largest and most sophisti cated nuclear arsenals - the United States and Russia should take the lead by reducing their weapons.

Of the other declared nuclear powers, the United States last conducted a test in 1992, France and Britain in 1991 and Russia in 1990. Clinton recently

Extended the US pledge to halt testing until September 1995. China is believed to have the smallest arsenal of the five.

Clinton's position still unchanged

BRIEFLY US Congress votes to lift arms embargo against Bosnia

WASHINGTON, June 10: Rejecting White House warnings of foreign policy disarray. Congress says the United States should defy its NATO allies and open the flow of arms

to Bosnia, reports AP. A House measure to lift the arms embargo, passed 244-178 Thursday, amounts to a slap at President Clinton's foreign policy and a vote of no confidence in the ability of the United Nations to resolve the conflict in the former Yugosl-

"Let us be clear," said Republican Susan Molinari. "The United Nations have failed these people.

Last month, the Senate passed a similar measure but then muddied the waters by passing a contradictory proposal urging the administration to lift the embargo only if Western allies support the move, the position supported by Clinton. Further votes and negotiations between the House and Senate will be needed before Thursday's action becomes law.

Hours before the House voted. Clinton sent three of his top defense and foreign policy advisers to Capitol Hill. They warned the amendment would wreck the NATO alliance, imperil relations with Russia, scuttle peace negotiations, intensify fighting in the region. and draw the United States into the conflict.

It didn't work. Defense Secretary William Perry; Gen. John Shalikashvili, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott ran up against overwhelming sentiment that something must be done to protect Bosnian civilians from Serb attack.

"How many innocent people

have to die in Bosnia before we do something about it? Are 200,000 Bosnian dead enough? Are 16,000 slaughtered children enough?" asked Republican David Bonior, the House majority whip and a key

sponsor of the proposal. The measure, tacked onto a defense budget bill, differs from a non-binding "sense-ofthe-Congress" resolution that lawmakers often use to express policy positions. If enacted, it would force Clinton either to lift the embargo without allied support or veto the bill.

White House spokesman Dee Dee Myers commented, "We'll see what Congress produces. It's not the final ver-

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic welcomed the vote, saving on Sarajevo radio, "We were not expecting such a significant and great victory .

... We are lealing with a unilateral lifting of the embargo, which the UN Security Council can no longer influence.

The amendment also authorizes Clinton to provide up to 200 million dollars in arms aid to Bosnia. It was attached to the 262.7 billion dollars defense authorisation bill passed later Thursday in a 260-158

Reuter reports from Washington: President Clinton still opposes unilaterally lifting an international arms embargo against Bosnia, despite a Congressional vote telling him to do so, the White House said Thursday.

Spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers told reporters after the vote in the House of Representatives: "the president's position has not changed. He does not believe that we should unilaterally lift the embargo."

Murtaza's armed guards storm police blockades

Bhuito, estranged brother of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, and a dozen armed guards stormed two police blockades today as he began his journey home after 16 years in exile.

The 39-year-old Bhutto. freed on bail last week by an anti-terrorist court, warned of horrible consequences if the government tried again to prevent his homecoming.

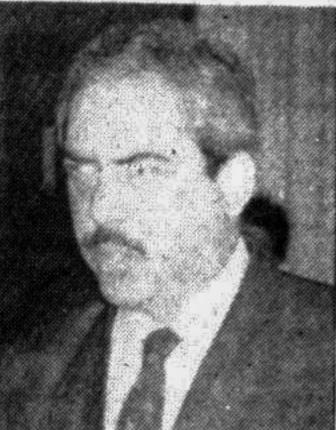
"I don't know why they blocked my road," he told Reuters, "if the government of Sind (province) is going to make a problem with me there are going to be horrible consequences. I am in no mood to make compromises."

Muritaza, his car escorted by two jeeploads of heavily armed guards, ran into a police block ade just moments after leaving his Karachi home, built by his father the former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

The prime minister's brother and one jeep of armed guards ran the blockade by about 150 armed police with armoured vans but turned back when police stopped the rest

KARACHI, June 10: Murtiaza of his convoy and began questioning his companions. "We have been deployed

since last night to stop Murtaza leaving," one police officer said.



Murtaza Bhutto

Murtaza and his supporters pushed through the blockade and then stormed a second similar blockade on the main road leading from the Sind provincial capital of Karachi toward the town of Larkana. the Bhutto ancestral home about 300 km north of the city.



Japanese Emperor Akihito (L) and Empress Michiko (R) wave just before boarding a government plane at Tokyo International Airport June 10. The royal couple left for a 17-day visit to the US, the first visit by a Jananese monarch in 20 years. - AFP photo

South Korea seeks early sanctions against North

SEOUL. June 10: South Korea is seeking early sanctions against North Korea to increase pressure on the Stalinist state to open its nuclear facilities, a government spokesman said today, reports Reuter.

He said a flurry of diplomatic talks had been arranged in order to persuade members of the United Nations Security Council and other countries to support sanctions.

"The government's position is that (the Security Council) should adopt a sanctions resolution at an early date, next week if possible," he said.

South Korean President Kim Young Sam telephoned President Bill Clinton today to discuss the sanctions issue, a Seoul presidential spokesman

Clinton told Kim that former US President Jimmy Carter's visit to North Korea next week would not affect his determination to impose sanctions on the North through a UN resolutions, he said.

Carter, who will be going to Pyongyang as a private citizen, would not carry a message from the US president, Clinton was quoted as saying. Clinton assured Kim that

Seoul's opinion would be reflected in a US campaign to bring the defiant North into line, he added.

The conversation took place after Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hong-Ku chaired a meeting of top security policy makers to confirm Seoul's firm stand on sanctions.

"Sanctions should be implemented soon as the cooling period of fuel rods North Korea removed from its fivemegawatt reactor is only three months," Lee's spokesman Kim Hyong-Ki told reporters.

The reactor at Yongbyon. about 100 km from Pyongyang. has been at the centre of the dispute over North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons programme.

US officials have said spent

nuclear fuel from the reactor could allow North Korea to extract enough plutonium to make four or five nuclear bombs.

They said the North probably already has enough plutonium to make at least one

Lee repeated calls by Seoul and Washington that North Korea take "sincere steps." to end international suspicions over it nuclear programme. and thereby pre-empt sanc-

He made clear that any sanctions would be gradual and "the possibility of dialogue will be left open at each phase of sanctions," according to his spokesman.

The spokesman said allowing a special inspection of the two undeclared sites in Yongbyon by UN experts and presenting an 'operational diary" of the five-megawatt reactor would be regarded as "sincere steps".

Torries lose another seat in by-polls

LONDON, June 10: Prime Minister John Major's government lost another seat in the House of Commons Friday, and opposition parties looked forward to gains in elections for the European Parliament, reports AP. The Conservatives, who

have not won a special Parliamentary election since 1989, finished third in Eastleigh, a district they won handily in he 1992 general election.

We have had mid-term byelections that are bad before. and we have come back from that and won," said Conservative Party chairman Sir Norman Fowler. He blamed the defeats on

tax increases and the lingering effects of a long recession.

Arafat orders PLO to close offices in Tunisia

TUNIS, June 10: PLO chairman Yasser Arafat has ordered the PLO to close its offices in Tunisia by June 15 when the premises will be handed back to their previous owners or to the PLO's "embassy" to Tunis.

The order was signed by Arafat on Saturday and copy of it was obtained Thursday by

The text was sent first to offices of the Palestine Libera tion Army - the armed wing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation - and then to PLO civilian departments.

It said the closure was a prelude to "the return to the mother country" although on Thursday no departure date had been set for most of the estimated 500 PLO cadres concerned.

Most Palestinian institutions will be moved to Gaza City or Jericho except Faruq Kaddumi's political affairs department, the Arab and international relations department under Abu Mazen and the refugee department, recently taken over by Abdallah Hurani

Off the Record Man lived with lover's

corpse for 8 years

PARIS: A Parisian man lived with his lover's corpse for eight years, police said Thursday, reports AFP. They quoted the 56-year-old man as saying he moved into

a hotel after his apartment was sold and not saying anything about the woman's body he had left behind. Police found the man at the hotel, questioned him and re-

He explained that he had been living with the woman since 1974 and that she died of natural causes in 1986. The woman's body was found early this week by the new

owner of the apartment. "I didn't know where to turn, I had no money," the man said. I washed her face, covered her with a blanket and started living in the other room of our apartment."

Horse kicks stones into Queen Elizabeth's eye

LONDON: A horse kicked stones into Queen Elizabeth's eye last weekend, forcing her to be taken to hospital for treatment, a Buckingham Palace spokeswoman said on Thursday, reports Reuter. The incident took place only hours before the Queen took part in D-Day commemoration ceremonies on Saturday. the spokeswoman said. She had been riding at Windsor

Castle, west of London. After the grit had been removed from her eye the Queen's doctor said there had been no permanent dam-



Fake Vietnam War veteran sentenced

SYRACUSE: A man who lied about serving in Vietnam and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and eight other medals was sentenced to a year of probation Thursday, reports AP.

David Goff also was fined 2,780 dollars. He could have received up to six months in prison and a 5,000 fine dollars.

"I'm very sorry for what I've done, and no sentence, whether it's the maximum fine or maximum imprisonment, is going to equal what my wife and family have been through with the public," Goff told US Magistrate Gustave DiBianco before he was sentenced.

Many Vietnam veterans near Goff's home town of Peterboro said he had spent years counseling troubled vets and establishing Vietnam veterans of America chapters.

Goff, 46, pleaded guilty in April to unlawfully wearing US, military medals and decorations.

In an April 1989 ceremony. US Republic James Walsh awarded Goff nine medals for service in Vietnam, including the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's highest combat honour, a Silver Star for gallantry in action and a Purple Heart.

Pesticide-free food increases male fertility

LONDON: Organic farmers who eat pesticide-free food produce a significantly higher number of sperm than other men, according to a Danish study into the effects of chemicals on human fertility, reports Reuter. The findings, published in Britain's Lancet Medical Journal

on Friday, are likely to fuel a debate over whether pesticides and food additives are to blame for a decline in male fertility seen in the last half-century.

The Danish scientists told the Lancet how they found and unexpectedly high sperm density - around double the average - in semen samples from 30 men attending a seminar of

This is of interest in the light of evidence that indicates a world-wide decreasing trend of sperm density in the general population," said Dr Annette Abell of the occupational medicine department of the University Hospital Aarhus, Denmark.

Tornado kills 14 in China

HONG KONG, June 10: Fourteen people were killed and nearly 200 others were injured by a tornado that spun across two towns in southern China's Guangdong Province Thursday, it was reported to-

injured in the rare twister which hit the region were in serious condition, the Chinabacked New Evening Post said.

day, says AFP. Forty-four of the 194 people

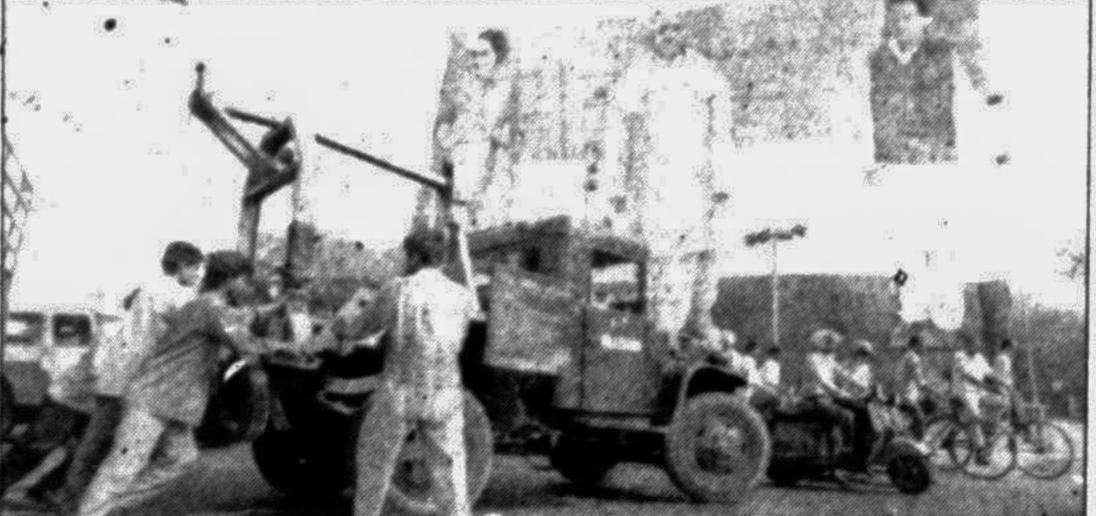
Economic losses were estimated at 30 million yuan (5.2 million US dollars) the report

of State Warren Christopher. The interview was on israel's Arab-language TV service, widely monitored throughout the region.

"Washington is trying to establish a bridgehead between the Syrians and us." Peres said, "Christopher wants enough cement in hand to build the bridgehead. I don't think he has enough."

Peres said the talks needed more direct Israeli-Syria nego-

tiations to, succeed. "You can't conduct negotiations without exchanging formal ideas all the time," he said. "How else do you build bridges?"



Workers push a broken down tow truck before a massive billboard of Congress (I) political leaders yesterday outside Talkatora Stadium, in Delhi where India's ruling Congress (I) party is meeting for a two-day conference. The illustrations from L to R: slain former prime minister Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao and slain former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi

Sonia attends AICC session

NEW DELHI, June 10: Sonia Gandhi, who was specially invited for the two-day AICC (I) session, attended the meeting here today, reports PTI.

All eyes were focussed on her as she entered the Talkatora indoor stadium dressed in a beige-coloured saree. Slogans praising her and her late husband Rajiv Gandhi rent the air.

This is the first AICC (I) session is attending after the assassination of her husband on May 21, 1991.

A vociferous demand was made by a section of the delegates that Sonia be seated our the dais along with other party big-wigs. However, she preferred to sit among the delegates on the right side of the

the Danish Organic Farmers' Association.

NATO turns down Moscow's demand for say in policy-making

ISTANBUL. June 10: Offering Moscow a "special relationship," befitting a nuclear power, NATO hoped to draw Russia into its Partnership for Peace cooperation accord

Friday, reports AP. The offer was extended at a meeting here Thursday attended foreign ministers of 16 Western allies. But they turned down Moscow's demand for a say in alliance policy-making.

On Friday, the NATO ministers met with counterparts from across Eastern Europe. including Russia's Andrei Kozyrev

NATO wants Russia to sign a Partnership for Peace agreement that 18 of its ex-Warsaw Pact alltes have already signed and that provides for political and military cooperation, including joint maneuvers.

If Russia signs up NATO would broaden cooperation with Moscow into. among other things, such areas as nuclear arms and safety and European security questions. "We very much look forward to welcoming Russia as a

(Partnership for Peace) mem-

ber in the near future," said

NATO Deputy Secretary

General Sergio Balanzino in his

opening address to the meet-

But giving Russia something special is a sensitive issue in other East European capitals. Polish Foreign Minister

Andrzej Olechowski urged NATO not to develop relations with Russia that lead to the "marginalization of smaller states" He said Russia should join

NATO's Partnership for Peace

programme on the same basis

as any other East European country. "The decision of the former Servict Union not to participate Cthe Marshall Plan aimed at economic rehabilitation after the Second World War was one of the factors clinching the division of Europe," he said. "We hope this mistake will

not be repeated and Russia will join the Partnership for Peace. Two weeks ago, Russian

Defense Minister Pavel Grachev issued conditions Clinging to superpower status. Moscow, he said, will sign a Partnership for Peace accord if NATO agrees to consult Moscow on policy matters giving Russia à veto right.

Also, it wants NATO to run peacekeeping missions for the

Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, a Cold War outgrowth of some 50 na tions best know for its Helsinki human rights accord. There can be "no veto, no

surprises" in Moscow's partnership accord with NATO. only 'substantive cooperation,' said British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd

larging NATO.

More intense ties with Moscow, the NATO ministers said in a statement Thursday, "will not, of course, affect NATO's right to take its own Thursday that forging special decisions on its own responsi ties with Moscow was no attempt at dividing Europe bility," including those on en-

Several East European.nations are seeking early membership in the alliance. "We believe that a pro-

gramme of cooperation and dialogue (with Russia) will be in the security interests of all of Europe, including Russia," Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Thursday.

He called these accords "the most important strategic innovation in Europe since the creation of NATO" in 1949. The allies also stressed on

the close of trading Friday.

Rumours running through he Hong Kong stock market today said the patriarch had died or was critically ill, sparking a 2.37 per cent drop in stock prices on strong selling in the morning session to

Deng in good

BEIJING, June 10: China's

paramount leader Deng

Xiaoping, who turns 90 in

August, is 'in good health," a

Foreign Ministry spokesman

said today, reports AFP.

health'

8,972.69 points - its lowest level in a month. The market recovered to a provisional 9,108.61 points at