China to increase N-safety ties: China will increase nuclear safety cooperation with foreign countries to ensure the growth of its nuclear industry, the official Xinhua news agency reported on Wednesday. AFP says

from Hong Kong. Huang Qitao, director of the national nuclear safety administration, was quoted as saying the organisation placed great importance on cooperating with other nations and international organisations concerning nuclear safety.

Indian cyclone death toll now 86: The death toll from a cyclone that hit southeast India this week rose to at least 86 on Wednesday as rising waters flooded villages in the state of Andhra Pradesh, Reuter reports from Hyderabad.

Officials said the toll from the worst incident, when a bus was swept away by swollen river waters late on Monday, rose to 39, including 11 children. The bus, packed with pilgrims, was heading for Tirupati, one of the holiest hindu temples in

NASA launches 5th flight: It's a green year for NASA: The space agency Thursday launches the fifth shuttle flight of 1994 devoted to studying the state of the Earth, AP reports from Cape Canaveral.

That's more environmental missions than in any previous year, Bad weather across the Atlantic threatened to scrub Atlantis' noontime launch, however.

US woman jailed in Vietnam: A Vietnamese court has sentenced a California resident to 18 years in jail for smuggling clothing and gold into Vietnam, a court official said on Thursday, AP reports from Hanoi.

Bui Hoang Danh, in charge of criminal trials at the Ho Chi Minh City People's Court, said Vu Ngoc was convicted and sentenced on Saturday, nearly two years after her arrest.

Marijuana field discovered: Brazilian police discovered the biggest marijuana field in the country, the local press reported on Wednesday. Xinhua says from Rio De Jeneiro.

The field was discovered in a joint operation taken by police from the northern states of Pernambuco and Ceara.

Finnish PM operated upon: Finnish Prime Minister Esko Aho had an operation for appendicitis on Wednesday, the news agency (STT) reported, Reuter says from Helsinki. It quoted Aho's doctors as saying the operation took place

without complications and the prime minister was in satisfactory condition.

Japan's Autumn Awards announced: The Japanese government yesterday named 30 foreigner and 4,489 Japanese recipients of its annual Autumn Awards for distinguished contributions to the country, AFP reports from

Among the foreign winners this year were four women, including French singer Yvette Giraud, 78, who was awarded to the order of the precious crown, Wistaria, for promoting Japanese-French musical exchanges.

2 killed in SA road mishap: Twentyfive people were killed in a head-on collision between a packed bus and a truck near the South African administrative capital Pretoria yesterday, police said, Reuter reports from Pretoria.

They said 37 people were wounded in the 2:30 am (0530 GMT) crash. The bus driver was killed, but the driver of the truck survived.

US sub in Russian territory: AUS submarine was discovered in Russian territorial waters off the Arctic Kola peninsula and only left after being given several warnings. Interfax News agency said yesterday. Reuter reports from Moscow.

The agency quoted officials in the northern fleet as saying the submarine was detected just five miles (eight km) off the peninsula on Wednesday.

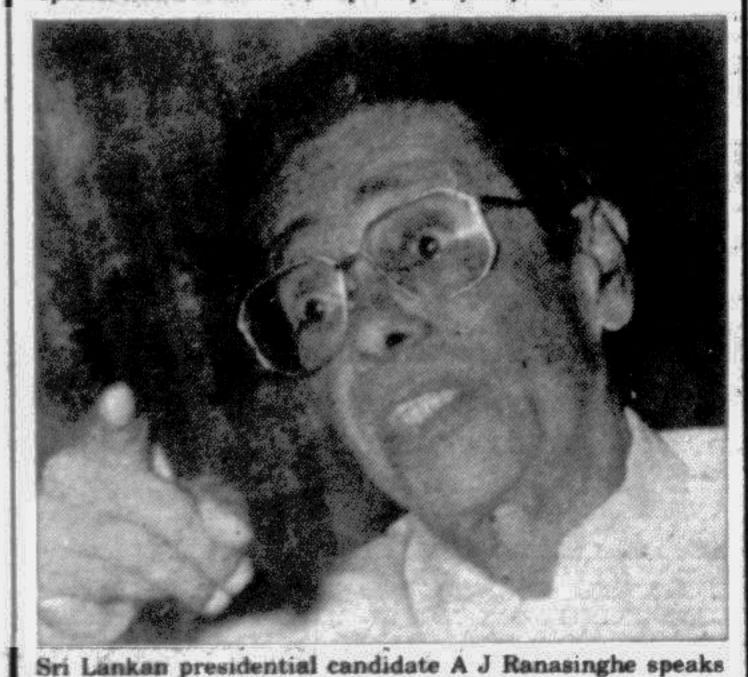
Tansu Ciller in Israel: Prime Minister Tansu Ciller yesterday became the first Turkish premier to visit Israel when she arrived at the head of a 200-strong delegation of ministers and business leaders, AFP reports from Tel Aviv.

Storm claims 6 in Java: A severe storm which hit Gresik and Lamongan in east Java province has killed six people and injured seven others, as well as destroying more than 100 houses, a press report said in Jakarta Thursday, reports AFP.

The Suara Pembaruan daily quoted east Java police spokesman Ahmad Rifa'i as saying that the storm hit Gresik, west of east Java's capital of Surabaya, on Wednesday.

Russian PM's plea: Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who last week narrowly survived a vote of no-confidence in parliament, said yesterday government should radically improve cooperation with the legislature. Reuter reports from Moscow.

Itar-Tass news agency said Chernomyrdin told a cabinet meeting that he had ordered each ministry to appoint a special official who would explain policy to parliament.



to reporters on Tuesday in Colombo. Political lightweight Ranasinghe may not be a serious presidential candidate but he has captured the attention of a huge television audience with his oddball campaign style. — AFP photo

# Pakistan seeks French backing in Kashmir dispute with India

PARIS. Nov 3: Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Wednesday called for French backing in its dispute with India over Kashmir, reports AFP.

Benazir, addressing the French National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee, also repeated Pakistan's stance that it is prepared to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), provided India does the same simultaneously.

Earlier she posed for pictures after a meeting with former President Valery Giscard D'estaing, president of the committee, and when her veil slipped, she joked "I am looking for a French designer who would make one that never falls off."

The Pakistani prime minister, on the first day of a four-

to find it.

GAZA, Nov 3: An Islamic

militant movement vowed to

step up attacks against Israelis

after a Palestinian journalist

associated with it was killed by

a car bomb in the Gaza Strip

on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

hospital of wounds. His legs.

and hands were blown off

when his car exploded as he

started it in Khan Yunis.

movement opposed to the

Israel-PLO peacedeal accused

Israel of killing him. Israeli of-

spokesman Abed Al-Shami

said: "Israeli intelligence stood

Islamic Jihad Movement

"We vow that the armed at-

tacks will increase, both the

250 films to be

screened at

Calcutta festival

than 250 films from nearly 35

countries would be screened at

the 9th Calcutta International

Film Festival to be held in the

city from November 10 to 30.

Announcing this here today

Aloke Chandra, the secretary

of the Cine Central, Calcutta,

organisers of the festival, said

that apart from world cinema

section, there would be special

sections on the films of

Greece, Mexico, New Zealand,

Argentina, Colombia, Chinese

of this year's festival would be

the holding of a complete ret-

rospective of famous Swiss film

festival would be Goutam

Ghosh directed, 'Patang' and

the closing one 'Charachar' of

Sudhadeb Dasgupta, he said.

The inaugural film of the

The 21 day festival, which

would be held at two halls at

Nandan, Ashutosh Hall and

Chaplin, would comprise a

package of 13 classics

The most important feature

and French cinema.

maker, Alain Tanner.

reports PTI.

CALCUTTA. Nov 3: More

ficials declined comment.

behind the assassination."

Leaders of Palestinian

Palestinian sources said.

Hani Abed, 35, died in

day official visit to France, told the committee "I urge France to try to convince India to accept the offer of the Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali of the United Nations to facilitate the search for a lasting solution to the Kashmir issue."

She said Kashmir was the "core issue" dividing Pakistan and India and linked it with the nuclear non-proliferation question, while denouncing human rights violations by India in Kashmir. "I stand ready on behalf of

Pakistan to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty with Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao of India signing with me. Is he ready to make the same commitment?" Benazir said.

"But negotiations and treaties require two partners. We do not lack the will to im-

A large spiral galaxy of stars hidden from direct view behind the Milky Way, recently discov-

ered by astronomers who have named it "Dwingeloo 1" after the Isaac Newton Telescope used

Jihad Movement to intensify

attack against Israelis

Israeli soldier and the Israeli

past to limit the attacks in

order not to embarrass the

Palestinian authority and not to

inflame the situation - but no

Information Centre associated

awarded a licence by PLO head

Yasser Arafat to run the pro-

Islamic Jihad Al-Istiqlal

(independence) newspaper in

Palestinian police after they

took control from Israel of the

Gaza Strip and the West Bank

town of Jericho in May. The

arrest followed the killing of

two Israeli soldiers claimed by

COLOMBO, Nov 3: Sri

Lanka's main opposition today

denied ruling party allegations

it planned to bribe voters at

next week's presidential elec-

tions by offering 1,000 rupees

(about 20 dollars) each at

polling booths islandwide, re-

National Party (UNP) said a

statement by DM Jayaratne.

General Secretary of the ruling

People's Alliance (PA), that the

UNP was planning to bribe 50

PA supporters at each polling

"It is not true. We totally re-

ject these allegations. It is

simply a fantasy in the mind of

Jayaratne." UNP spokesman

Sarath Amunugama told re-

However, the slain opposi-

tion candidate, Gamini

Dissanayake, had pledged to

bring large numbers of PA

supporters into the UNP camp

"in a democratic way," before

the November 9 election.

"We are not giving 1,000

booths was totally false.

porters here.

Amungugama said.

The opposition United

ports AFP.

He was detained by

with the Islamic Jihad.

the Gaza enclave.

Abed worked for Al-Abran

In September he was

"We had a decision in the

settler are targeted.

plement a policy of non-proliferation. All we lack is a negotiating partner," the prime minister said.

She added that she was also ready to sign a treaty for a nuclear-free South Asia if Rao signed for India "sitting next to me" and that Pakistan would accept International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections of its facilities if India did the same.

During her visit, which ends on Saturday, Benazir is due to hold talks with President Francois Mitterrand. Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and Defence Minister Francois Leotard.

The Pakistani premier's visit was expected to be marked by negotiations on the sale of French fighter-bombers

- AFP photo

the Islamic Jihad and Hamas.

Rabah Muhana of the

Popular Front for the

Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)

said: "This incident is a stigma

on the Arab leaders who went

to Morocco (economic confer-

ence with Israell and it reveals

the real face of Israel." "It is a

in the fight against anti-Israel

guerillas. Before news of Abed's

killing he said on Israel radio:

With Hamas there is only one

have pushed PLO head Yasser

Arafat, who runs the fledgling

Palestinian self-rule authority

in most of Gaza and the West

Bank town of Jericho, to crack

down on militants who attack

rupees to each voter as it is be-

ing made out. I think we have

the right to convert PA sup-

porters democratically. We

have a system at grassroots

level to do this," Amunugama

thick of the election campaign

when he and several other

UNP members were assassi-

nated in a bomb blast at an

election raily here 10 days ago.

the ruling party candidate.

Prime Minister Chandrlka

that spearheaded a violent

anti-government insurgency

five years ago said on Wednes-

day it supported the ruling

People's Alliance (PA) in the

November 9 presidential

National Party (UNP),

The Janatha Vimukthi Pe-

Kumaratunga.

elections.

She faces stiff opposition in

Meanwhile, a radical group

Dissanayake was in the

Israelis.

Lankan opposition denies

PA allegations

Israel and the United States

way, war without quarter.

Rabin has vowed no mercy

criminal Jewish deed.

and of a nuclear power plant to Islamabad.

Benazir, accompanied by Foreign Minister Assef Ahmad Ali and Defence Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani, is expected to raise the possibility of acquiring 40 French-made Mirage 2000-5 fighters. The deal has been under discussion for more than two years but has been stalled by financing problems.

Pakistan is also interested in buying nuclear technology from France. During a visit by Mitterrand to Pakistan in February 1990, France pledged to sell a 900 megawatt civil nuclear power plant but subsequently set conditions - that Islamabad sign the NPT and agree to international checks on all its nuclear installations.

### Astronomers find new galaxy

NEW YORK, Nov 3: Astronomers in Britain have discovered a galaxy virtually in our own back yard, hidden behind the fuzzy streak the ancient Greeks dubbed the Milky Way, reports AP.

The galaxy is about 10 million light-years away in the direction of the constellation Cassiopeia, said researcher Ofer Lahav of the Institute of Astronomy at Cambridge University in England. A lightyear is the distance light travels in one year, about 5.9 trillion miles (9.44 trillion kilometers).

With astronomers spending so much effort looking at the far reaches of the universe, "It's kind of remarkable that still there is a big galaxy like this one hidden just behind our own Milky Way," Lahav said.

Lahav and six colleagues report in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature that they detected the galaxy by its radiowave emissions. Lahav said it contains about one-third the mass of the Milky Way galaxy.

# Probe into massacre of 26 Pakistanis begins

PESHAWAR, Nov 3: Pakistani officials said vesterday they were probing a report that 26 villagers, including 21 children, were massacred on the orders of a landowner in the country's remote northwest, reports Reuter.

Armed men of landowner Abdul Ahad, a local leader of the Islamic fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami Party, attacked peasants belonging to the Gujjar tribe with rockets and automatic weapons on the night of October 25, a govern-

ment officials said. The men also burned about 90 houses, making 100 to 200 people homeless, the official

A team of officials has been sent to the village to verify the casualties. Dir district's deputy commissioner. Khizar Hayat. told Reuters by telephone.

## Shapour Bakhtiar killing: Trial begins in France

PARIS, Nov 3: The alleged killers of exiled Iranian Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar went on trial on Wednesday amid massive security at the Palais De Justice (law courts) in central Paris, reports

The trial opened at 1.40 pm (1240 GMT) with three Iranians in the dock. Six others are being tried in absentia for the August 1991 killing of the late Shah's last premier in the Paris suburb of Suresnes.

In the dock were Ali Vakili Rad, accused of being one of the three killers, Zeynalsa rhadi, a great-nephew of Iranian president Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani accused of organising their escape, and Massoud Hendi, suspected of giving logistical assistance to the assassins.

The trial, expected to last ramuna (JVP), or People's four weeks, is being translated Liberation Front, would help by interpreters into Farsi the government fight the since two of the accused speak "common enemy", the United no French.

# Off the Record

# Mitterrand's daughter born out of wedlock?

PARIS: The weekly magazine Paris-Match on Thursday published photographs of a young woman it identified as a daughter born out of wedlock to French President Francois Mitterrand, reports AFP.

The magazine, breaking with French journalistic practice to avoid the private lives of politicians, cited a new book by journalist Philippe Alexander.

Alexandre, as have other French writers made reference to a woman in her 20s he said was the president's daughter.

Mitterrand and his wife Danielle have two sons Jean-Christophe and Gilbert. who are now in their 40s.

In an interview with Paris-Match, which the magazine accompanied by a photograph of Mitterrand and a young woman leaving a Paris

restaurant, Alexandre argued that "the secret, which we other journalists have respected until now, no longer needs to be

He said that in his book on Mitterrand he had mentioned an aspect of the private life (of the president) that is virtually pub

# Indecent affidavit!

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas: Paula Jones, who has used President Bill Clinton for sexual harassment, asked a federal judge on Wednesday to allow her to submit an affidavit describing the president's genitals, reports Reuter. Jones's motion, filed in

US district court at Little Rock, asks that her affidavit be kept under seal, meaning that it's existence as potential evidence would be noted by the court but its contents kept confidential pending further action in the Jones, a former Arkansas

state employee, sued Clinton and an Arkansas state trooper May 6, alleging that then-governor Clinton asked her to perform a sex act after the trooper summoned her to Clinton's Little Rock hotel

Jones' original complaint claimed there were "distinguishing characteristics in

Clinton's genital area that were obvious to her. In a news release Wednesday night, Jones's attorneys said the affidavit, which they said Jones signed under oath speci fies the "physical characteristics" referred to.

"Jones is asking that the affidavit be kept under seal be cause she does not be live that this information should be made public now." said Joseph Cammarata of Fairfax. Virginia. one of Jones' attorneys.

"She is filing it for her own protection, not to embarrass Bill Clinton or anyone else." Cammarata said.

The motion asked the court to return the affidavit to Jones "if the suit is settled prior to trial."

#### Instructor commits suicide in front of marines PARRIS ISLAND: Dozens of Marines sought counselling

Wednesday, trying to understand why one of their drill instructors shot himself to death in front of dozens of recruits, reports

"The single biggest question is why - why did it happen and why did he have to do it in front of us?" said Marine Chaplant Charles Quarles, who consoled the recruits, many of them teen agers, at Parris Island Marine Corps Training Depot

On Monday, Sgt. Richard E. Stumpf Jr. An M-16 combat rifle in hand, climbed a 5-foot (1.5 meter) diving platform at a base pool. As stunned spectators shouted for him to get down, he put the gun to his Chin and pulled the trigger

struction when Stumpf killed himself. About 30 said they saw the suicide, but twice that many requested counselling. "He was ... a very good drill instructor - well thought of by

recruits, well thought of by his peers and extremely well liked. Quarles said. The 24-year-old Marine, who taught water skills at the base

had joined the military out of high school and served in the Persian Gulf War. His 25-year-old wife. Carla, is expecting their first child this week.

"He wanted to be the poster Marine, and I was all for it be cause that's what I thought was making him happy. she told Florida's Sarasota Herald - Tribune. Two years ago, at age 22. Stumpf led a squad into Kuwait

his sister. Susan Barse, said Wednesday.

#### Madonna disappoints fans MALAGA, Spain: US pop star Madonna disappointed thou

sands of her Spanish fans on Wednesday by insisting her latest video - which includes shots of a bull fight - must be filmed behind closed doors, reports Reuter.

Part of the video of her. latest record. "Take A Bow" was to have been shot before 7.000 eager fans in the Intequera bull ring, near Malaga, where one of Spain's top matadors Emilio Munoz will take on three bulls.

Some 100 giant posters had been produced, inviting locals to see the fights free of charge. But the platinum blonde.

who has scored big hits on both sides of the Atlantic over the last decade, has now decreed that "Only a few" will be able to take part in the video and has limited entry to a mere 200 extras.

Producers Warner Brothers gave no reason for the change of

heart but confirmed the builtight would differ from those tol lowed avidly by fans across Spain each week. They said the three bulls will not be killed.

#### Bandaranaike may become Lanka's second woman president the Sri Lanka Freedom Party edly said she would like to be Bandaranaike Kumaratunga. COLOMBO. Nov 3: Sri (SLFP), the main alliance part-

Lanka's Sirima Bandaranaike, who made history in 1960 s the world's first woman prime minister, may be in line to become the country's second woman president, political analysts said today, reports Reuter.

> The plan is to make her the ceremonial president once the executive presidency is scrapped," said political analyst and university lecturer Paikaisothy Saravanamuttu

who is Bandaranaike's daughter, has pledged to abolish the powerful presidential system of government by July, 1995, if she is elected president in the election next week.

Kumaratunga is expected to win the November 9 presidential poll an is expected to set out afterwards to change the constitution to a parliamentary system.

Political analysts said Kumaratunga would appoint her mother, who has repeat

president, to the post once it "But this will depend largely

not good and she may find it difficult to concentrate even on her duties as ceremonial president," said Dr Jayadeva Uyangoda, a social scientist at

leader of the People's Alliance (PA), which won the August Parliamentary election after 17

prime minister in the 1960s and 1970s and has led the Solomon, since 1960.

made a minister without portfolio and senior adviser to the cabinet. She was given a large office opposite prime minis ter's house in central Colombo.

"She may be an adviser, but I don't know if anyone listens to her advice." Saravanamuttu said. Added Uyangoda: "She doesn't have much influence in the party now. They keep her there as an ornament.

Political analysts have said bandaranaike has been largely sidelined as her daughter chooses younger and more dynamic advisers.

Some newspaper columnists have said Bandaranaike was angry and upset at the way make way for her daughter as prime minister and presidential candidate.

During the parliamentary toes that prevented her from campaigning, a task left to her daughter.

Another sore point remains her only son. Anura, who left the party and joined the opposition United National Party return.

#### 36 villagerskilled in Rwanda KIGALI. Nov 3. Twenty six

children were among 36 vil lagers killed by attackers who crossed from Zaire into northwestern Rwanda, a UN military spokesman said on Wednesday, confirming a Rwandan state radio report says Reuter. Captain Stephane Gremer

said UN headquarters were noutied of Sunday night's attack on the village of Rutagara. north of the town of Gisenvi. by military observers in the

### Egyptian storm death toll rises to 430 ASSIUT. Nov 3: Over 430 people have been killed in

southern Egypt in a thunderstorm in which lightning set fire to a large fuel depot on the edge of a densely populated farming village, reports Reuter. Some 10,000 people have now abandoned the stricken

village of Dronka, where a river of blazing fuel on Wednesday morning sliced through 200 houses.

Prime Minister Chandrika

becomes only ceremonial. on her health. Her health is

Colombo University. Bandaranaike, 78, is the

years in opposition She heads

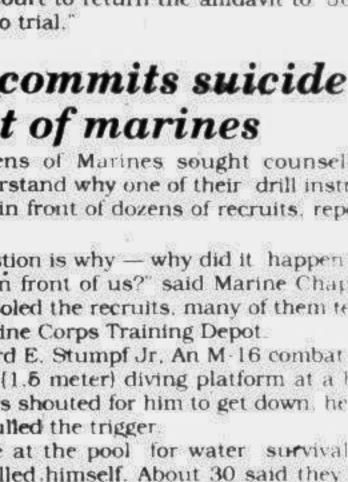
She served two terms as

SLFP, which was formed by her assassinated husband When the PA took power in August, Bandaranaike was

she has been pushed aside to

election. Bandaranaike had undergone an operation on her

last year. While Bandaranaike would like him to come back. Kumaratunga is opposed to his



About 200 people were at the pool for water survival in