COLOMBO. Nov 4: Ending

her private mourning for her

assassinated husband, Sri

Lanka's opposition candidate

for president took a hard line

on Friday toward peace talks

with Tamil rebels suspected in

the Tamil Tigers until they re-

nounce terrorism and give up

their demand for a separate

state," said Srima Dissanayake,

speaking at her first formal

news conference as a candi-

Gamini, who was then running

for president, was killed with

55 others at an October 24

was a woman who detonated

explosives strapped to her

body and suspect she belonged

to the Liberation Tigers of

spokesman reported on Friday

that Tamil rebels killed a sol-

Meanwhile, the military

Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

campaign rally in Colombo.

Mrs Dissanayake's husband

Police believe the assassin

of the United National Party.

"I will not negotiate with

his murder, reports AP.

# 260 Lebanese in Israeli jail without charge

BEIRUT, Nov 4: Around 260 people, some of the teenagers. are being held without charge in an Israeli jail in South Lebanon, a committee for the defence of the prisoners said on Thursday, reports AFP.

It also charged in a report that 11 detainees had been tortured to death.

"Around 260 Lebanese men and women are currently being held in Khiyam like hostages. according to the report, quoted by ANI.

The report was submitted to the Foreign Ministry which would hand it on to the United Nations as part of efforts to set up an international committee to investigate Khiyam Prison in South Lebanon, the state-run news agency ANI said.

UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali asked Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bweiz for details on the number of prisoners held in Khiyam, promising to send an inquiry team, the agency said.

Srima rejects talks with LTTE dier and kidnapped eight Sinhalese fishermen in sepa-

rate incidents in the north. "The style of the killing was



Srima Dissanayake

similar to that of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's," said Mrs Dissanayake. "My husband was winning the election race and the LTTE (Tigers) did not want him as

\*PESHAWAR, Nov 4: Pakis-

tan has rushed troops into a

troubled northern district

where armed tribesmen de-

manding enforcement of Ko-

ranic laws have seized an

airport and taken senior gov-

ernment functionaries hostage.

officials here said today, re-

Nifaz-I-Shariat Mohammedi

(TNSM) seized a ruling Pakis-

tan People's Party provincial

deputy Badiuz Zaman late

Thursday and held him in a

The lawmaker was killed

later in a gunbattle when his

bodyguards tried to rescue him

from his captors. Two body-

guards and two TNSM activists

were also reported killed in

Troops heading for the area

WASHINGTON, Nov 4

Turned down by Thailand, the

United States is approaching

other Asian countries to accept

pre-positioned US military

equipment, Assistant Secretary

of State Winston Lord said on

are looking at those now.

Other countries might be re-

ceptive to this," said Lord, who

declined to name the coun-

The issue may be raised in

bilateral contacts between US

leaders and their Asian and

Pacific counterparts ahead of

the Asia-Pacific Economic

Cooperation (APEC) summit

Indonesia.

Thailand.

scheduled on November 15 in

Christopher and President Bill

Clinton will take part in the

summit and also will visit the

Philippines. South Korea and

Bangkok on Monday re-

Secretary of State Warren

"We have other options, we

Thursday, reports AFP.

the shootout, officials said.

hotel in Mingora district.

Activists of the Tanzeem

ports AFP.

president." Gandhi was killed in a suicide bomb in 1991.

Tigers kill soldier, kidnap 8 Sinhalese

Mrs Dissanayake's criticism of the government's handling of the peace talks were along the same lines as her husband's opposition to the peace overtures.

"Ending the war is the most important task, but negotiations must be on our terms," Mrs Dissanayake said.

She said she would revive a defunct 1987 peace accord brokered by India and use it as a basis for negotiations. The rebels have rejected that accord, saying it did not resolve the grievances of Sri Lanka's Tamil minority.

AFP adds: She strongly criticised the ruling People's Alliance (FA) of Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga for trying to resolve the long-running ethnic conflict in the northeast by rushing into peace talks with the LTTE.

"We have to find a solution to this problem, I was not in favour of the sudden negotia-

tions Kumaratunga started. They are negotiating with terrorists. It was done without any planning, without a dialogue with the country," she

Kumaratunga, is a strong favourite to win the presidential polls, Sri Lanka's executive president automatically becomes Defence Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

Srima, in her first press conference since being appointed the UNP candidates, also urged civilians in LTTEcontrolled northern Jaffna, where peace talks were held, to "throw up leaders with whom we can discuss democratically."

"She (Kumaratunga) was completely under the Tigers. She was talking on their conditions. The negotiations should have been held in a neutral venue. The people were not informed. The opposition was not informed, Srima said.

## Muslims face harassment in Australia

SYDNEY, Nov 4: Many of Australia's 150,000 Muslims have experienced harassment and bigotry serious enough to make them wonder about the wisdom of staying here, an of ficial report revealed today

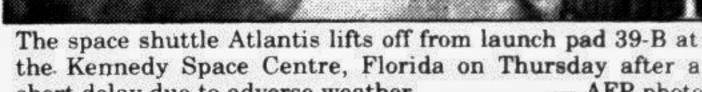
says AFP.
The report, published by Canberra's Bureau of Immigration and Population Research, said the harassment took many forms and, according to some sources, was especially prevalent during and soon after the Gulf War.

The report also said, "as Muslims have become both more numerous and more visible there have been increased reports of harassment."

Among the more visible and most vulnerable were women wearing the traditional hijab or head covering, which the report said "clearly sets woman aside as different and as a serious Muslim."

The report was released just days after Canberra announced new laws carrying jail sentences for inciting racial hatred.

# Benazir regrets





Li Peng concludes ROK visit: China's Prime Minister Li Peng left South Korea yesterday after wrapping up a ground-breaking five-day visit with a promise to help implement last month's nuclear accord between the United States and North Korea, Reuter reports from Seoul.

At a news conference earlier in the day, Li said China, the last remaining ally of communist North Korea, would help in its own way".

Chirac to run for presidency: Conservative Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac declared his candidacy for president on Friday, a newspaper reported, in a move that intensifies a struggle on the right in the race, AP reports from Paris.

Chirac has increasingly dueled with conservative Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, who is undeclared but leads in the polls. The rivalry threatened to split the right as it did in 1988, when Socialist President Francois Mitterrand was reelected.

Pak woman held with 42 kg gold: Pakistani customs authorities said on Thursday they had arrested a woman who arrived from Dubai with 42 kg (92 lbs) of illegal gold in her baggage, Reuter reports from Karachi.

Tanveer Fatima, 30, was arrested at Karachi International Airport on Wednesday, said a customs spokesman. He said it was the biggest seizure of gold from an air passenger for several years.

2 killed in Guwahati: A police constable and an ULFA extremist were killed in two different incidents in the state of Guwahati on Wednesday, the police said vesterday, PTI reports.

About 15 ULFA extremists raided the PWD magazine at Medakpathar in Karbi Anglong district and shot one police constable to death. They also looted five rifles, ammunition and explosives from the magazine, it said.

18 Nepalis die of poisoning: Eighteen people died of food poisoning after a wedding feast in a western Nepali village, a local newspaper reported yesterday, Reuter says from Kathmandu.

The Kantipur newspaper said the tragedy in the village of Siluwa, 350 km (220 miles) from Kathmandu, left 47 people in hospital, some in serious condition.

Jong praises father's policy: Kim Jong II. North Korea's apparent new leader, issued a statement Friday praising the policies of his late father and promising that communism will ultimately triumph, AP reports from Seoul.

The signed statement was his second after nearly four months of silence, and another sign that he is becoming more visibly active in leading the country.

Russian PM plans ME tour: Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin plans a Middle East tour November 17-24 in order to attract Arab investment into the Russian economy, a news agency reported Thursday, AP says from Moscow.

ITAR-Tass said Chernomyrdin plans to visit Saudi Arabia. Kuwait. Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Bomb explodes in Amman: A bomb exploded outside a liquor store in central Amman shortly after midnight, but it was not immediately clear whether anyone was injured, witnesses said yesterday, Reuter reports from Amman.

Stolen gold seized in Russia: Authorities confiscated 4.1 kilograms (9 pounds) of stolen gold and arrested four people on Friday for illegal gold dealing. AP reports from Ulan-Ude. Russia.

The gold had disappeared from a mine in Buryatia, a region in eastern Siberia, in September, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

Afghans fight to free Pak caravan: Afghan religious students are fighting guerillas blocking a Pakistani trade caravan to the southern Afghan province of Kandahar, Pakistani official sources said on Thursday, Reuter reports from Quetta.

They said hundreds of Islamic student members of the Taleban Movement, went to the area from Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan's Baluchistan Province to seek the release of the 30-truck caravan stopped by the guerillas on Tuesday.

Indonesian flood claims 12: A flood triggered by heavy rains has swept through a village on Indonesia's popular tourist island of Lombok, killing 12 people and leaving 19 missing, the official Antara news agency said yesterday. Reuter reports from Jakarta.



Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (L) talks through an interpreter (C) with French President Francois Mitterrand (R) on Thursday at the Elysee Palace in Paris. - AFP photo

Pakistan rushes troops to

quell unrest in Mingora

were said to be blocked south

of the town of Mingora by

thousands of people, many of

them armed with automatic

weapons and rocket launchers.

the crisis, the chief minister of

the North West Frontier

Province, Aftab Ahmed Sher-

paoa - a close aide of Prime

Minister Benazir Bhutto — had

earlier announced the enfor-

cement of Shariat law exclu-

sively for the Malakand and

Swat regions, scene of months

the situation. The TNSM lead-

ership has refused to call off

its campaign aimed at getting

rigid Islamic laws imple-

Residents contacted by

telephone said armed zealots

had, taken several government

officials hostage at Matta in

US move for pre-positioned

military equipment in Asia

jected a US request to anchor

ships loaded with military ma-

grounds that it might be mis-

perceived by neighbours.

Cambodia and Vietnam feed

into the gulf. The United

States - as well as Australia

and France - provide military

assistance to the Cambodian

army which is battling the

pre-positioned material would

Jewish group opposes

Arafat's Poland visit

Simon Wiesenthal Centre a

leading Jewish human rights

group on Thursday denounced

Poland's plan to invite PLO

leader Yasser Arafat to cere-

monies marking the 50th an

niversary of the liberation of

the Nazi death camp at

Auschwitz, reports Reuter.

LOS ANGELES, Nov 4: The

Lord explained that the

Khmer Rouge.

Rivers in Thailand.

terial in the gulf of Thailand on

mented.

But the move failed to calm

In a dramatic bid to defuse

Malakand

runway.

witnesses said.

latest protests.

mulgate Shariat laws.

The TNSM demonstrators

also besieged government

buildings, including the re-

gion's main civil airport at

Saidu Sharif. All flights were

cancelled as TNSM activists

took over the control tower

and erected obstacles on the

thousands of students who sur-

rounded the residences of a

provincial minister Mehboob

ur Rehman and a number of

senior officials and judges,

were killed in TNSM-led agi-

tation in May after which the

government promised to pro-

promise were blamed for the

help not only regional contin-

gencies, but in the Middle East

and around the world." The

equipment could also be used

in disaster relief operations.

pre-positioning in the recent

Kuwait deployment," he said.

referring to the US buildup in

the Gulf last month to counter

an Iraqi troop deployment

what potential threat in Asia

would warrant the advance de-

ous security problems, the

most significant being the

Korean nuclear one." he said.

referring to North Korea's nu-

Washington's disappointment

with Bangkok's decision, Lord

nevertheless, stressed that the

United States enjoys "a terrific

security cooperation with

expressing

Lord refused to identify

"The Asia-Pacific has obvi-

near the Kuwait border.

ployment.

clear programme.

Thailand generally.

While

"We saw the advantage of

Delays in carrying out this

More than a dozen people

The activists were joined by

# clashes in NWFP

PARIS, Nov. 4: Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said on Thursday she regretted clashes which had occurred in Pakistan's volatile North West Frontier Province but added such problems would be over come as Pakistan became a modern state, reports Reuter.

"It is very unfortunate what happened in Pakistan today in the North West Frontier Province but these are the problems we are confronted with as we strive to build a modern state.

"I'm sure that we will overcome these problems. Benazir told reporters who questioned her as she emerged from a meeting with President Francois Mitterrand in Paris.

# Suu Kyi's talks with junta worry opposition

BANGKOK, Nov 4: The opposition National Coalition Government of the Union of Myanmar (NCGUM) expressed concern yesterday over the widely praised talks between leading dissident Aung San Suu Kyi and the ruling military junta, reports AFP.

"The NCGUM welcomes the meetings, but it is very difficult for the NCGUM to call them positive without hearing any progress or details of the dialogue," NCGUM Information Minister Maung Maung Aye

For the talks to have greater meaning and impact the junta should release Aung San Suu Kyi first and then give her the right to communicate and consult with her fellow politicians or anyone she deems necessary," Maung Aye told AFP during a telephone. interview.

# Gaddafi ready to soften stands on Israel, terrorism

JERUSALEM, Nov 4: Libyan leader Moammer Gaddafi has told the Israeli government he is ready to soften his positions on Israel and the issue of terrorism, the Foreign Ministry disclosed here on Thursday, reports AFP.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told reporters that Gaddafi had sent a message to the Israeli government through Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, currently on a visit here. She received the message while passing through Tripoli on Tuesday.

Peres described the message as "vague," but a senior Israeli official said Gaddafi was anxious to improve his relations with the West and the United States via Israel. Libva since April 15, 1992

has been the target of an air and arms embargo imposed by the UN Security Council for its refusal to hand over two suspects wanted in connection with the 1988 destruction of a US airliner over Scotland. which killed 288.



the Kennedy Space Centre, Florida on Thursday after a short delay due to adverse weather. - AFP photo

# Off the Record

#### Secret papers on Edward VIII's abdication to be made public LONDON: Secret papers on the constitutional crisis over

the abdication of Edward VIII in 1936 are to be made public on the Queen Mother's death, the Guardian reported on Friday, says AFP. The 100-year embargo that would have closed the files un-

til 2036 is to be lifted, following a pledge last year by William Waldegrave, minister for open government, to liberalise access to public records, said the paper.

Buckingham Palace is understood to have been consulted about the move.

The decision to postpone the release until after the Queen Mother's death was taken to spare her feelings, according to a senior source.

She is known to feel that the death of her husband King George VI was hastened by the pressures of kingship thrust upon him by his elder brother's abdication.

The papers expected to be released early are official files in the Public Records Office-including those from the Cabinet Office - that are concerned directly with the King's affair with twice-divorced American Wallis Simpson, as well as the crisis caused by his decision to abdicate rather than give her up.

# Jealous husband goes on shooting spree

COLOMBO: A Sri Lankan army commando home on leave shot and killed eight people on Friday in a fit of jealous rage police said, reports Reuter.

They said the man suspected his wife of having an affair and killed her, her father, her sister and five others including a pregnant woman. He also wounded his mother in

Police said the man, who went on a 45-minute shooting spree in the north-central Kurunegala district, then shot himself in the head but survived.

# Queen usurps Di's position

LONDON: Princess Diana has slipped from her long un rivalled position as the most popular member of Britain's scandal-struck royal family, a magazine poll showed yesterday. reports Reuter.

Queen Elizabeth, a symbol of old-fashioned royal reserve who has stayed out of public squabbling over the collapse of her son Prince Charles's miserable marriage to Diana, came out on top instead, according to the survey in the women's magazine OK.

Of 500 men and women polled at random, 32 per cent chose the queen as their favourite royal - three per cent ahead of Diana who for years had enjoyed a clear lead in the popularity stakes.

Both Charles and Diana seem to have lost public sympathy as scandals about the messy and bitter breakdown of their marriage and claims of adultery have saturated British media.

At first, their 1992 separation boosted support for Diana seen as a wronged woman. This June, Charles's admission of adultery in a sympathetic television film of his life briefly

shored up his flagging ratings. But in the OK poll he won only six per cent of the votes. behind his hard-working sister Anne and the Queen Mother

The poll was conducted last month, after a pest phone-call scandal allegedly involving Diana and coinciding with the publication of "Princess in Love". a book claiming ex-cavalry Major James Hewitt had a five-year affair with the princess.

PARIS, Nov 4: Visiting Paki stant Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Thursday accused India of fomenting an arms race in South Asia and repeated Islamabad's offer to sign the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) si multaneously with New Delhi reports AFP

Speaking on the second day of an official visit to France. Benazir said the conflict in Kashmir where India had deployed 600,000 troops was contributing to 'an unprecedented arms race."

# KARACHI, Nov 4: At least 35 ancient graves dating back

an estimated 400 years were reportedly destroyed at an archaeological site in violation of Pakistan's antiquities law. archaeologists said. AFP reports. The graves were part of the Makli. Hills cemetery, located 90 kilometers (56 miles) east of Karachi, which is a pro-

> Antiquities Act. Archaeologists said there are roughly 150,000 graves and tombs at Makli, many of them dating to the late 14th and early 15th centuries. The tombs are considered archaeo-

tected site under the

logical masterpieces from the Summa, Tarkhan and Arghun dynasties, which ruled the southern province of Sindh.

The 35 graves were allegedly destroyed last month when Ghulam Qadir Palijo, a deputy from the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP). authorised his men to construct a road through the Makli Hills area

Officials have charged that Palijo was seeking to link his agricultural lands to the main road which runs near the necropolis

Palijo acknowledges he au thorised the widening of a

track already in use, but says it was for development purposes to connect the main road to a popular shrine some three kilometers (about two miles) away. He denies that any graves were bulldozed or de-

Archaeologists said the destroyed graves held historical and archaeological significance even though they were unmarked.

"An even more dangerous result of this illegal road is the fact that it has created an unpatrolled access to the necropolis. Artifacts can easily be stolen or damaged by vandals," said one expert

The archaeology depart ment has protested the action in letters to the local administration and police, requesting that the road be sealed and Palijo be charged for damaging the protected area

Under the rules, execution of development schemes and new construction in proximity to immovable antiquities is prohibited.

Cactus trees lie uprooted beside the illegally butlt road. some 80 feet (24 metres) wide and nearly three kilometers (two miles) long. could damage the tombs to the

Some ancient tombs, with

35 ancient graves at Pak archaeological site destroyed elaborate calligraphy and motifs carved in sandstone, of the Summa dynasty, which ruled the region from the 14th to 16th century, lie roughly a

> hundred meters from the road. A dyke has also been built alongside the road which will prevent rain water from flowing away from the Makli hills complex, said another expert. This could damage the site

immeasurably," he said. Palijo said the dyke had been built to prevent flooding of houses on the western side of the road and dismissed suggestions that the rain water

did not consult any experts be-

east of the road.

fore authorising the construction of the road or the dyke. But said he had the road built so people could see the tombs of Sindh's ancient leaders. He said he was not aware that he was violating the law.

He also admitted that he

Archaeology department officials say it is difficult to assess the extent of the damage and a comprehensive report is being prepared. The provincial chief minister. meanwhile, has ordered an inquiry into the matter.

## Indonesia cracks down on dissenters: Al

LONDON, Nov 4: Amnesty International said on Thursday that Indonesian authorities have arrested and in some cases mistreated dissenters as part of a campaign to clean up the capital city, reports AP. The government announced

"Operation Cleansing" in April to remove petty criminals from the streets of Jakarta in ad vance of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit which opens on Monday. "The crackdown

broadened in recent months to include arbitrary arrest of political detainees.

# India accused of fomenting arms race in S Asia