

BRIEFLY

Tighter security for Diana: Security around Princess Diana is being tightened following her decision to resume a schedule of public engagements next year, sources said Monday. AFP reports from London.

Diana, who usually drives her own car to the Chelsea Harbour gym in West London where she works out was driven Monday in a car with darkened windows, surrounded by police and followed by an escort vehicle.

Missing Russian plane found: Rescue teams found a missing Antonov-26 plane on Tuesday, two days after it ran out of gas and crash-landed on remote marshland in the Far East. All nine people aboard were in good condition. AP reports from Moscow.

The twin-engine turboprop, which also carried two tons of food and other cargo, was found near the town of Zyryanka in the Magadan region, said Karl Smolikov, spokesman for Russia's Ministry for Emergency Situations.

Arafat visits storm hit areas: The Palestinian authorities declared a "state of emergency" as heavy storms continued to batter the Gaza Strip on Monday, AFP reports from Gaza City.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat went to visit damaged homes in the centre of the Strip as well as farmers who have lost crops on flooded land.

Shakespeare's works in Chinese: The complete works of William Shakespeare are to be translated into Chinese verse for the first time, China's foremost translator of the Bard's plays was quoted as saying Monday, AFP reports from Beijing.

Although three Chinese versions of Shakespeare's works have already been published, they have all been translated into prose form.

British captain sacked: A British captain who blamed himself for his ship sinking during the 1982 Falklands war against Argentina was sacked from the Royal Navy on Monday for stealing from NATO, Reuter reports from Portsmouth, England.

Commander Richard Lane was court-martialled for claiming a 4,700 pound (7,600 dollar) furniture allowance but spending half of the cash on a car when he was stationed with the western alliance in the United States.

US jazz musician Rogers dies: Milton "Shorty" Rogers, a trumpeter, bandleader and arranger who helped pioneer West Coast jazz, died Monday. He was 70, AP reports from Los Angeles.

Rogers died at Valley Presbyterian Hospital in Van Nuys, the hospital said. The cause of death was not disclosed, although Bud Shank, a longtime friend and fellow musician, said Rogers suffered from internal bleeding from a recurring illness.

20 drown in Sierra Leone: At least 20 villagers drowned trying to flee across a river in southern Sierra Leone after rebels attacked while they were attending church, a military official said on Monday, Reuter reports from Freetown.

The rebels, in their first reported attack in the south for over two months, burnt down five houses in the Sunday raid on Gerichun town in BO district, the official added by telephone from the area.

Tehran bomb blasts claim 3: Two powerful bombs exploded in the crowded neighbourhoods of southern Tehran, killing three people and wounding dozens of others, the state-run news agency said on Tuesday, AP reports from Nicosia.

The blasts occurred Monday night, according to a brief dispatch by the Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Cyprus. IRNA quoted witnesses as saying the first bomb was planted in a garbage can in the Fadayian Islam neighbourhood. It killed two passengers in a nearby parked car. The second bomb went off at Chit-Sazi intersection, one of the busiest in southern Tehran, killing a passerby, IRNA reported.

Syria-Israel talks may resume: Syria said on Monday it might resume its stalled direct negotiations with Israel in Washington following a Middle East tour later this month by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, AFP reports from Cairo.

"We hope that we will come out of this (tour) with something to resume the talks in Washington," Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shara told journalists after talks in Cairo with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

New Solomon Islands PM: Former Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni was on Monday re-elected by members of parliament to the office, replacing Francis Billy Hilty, AFP reports from Honiara.

Mamaloni defeated Sir Baddeley Devesi by 29 votes to 18.

Refugees picked up at sea: Swedish ships and helicopters picked up more than 40 refugees, many of them women and children, from life rafts in the Baltic Sea early Tuesday, the TT news agency reported, AP says from Stockholm.

The nationality of the refugees was not immediately known, but Swedish radio said they probably came from Sri Lanka or Iraq.

Egyptian rebels fire on police: Suspected Muslim militants opened fire on Monday on two police vehicles in Minya province, southern Egypt, but there were no casualties police said, AFP reports from Minya.

Officers and conscripts were travelling in the cars which came under fire from gunmen hidden in sugarcane fields, police said. The policemen returned fire, but the gunmen fled.

Ireland to free IRA prisoners: Ireland said on Monday it would release an unspecified number of IRA prisoners ahead of schedule saying they would be out of jail by Christmas, AFP reports from Galway.

The announcement by Justice Minister Marie Geoghegan-Quinn came just over two months after the Irish Republican Army (IRA) declared a permanent ceasefire in its battle against British rule in Northern Ireland.

One dies in US school shootout: A former student stormed into a middle school office on Monday and opened fire with a shotgun, killing a custodian. The shootout spilled into the hallways, injuring four other adults, AP reports from Wickliffe, Ohio.

None of the 500 students at Wickliffe Middle School was hurt. A police officer and a teacher were in critical conditions, and an assistant principal and the gunman also were injured, police said.

4 boys die in Iranian blast: Four boys were killed when a "suspicious object" they were handling blew up in western Iran, the Islamic republic news agency reported on Monday, AFP says from Tehran.

The incident took place last week in Sarpolzhab, Kermanshah province, IRNA said quoting local police.

2,200 sacked from SA forces: Defence Minister Joe Modise on Monday said more than 2,200 former ANC guerrillas had been dismissed from South Africa's post-apartheid forces for failing to meet a midnight deadline to return to assembly points, Reuter reports from Pretoria.

The people who were not back by midnight last night are out. They're no longer part of the process, a spokeswoman for Modise told Reuters.

14 Haitians crushed by lorry: At least 14 people were killed on Sunday when a lorry crashed into a group of supporters of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and sped off, the Haitian Red Cross said, AFP reports from Port-au-Prince.

The incident occurred in the town of Diminzanne some 120 kilometres (75 miles) southwest of Port-au-Prince. Eyewitnesses said that the lorry sped into the crowd without stopping and made off.

Drug abuse rampant in E Nepal: A total of 56,212 people, or 4.5 per cent of the total population of Biratnagar, capital city of Morang district in eastern Nepal, abuse drugs, according to latest research data, Xinhua reports from Kathmandu.

Y'slav War Crimes Tribunal opens in The Hague

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Nov 8: Protected by bulletproof glass and armed UN guards, a tribunal hoping to try suspects from former Yugoslavia on Tuesday held the first international war crimes hearing since World War II, reports AP.

Prosecutor Richard Goldstone, opening the Yugoslav War Crimes Tribunal's hearing, recalled dashed hopes that the Nuremberg war crimes trials of Nazi leaders would end crimes against humanity.

"The past five decades have witnessed some of the gravest violations of humanitarian law," he said. "Those responsible have frequently escaped trial and punishment by national courts."

Bulletproof glass shielding the judges' bench underscored the tight security for the tribunal, which was set up by the UN Security Council. Fifty audience seats each were allotted to

the media, diplomats and the public.

The first order of business for the three-judge tribunal is getting jurisdiction over Dusan Tadic, a Bosnian Serb who is one of the most notorious suspects.

Tadic, accused of murder, torture, ethnic cleansing and gang rape, is being held in Germany, which has indicated it would surrender him to the tribunal. A Bavarian court indicted him on Monday for genocide, murder and aggravated assault.

Goldstone said witness statements implicate Tadic directly in atrocities committed in the Prijedor region of Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1992.

Tadic, a 38-year-old former bar owner and karate instructor, allegedly helped create death lists of Muslim citizens and was involved in forced deportations of non-Serbs.

Tadic and a group under his command summarily executed unarmed non-Serbs, and Tadic was directly involved in the transfer of prisoners to three Serb concentration camps in Prijedor, Goldstone said.

On Monday, the alleged commander of a notorious concentration camp for Bosnian Muslims became the first suspect indicted by an international war crimes tribunal since World War II.

Dragan Nikolic is accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity in his command of the dreaded Susica camp. It was set up by Bosnian Serb forces after they took over the Bosnian city of Vlasenica in April 1992.

The indictment was announced by Tribunal Registrar Theo van Boven at a high profile-press conference on Monday.

The Hague tribunal is pat-

terned on the post-World War II Nuremberg and Tokyo war crimes courts.

But with the Bosnian war still going on, this tribunal faces obstacles that never hindered victorious World War II allies. They had their defendants under lock and key. While the Hague tribunal has no suspects in custody and wants to try people who mostly are protected by the warring sides.

Nikolic is accused of killing eight Muslim detainees and torturing or mistreating seven others. He also is accused of illegal imprisonment of more than 500 Bosnian Muslims and illegal deportations.

Although the tribunal sent a warrant for Nikolic's arrest to the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale on Monday, the chances of his being surrendered by the Bosnian Serbs are slight, since their constitution prohibits foreign trial of their own people.



File photo dated November 11, 1989 of Berliners facing East German Vopos (civilian police) at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. Germany will today celebrate the fifth anniversary of German reunification and the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Navy-LTTE clash : 7 killed

COLOMBO, Nov 8: The navy killed at least seven Tamil rebels in a sea battle on Tuesday, as election officials distributed ballots and soldiers took up position to protect voting booths for presidential elections, reports AP.

Wednesday's elections will decide whether the government will pursue or abandon peace talks with the rebels that were suspended after the October 24 assassination of the main opposition candidate.

Military officials said a raiding party of three rebel boats was intercepted as it was about to attack a naval landing craft off Sri Lanka's northeast coast in the Bay of Bengal.

Two of the three boats were blown up, and the third fled, the officials said. Two sailors were wounded in the exchange of fire near the Vettalaikerni base, about 300 kilometers (190 miles) north of Colombo, and seven bodies were later recovered.

Wednesday's election marks the end of a month-long campaign marred by the suicide bombing that killed Gemini Dissanayake and 55 other people at an election rally.

Police say the style of bombing put suspicion on the Tamil Tiger rebels.

The two main contenders are Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga, who launched the peace process with the Tigers last month and wants it to continue, and Dissanayake's widow Srma, who wants to halt the talks.

Another report adds: Thousands of people jammed train and bus stations in Colombo to return to their home villages and towns to vote for the country's most powerful post.

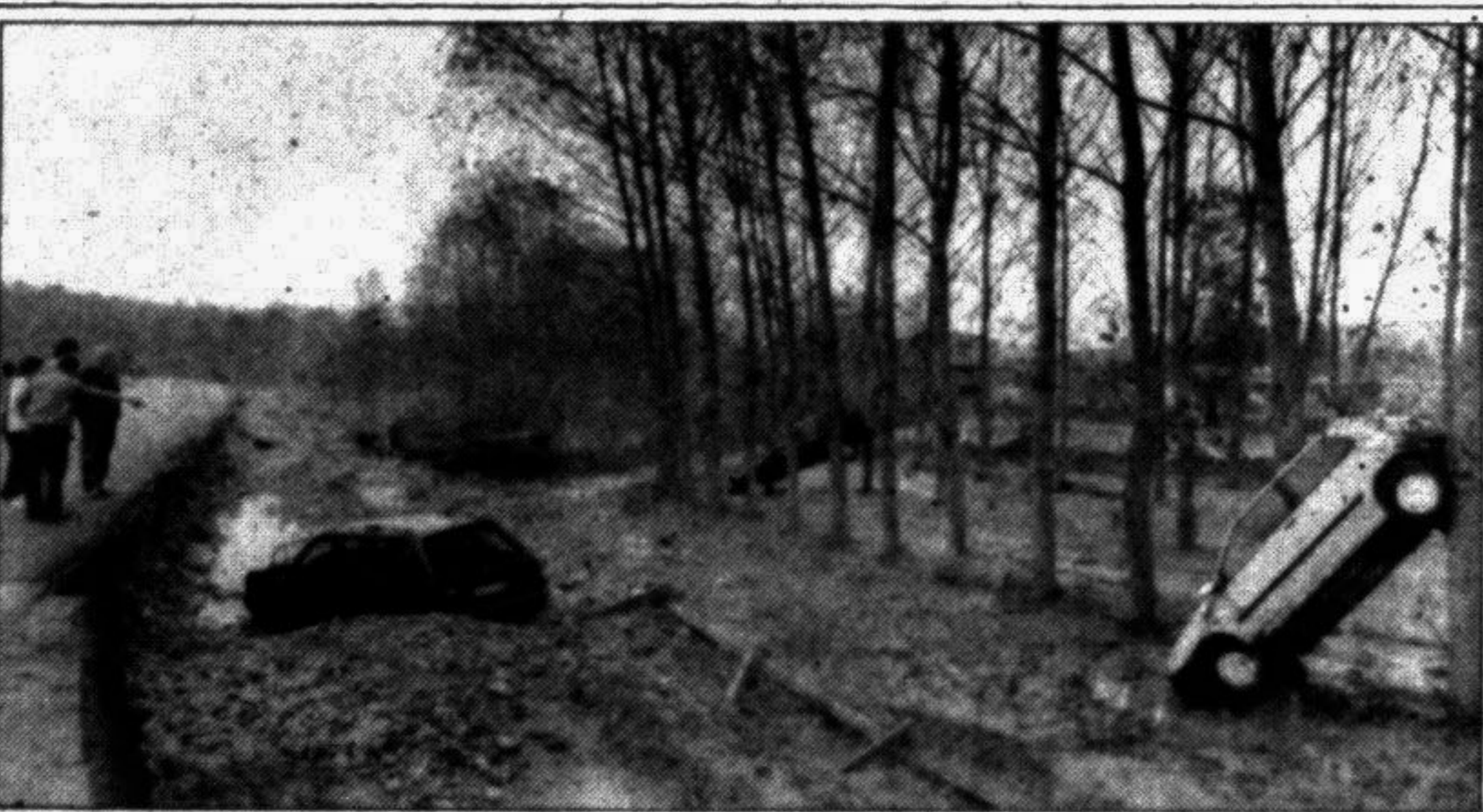
Meanwhile, Colombo's only independent television news station blacked out British Broadcasting Corp dispatches

on Sri Lanka's election. Nahil Wijesuriya, the station's managing director, told The Associated Press that his station was under government pressure to block the BBC because the reports were seen as conferring "a political advantage to some candidates."

The ruling People's Alliance Party, which had promised to remove press curbs, has been accused by the opposition of using television and radio to promote its own campaign.

Sri Lankans voted just three months ago for a new parliament, and some citizens said they were fed up with the constant electioneering.

"I am sick of elections, but I have to do my duty and vote," said Chandradasa Hendiwala, a businessman from the southern town of Hambantota, waiting to board a bus for the six-hour journey home.



Residents look at cars that appear to be carelessly parked halfway up trees — the result of flooding and the collapse of a road following heavy rains on Monday in Alba, Italy.

LONDON, Nov 8: A British television documentary to be screened this week questions the worth of Mother Teresa's charity work in India's slums, calling the myth around the Noble Peace Prize laureate a mixture of "hyperbole and credulity," reports Reuter.

British Catholics immediately rose to her defence, questioning the factual accuracy of the programme. "Hell's Angel: Mother Teresa," due to run on commercial Channel 4 today at 2100 GMT.

The programme labels the legend surrounding the 84-year-old founder of Missionaries of Charity a "Profane marriage between tawdry media hype and mediæval superstition."

It accuses her of having a "penchant for the rich and powerful, no matter how corrupt and brutal." It claims she

Worth of Mother Teresa's charity work questioned



accepted an award from Haiti's "Baby Doc" Duvalier in 1980 and laid a wreath on the grave of Albanian strongman Enver Hoxha in 1989.

Reporter Christopher Hitchens says Mother Teresa is a sop to the west's conscience. "The rich world has a poor conscience. It needs to think that someone, somewhere is doing something about the Third World. The Mother Teresa myth ministers to this desire," he adds.

Catholic media office spokeswoman Mary Rhodes said: "It's going to cause quite a lot of upset among Catholics who hold Mother Teresa in high regard... the factual accu-

Canada's secret service knew of Sikh plot to kill Indira?

CALGARY, Canada, Nov 8: Canada's intelligence agency and federal police knew of a Sikh plot to assassinate former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi four months before her death, a former agent claimed in a newspaper report on Monday, reports AFP.

Dorothy Proctor, who was tasked with infiltrating a Sikh terrorist group in Ottawa in 1984, told the Calgary Herald that Canadian authorities "missed the chance to possibly save her life."

Indira Gandhi was killed by her bodyguards in October 1984, four months after Proctor informed authorities that Sikh extremists were plotting to kill her.

Proctor, who describes her experience in a new book entitled "Chameleon," said the intelligence agency and federal police did not follow up on her information.

Newspaper publication in Kashmir banned

SRINAGAR, Nov 8: A Muslim separatist group on Monday banned the publication of newspapers in the Kashmir Valley, accusing them of echoing pro-Indian views, reports AFP.

The Jammu and Kashmir Freedom Front (JKFF) said in a statement in this summer capital of the troubled border state that "most newspapers are favouring the Indian government's point of view."

The JKFF is a breakaway faction of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, the premier Muslim guerrilla group campaigning to end Indian rule over Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

Journalists said the ban would affect several dailies of the valley published in English and Urdu.

Floods in Italy claim 59

TURIN, Nov 8: Italy's government, accused of acting late to tackle devastating floods that have killed at least 59 people, was set to declare a state of emergency today to help thousands of victims in the stricken north, reports Reuter.

Scores of homes were buried by landslides and thousands left under water when rivers in the mountainous northwest region of Piedmont broke their banks. Three days of incessant rain dumped 60 cm (two feet) of water on the area.

Emergency services, which have so far confirmed 59 deaths, said the number of dead was certain to rise to well over 80.

US, Japan start joint military drill

TOKYO, Nov 8: More than 26,000 US and Japanese troops will conduct exercises in northern Japan from today in the largest military drill between the two nations in their 34-year-old security alliance, military sources said, reports Reuter.

The drill, Keen Edge 1995, will bring together some 13,000 troops each from Japan's self defence forces (SDF) and the US armed forces in bilateral command and field exercise to defend Japan against hypothetical attack by an unnamed invader.

"The adversary is entirely fictitious and the exercise has no connection to actual international situations," a US forces Japan (USFJ) spokesman said.

The exercise was planned a year ago, well before the nuclear agreement between North Korea and the United States which has eased tension in East Asia.

Military analysts said the 1991 demise of the Soviet Union removed the most obvious military threat to Japan, prompting calls for refocusing Tokyo's land-based defence priorities to sea and air defences which will be key parts of Keen Edge 1995.

The November 8-17 exercises are "designed to afford both military forces the opportunity to develop and refine operational procedures in order to provide for the bilateral defence of Japan," the US military spokesman said.

The exercise will be held mainly at the SDF's camp Ojihara training exercise area 200 miles (320 km) north of Tokyo. But US and Japanese bases in northern Honshu and Hokkaido islands will be used for the combined land, sea and air exercise.

The bulk of US troops will be 9,900 US navy personnel from the Kitty Hawk carrier battle group.

Off the Record

'Four out of five Oxford students sexually harassed'

LONDON: Four out of five women at Oxford University say they have been sexually harassed or teased in some way, while 97 per cent of blacks say they have been abused or attacked, a survey published on Tuesday shows, reports Reuter.

Half of the women surveyed for the poll in the Times newspaper said they did not feel comfortable in some school settings and two said they had been raped but did not report it to the police.

"We always welcome information that is compiled in a responsible way on issues of importance to the university, and we will look at this closely," a university spokeswoman said.

The survey of 600 students at Oxford, one of Britain's top universities, discounted "Minor" complaints such as jokes or offensive comments.

'No new man in Diana's life'

LONDON: Princess Diana has no new man in her life and has agreed to remain a part of the royal family at least until the end of 1995, according to biographer Andrew Morton, Tuesday, reports AP.

Morton told the British national news agency Press Association in an interview that contrary to speculation in some sections of the media, Diana and Prince Charles will not divorce next year.

"There is no new man in Diana's life and she has a lot of things she wants to do within the royal circle. One of her main ambitions is to groom (their eldest son) Prince William for his ultimate destiny" as king, the agency quoted Morton as saying.

"Diana: Her New Life," the second volume of Morton's biography of the princess, went on sale Tuesday. Excerpts from it appeared Sunday by agreement with Morton in the Sunday Times.

Charles and Diana married in 1981 and formally separated in December 1992. They have two children, William, aged 12, and Prince Harry, 10. William is second in line to the throne after Charles, who will be 46 on November 14.

Eschewing abdication, Charles mother, 68-year-old Queen Elizabeth II, has vowed to remain on the throne until she dies.

Morton was quoted as saying in the interview that Diana, 33, wants to rebuild her life but faces a dilemma.

"If she divorces, remarries and has another family, there will be a growing distance between herself and her boys emotionally and also in terms of access," the agency quoted him as saying.

"So I think she has a very difficult decision to make at some stage in her life. She wants to rebuild her life — she's spoken, often of remarrying and having more children — but at the same time, she wants to groom Prince William," he told the agency.

Sisters murdered for refusing offers of 'pleasure marriage'

TUNIS: Algerian Islamists slit the throats of two Algerian sisters who refused to accept proposals of short-term marriages, the official Algerian APS news agency reported on Monday, says Reuter.

The two women aged 21 and 26 were kidnapped on Friday and their bodies later discovered near Blida, 50 km (30 miles) south of the capital Algiers, APS, quoted security services as saying.

There was no word on the fate of the sisters' father, mother and brother, who were also abducted from their home, it added.

The practice of what is known in Arabic as "Zawaj al-Mutaa", which translates into English as a "pleasure marriage" and usually involves a temporary marriage for a specified period, has become quite popular among some Islamist group in Algeria.

US aims at reaffirming commitment to S Korea

SEOUL, Nov 8: US Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived on Tuesday for a three-day visit aimed primarily at reaffirming Washington's commitment to South Korea's security against rival North Korea, reports AP.

Christopher landed at Seoul's Gimpo Airport aboard a special plane and was met by senior South Korean Foreign Ministry officials. He left for a downtown hotel without speaking to waiting reporters.

Before Christopher's arrival, US Ambassador James T Laney said the secretary would reaffirm the strong US — South Korea security alliance.

US officials are concerned about mounting public criticism in South Korea that Washington made too many concessions in recent nuclear negotiations with North Korea officials.

Although the South Korean government supports the accord, signed in Geneva Oct 21, many people are worried that it will give the North five years to fully open its nuclear facilities to inspections.

Some South Koreans also believe that North Korea is being rewarded for its intransigence by receiving 4 billion dollars worth of modern nuclear reactors plus diplomatic relations with Washington.

Laney told South Korean journalists that the Geneva accord will help open the isolated North.