Off the Record

Too late to meet

his last wish

request that his organs be sold to the rich and the money

donated to the country's poll panel chief for "nation

building," police said Sunday, reports AFP.

But the last wish could not be met because the family of

Chander Bhushan, 28, did not approve the move within six

hours of the death, as required, Deputy Commissioner of

midnight Friday. A suicide note found on him said he

Bhushan shot himself in the neck near a movie hall at

NEW DELHI: A young shot himself in New Delhi with a

US actor Gordon dies: Gale Gordon, whose prissy manner and comic tantrums made him a favourite to viewers of three Lucille Ball television series, has died. He was 89 AP reports from Los Angeles.

Gordon died of cancer Friday at the Redwood Terrace Health Centre in Escondido, Joan Seward, a nurse at the centre, said Saturday night. His actress wife, Virginia, died a few weeks earlier in the same nursing home, she said.

French minister in Manila: A highranking French official, Margie Sudre, arrived yesterday in an apparent move to dissuade Philippine opposition to France's planned South Pacific nuclear tests, AP reports from Manila.

Sudre, state secretary for Francophony, wanted to "set the minds of Filipinos at rest" about upcoming nuclear blasts, because they are "going to be the final series," she told radio station DZMM shortly after arrival.

Rock 'n' roll disc jockey dies: Wolfman Jack, the rock 'n' roll disc jockey whose gravelly voice and wolf howls made him one of the most recognisable voices in the United States, has died of a heart attack. He was 57, AP reports from Belvidere, North Carolina.

The Wolfman, whose real name was Robert Smith, collapsed shortly after returning home Saturday, said Lonnie Napier, vice president of Wolfman Jack Entertainment.

Lady Diana turns 34: Diana, the Princess of Wales, celebrated her 34th birthday by playing tennis and eating cucumber sandwiches with her two sons at their school in Ludgrove, in western London, AFP reports from

London. The princess who seemed very relaxed, spent six hours with Prince William, 13, and Harry, 10.

6 die as fire engulfs S A mine: A fire deep in a gold mine killed six workers Saturday, mine officials said, AP reports from Welkom, South Africa.

Eight miners were hospitalised after the fire at Gengold's St. Helena mine. The cause of the fire, which was still being fought Saturday evening 1.6 kilometres (a mile) underground, was not immediately known.

Speaker ousted in Zaire: Zaire's transitional parliament has removed its Speaker, Laurent Monsengwo Pasynia, who was accused of bias by supporters of President Mobutu Sese Seko and members of the radical oppositions, Reuter reports from Kinshasa.

Deputy Speaker Anzulini Bembe announced Monsengwo's dismissal late on Saturday after a lengthy and heated parliamentary session. "The political class must search for renewal," he said.

China seizes X-rated videos: Police in the southern Chinese province of Guangdong seized 140,000 pornograhic books, magazines and photographs in the first half of 1995, Xinhua news agency reported Sunday, Reuter says from Beijing.

They confiscated about 30,000 pornographic videos and closed hearly 400 shops where the tapes were available, it

Cops charged with homicide: Ten police, including two commanders, were charged Saturday with homicide and abuse of power in the slaying of 17 peasants gunned down Wednesday in the southern state of Guerrero, AFP reports from Mexico City.

Arrest warrants also have been issued for others who allegedly took part in the shootout near Coyuca de Benitez, where 17 peasants were killed and 20 wounded by the motorised police.

1 dies in US roller coaster mishap: A teenage girl was killed in a fall from a roller coaster that took its passengers for a whirlwind ride reaching speeds of up to 85 kilometres (53 miles) per hour, AFP reports from Kansas City

A friend who was riding with Ryan Bielby, 14, said the lap bar and the seat belt came undone when the train climbed to the top of a hill, a police officer said.

Unknown fumes sicken 25 in Tokyo: Unknown fumes near a subway station entrance afflicted 25 people with throat and eye pain Sunday in the latest of a series of incidents before and after a nerve gas attack in Tokyo subways in March, AP reports from Tokyo.

The 25 were hospitalised, but their injuries were not serious, said Takayuki Emura of the fire department in Yokohama, a port city just south of Tokyo.

MDMK backs creation of Tamil state in Sri Lanka

NEW DELHI, July 2: An Indian Tamil party has backed the creation of an independent Tamil state in Sri Lanka and opposed demands for a new Indian military intervention on the island, reports

Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) said at its annual conference in the southern state of Tamil Nadu on Saturday that "a separate Tamil Eelam was the only solution to the ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka.'

The MDMK is one of the main opposition parties in Tamil Nadu a sprawling coastal state of 55 million Indian Tamils separated from Sri Lanka by a narrow strip of

The party is led by V Gopalaswamy an MP who in 1989 made a clandestine visit to Sri Lanka's war-torn north and met Velupillai Prabhakaran, leader of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

A party resolution said the

MDMK was prepared to make all sacrifices to safeguard the interests of Eelam Tamils who shared long standing — ties with the people of Tamil Nadu, The Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

The MDMK also denounced the Indian government's reported decision to train the Sri Lankan army it angrily opposed growing demands in Sri Lanka for the deployment of Indian troops in the island to fight the

Indian troops went to Sri Lanka's embattled northeast under a 1987 bilateral pact. The army was withdrawn in March 1990 after losing nearly 1,200 soldiers.

Sri Lankan Tamil guerillas once used Tamil Nadu as a sanctuary. However, popular support for the rebels has waned since the 1991 assassination of former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi allegedly by the LTTE.

The LTTE wants an independent homeland.

PLO, Israel talks on expanding self-rule yield no results

EREZ CHECKPOINT Gaza Strip, July 2: Emerging exhausted from all night talks, PLO chief Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Sunday they failed to reach agreement on expanding Palestinian self-rule to the West Bank, reports AP.

The two men had been under great pressure to reach at least a partial accord after missing Saturday's deadline for signing a detailed accord on a troop pullback and Palestinian elections.

However, Peres and Arafat left at 6 am (0300 GMT) Sunday, after more than eight hours of discussions, without even issuing a joint statement on the negotiations, as had been expected.

Israel army radio had reported earlier that the two

were likely to announce a date for signing a treaty at the end of their meeting, but the two only said they would meet again soon.

"We tried to do our best but the night was not long enough," Peres said outside the meeting site, an Israel-PLO liaison office near the Erez military checkpoint.

Peres said he and Arafat had telt the high expectations, mainly from the Palestinians, that the meeting produce re-

'That's why we were sitting the whole night. Otherwise we would have gone to have a good night's sleep," he

In the hours leading up to the meeting, Palestinians rioted in several West Bank cities, the violence apparently fueled by disappointment

over another missed deadline in the peace process that is more than a year behind schedule. Soldiers fired tear gas to disperse the crowds. About 50 protesters were ar-

Arafat described the meeting as good. "We discussed all issues in details," Arafat said before driving off in his black imousine.

Negotiators have been tackling three issues - a troop pullout from Palestinian population centers, Palestinian elections and the transfer of powers from Israel's military government to the Palestinian autonomy

council that is to be elected. Both sides said Sunday they were trying to reach an overall, rather than a partial agreement.

A key sticking point is the extent of Israeli troop withdrawal in the West Bank

Israel television has said Israel has agreed to have troops pull out of six West Bank towns by the end of the year or before Palestinian elections. Soldiers would remain in the tense town of Hebron.

However, the Palestinians demand that the Israelis pull back further and that Palestinian police also take control of Arab villages. Israel wants to remain in charge of security of the villages and other rural areas.

The Palestinians have also demanded that Israel give binding dates for a withdrawal from each West Bank area, while Israel reserves the right to halt the process if there are fresh attacks on Israelis by Palestinian militants.

Russian Chechen teams announce breakthrough in peace talks

GROZNY, Russia, July 2: Russian and Chechen negotiators said in a joint statement Saturday they had made a breakthrough in peace talks, agreeing not to resort to force and not to seek revenge for past attacks, reports AFP

The peace talks began June 18, and had thus far only succeeded in achieving a poorly obsetved ceasetire.

According to the joint statement read by Chechen delegation leader Usman Imayev, the Russian team guaranteed that Chechen rebel fighters, including those who recently took 1,500 hostages in Southern Russia and then escaped back to Chechnya, would not be pursued.

But the Russians stopped short of announcing an amnes-ty for the Chechens and said the fate of breakaway

Queen Elizabeth II

to apologise to

Maori people

Elizabeth II is to ask pardon

from New Zealand's indige-

nous Maori people for the

injustices they had suffered as

the result of the British

colonisation of their land, a

report said today, reports

said the Queen would per-

sonally give the royal assent

to a New Zealand parliamen-

tary bill acknowledging offi-

cially that the Tanui tribe of

Waikato in particular had

suffered from the expropria-

resentative in New Zealand

the governor general, gives

the royal assent to turn bills

The New Zealand gov-

ernment refused to pass on a

Maori request for the Queen

to make an apology at the

Commonwealth summit to be

held in Auckland in Novem-

the treaty of Waitingi to re-

spect Maori rights to land,

forests and fishing in exchange

for assuming sovereignty over

began only 20 years later, the

Tabui lost some 1.2 million

hectares (three million acres).

But confiscation of land

In 1840 Britain pledged in

ber, the paper said.

New Zealand

Normally the Queen's rep-

tion of their land.

The Independent today

LONDON July 2: Queen

President Dzhockhar Dudayev had not been discussed

The Chechens meanwhile pledged they would not seek revenge for those who died during the bloody six-monthold war in Chechnya, Russian troops and tanks poured into the mainly Muslim Caucasus republic in early December attempting to put down a bid for independence.

The two sides also set up a joint commission to monitor the accord which pledged "no revenge and the non-use of

Imayev further announced that the separatists on Sunday would destroy some of their armoured dehicles "as a goodwill gesture. Chechen chief-of-staff

Aslan Maskhadov "left for the mountains this morning and will return Sunday with several armoured vehicles and artillery pieces which we will destroy as a goodwill gesture, Imayev said.

The move is the first concrete step toward implementing the gradual disarmament of the rebels and a stage-bystage withdrawal of Russian troops, as agreed during talks between the two sides last week, but whose practivalities still had to be worked out.

Earlier, Sandor Meszaros, head of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) mission here, which is sponsoring the talks, described Saturday's negotiations as "the most successful so far."

Meszaros said there was hope for an agreement this evening and Russian mediator Arkadi Volsky had echoed the optimism.



French physicist Hubert Reeves (R) takes part in a rally protesting against the reprisal of French nuclear tests in the South Pacific, passing by a mock French President Jacques Chirac who sits in a wheelchair, at Paris on Saturday. Several thousand demonstrators participated in the protest rally. The mock Chirac displays a placard - AFP/UNB photo which reads "after . . . ".

Tigers using child combatants to fight for Eelam, says HR group civilian areas in the north.

COLOMBO, July 2: The Tamil Tiger rebels used children as combatants while excesses and air raids by the Sri Lankan security forces pushed the young to join the guerilla movement, a local human rights group said today, reports AFP.

The University Teachers for Human Rights (UTHR) in the northern Jaffna Peninsula said in their latest report that the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were recruiting child soldiers to fight their separatist war. "The children are growing

up in a militarised environment, having constantly faced bombing and shelling. They have been in every sense trapped by a force which sees children chiefly as cannon fodder," the UTHR said. The UTHR report, a copy

of which was received here by AFP today, alleged that hundreds of people had disappeared after being taken away by security forces in the east while the airforce bombed

It said that "the inhuman behaviour" of government forces in the east and the constant use of aerial bombing of civilian areas in the north was "an important reason why children were vulnerable to the appeal of the LTTE."

The LTTE, which dominates the Jaffna Peninsula, has contrived various methods of trapping the children including a travel ban on those aged between 10 to 25 years, the report said.

CM of UP for raising Muslim quotas in jobs

NEW DELHI, July 2: The Uttar Pradesh(UP)Chief Minister, Ms Mayawati, today said she favoured 15 per cent reservation for Muslims in government jobs in the state, reports PTI.

"Why only 10 per cent, Muslims should be given 15 per cent reservation for their uplift," Ms Mayawati told a crowded press conference

She said she felt handicapped by constitutional provisions which do not permit reservation beyond 50 per cent.

"I am seriously considering introducing a resolution in the assembly recommending to the centre that suitable amendment to the constitution be made to grant reservation beyond 50 per cent limit.

"Constitution is perfectly fine, but the fault lies with its implementation by the authorities" she said emphasising that the BJP was committed to implement the constitutional provisions providing equal rights and opportunity. to all.

Asked about her stand on the Babri Mosque-Ramjanmbhoomi issue, Ms Mayawati said her government would abide by the order of the Apex Court.

She blamed the Samajwadi Party for the increased crimes against Dalits and minority community and said the former Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav and his men were directly involved in all such incidents in the state.

Iran to get another sub from Russia by Mar '96

TEHRAN, July 2: Iran will have the third Russian submarine during this Iranian calendar year ending March 20, 1996, an Iranian navy commander said here yesterday, reports Xinhua. At a press conference on

the eve of a grand military manoeuvre in the Gulf, navy commander Ali Shamkhani said that negotiation for the third Russian submarine is still going on between the two When asked about the

payment and the cost, the commander said the payment will be made in accordance with the agreement reached by the two sides four years However, he did not spec-

ify the cost of the purchase, adding that it will not be paid But, Russian Ambassador

in Tehran Sergei M Tretyakov stressed earlier that Iran must pay in cash if it wants to buy Russian submarine. He said in an interview

with Xinhua that Russia will deliver a nuclear power reactor and a submarine to the Islamic republic if Iran fulfills financial obligations. Russia had delivered two

submarines to the Iranian navy - the first was delivered in 1992

wished to donate his heart, brain and eyes to the needy, and his body to doctors for medical research. Any money made from the sale of his organs should be

Police U N B Rao said

given to "patriots" like Chief Election Commissioner T N Seshan "to enable them to carry out their work of nationbuilding," the note said.

"But the permission came too late," Rao said explaining that doctors need to act within six hours. "By the time we contacted his family and received their consent, it was late.'

Return from the 'dead'

COLOMBO: A Sri Lankan soldier listed as killed in action returned from the 'dead' after the army sent a sealed coffin to his family in southern Sri Lanka, military sources said Sunday, reports AFP.

The relatives of the army sergeant were predictably re-lieved but the authorities were embarrassed at the mistake,

the sources said. The coffin had been handed over to relatives in southern Galle district following Wednesday's Tamil Tiger assault on an army base in the island's north where 110 soldiers were

killed and two dozen left missing. "The mix up was probably because there were 17 bodies beyond recognition and some people who were missing were presumed dead. When you are dealing with over a 100 funerals, this kind of error can creep in," a military source

If only he had \$ 40 more

LONDON: Prostitute Stella Marie Thompson said she didn't know Hugh Grant was a movie star until after they were arrested together in Los Angeles, a British newspaper said Sunday, reports AP.

The News of the World quoted the 25-year-old prostitute as saving Grant told her she "looked gorgeous" and paid her 60 dollars for oral sex in his car.

"I told him that for 40 dollars more we could've gone to a room and never have been caught," but he said he had only 60 dollars with him, the tabloid quoted her as saying. Grant and Ms Thompson, who uses the name Divine Brown and was convicted twice of prostitution in 1993, were arrested Tuesday and charged with public lewdness.

Grant has made no statement about the incident since his initial expression of regret over an "insane" action, and has been talking with his girlfriend Liz Hurley at their rented country house in western England.

Suddenly she realizes she isn't married!

MONTE CARLO: Ending four years of speculation, Princess Stephanie of Monaco married her former bodyguard and father of their two children Saturday in a simply civil ceremony amid tight security, reports AP

Stephanie, 30, the youngest daughter of Prince Rainier and the late Princess Grace, and Daniel Ducruet, 31, were wed at Monaco's town hall in a late afternoon ceremony attended by about 40 people.

The princess' first cousin, the Baroness Elisabeth-Anne de Massy, and Ducruet's brother Alain were witnesses to the marriage, performed by Mayor Anne-Marie Campora at the. Town Hall, atop the huge rock near the prince's palace. Inside was a large flower display of white princess roses

and peonies. A crowd of tourists and well-wishers near the Town Hall didn't get a glimpse of the princess and her groom as they entered through the rear garden, which connects to their private villa.

Photographers kept 50 metres (yards) away by police nevertheless got pictures through a wrought iron fence of Stephanie in a white wedding gown with lace sleeves, her dark brown hair falling over her shoulders, and Ducruet in a

Russia still opposed to expansion of NATO: US

COPENHAGEN, July 2: US Defence Secretary William Perry said Saturday that Russia is still opposed to North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) enlargement into Eastern Europe, reports AFP. Speaking in Copenhagen

Saturday after returning from a brief visit to Moscow Perry said the Russians are some-Serbs' shells kill

12 in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, July 2: Twelve people were killed and 67 wounded when Bosnian Serbs fired a stream of shells into Sarajevo on Saturday, the Bosnian Health, Ministry announced, reports AFP.

A 16-year-old was among the dead and three children were wounded.

Mortar bombs slammed into pavements and roads in the city centre where people were found outdoors despite a general alert sounded earlier in the day.

where between apprehensive and negative about NATO enlargement and urged against NATO expansion. However, he added I urged

them to participate fully in the European security architecture by becoming an actor, indeed a leader in the partnership for peace, which is a part of NATO and cooperate on many questions such as preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

NATO last year launched the partnership for peace programme inviting former members of the Warsaw Pact to join in military cooperation, without becoming full members of NATO.

And he suggested that Russia's opposition to the expansion of the military alhance might be weakening.

NATO is not a threat to Russia, even expanded and I believe that it is coming more and more clear for the Russian government officials,

Iraq gives new

Major confident of beating Redwood

LONDON, July 2: Prime Minister John Major said he was confident of beating former Minister John Redwood to stay as leader of Britain's Conservative Party, but political analysts questioned whether he would get a decisive result in Tuesday's election, reports Reuter.

"I am very confident about the outcome - the figures are getting between all the time." Major told reporters, referring to encouraging opinion polls in Sunday newspapers. "It's Major," declared the

Loyal Sunday Express whose poll found 224 Conservative Members of Parliament would and 60 for right-winger Red wood, with 45 abstentions.

Communist era nearing an end in West Bengal politics

NEW DELHI, July 2: After Basu. 18 years of uninterrupted rule, communists appear to be losing ground in an Indian state considered a stronghold which has given them tremendous clout in national politics, reports AFP. The ruling Communist

Party of India (Marxist), or CPI (M), has been jolted by a string of defeats in local elections in West Bengal, a state of about 70 million near Bangladesh which boasts the world's most durable elected leftist regime. The reverses have cast a

shadow on the future of the

government controlled by the

CPI (M) and led by the ur-

bane, western-educated Jyoti

"Yes, we have lost ground," Prakash Karat, a member of the Politburo, said in an interview. "We have suffered reverses in some areas . . . we have obviously suffered ero-

"We are looking at this seriously," he added. The communists could win

only 39 of 79 municipalities that west to the polls in the state. Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's Congress [I] Party, the main opposition in West Bengal, won in 29 places. The verdict in 10 civic

bodies was unclear, while one was captured by a tiny leftist

in some areas considered impregnable leftist bastions. The defeat was doubly

humiliating because the Congress was a divided house in the sprawling state, and several party leaders had virtually given up hope of ever seeing the backs of the communists. The litmus test for the CPI

(M) will come on July 9 when voters elect a new municipal corporation, or city administration, in the state capital, Calcutta, India's soccer capital and home to Nobel laureate Mother Teresa.

The Congress is already

The CPI (M) conceded 12 smelling victory, and is even municipalities to the confident of ousting the Congress. It was mauled even communists when elections are held next year to the state assembly.

"The people of West Bengal are getting disenchanted with the communist regime, Congress spokesman Ved Prakash gloated. "The results of the civic polls clearly show "We are confident that we

will not only win the elections to the Calcutta Municipal Corporation but also come to power in the state in the next elections to the West Bengal legislature," he added

The CPI (M), which rarely admits its shortcomings in public, has blamed growing

factionalism, over-confidence and corruption for the re-CPI (M) veterans admit the

party is not finding the going easy, but claim the future is far from bleak. "There is discontent in urban areas over civic facilities."

admitted Politburo member Prakash Karat. "We are not able to solve all the problems. But our setbacks have been . exaggerated, portrayed as a major defeat. It is not.' He said the party still held

sway over rural areas, its power base. "There is no question of our losing control of West Bengal. The city of Calcutta has

the national scene. traditionally voted against the

communists, and even party sympathisers expect the CPI (M) to lose control of the corporation in the July 9 hus-

Virtually the entire Congress brass, including Indian External Affairs, Minister Pranab Mukherjee, are involved in the campaign to wrest control of the Calcutta

The CPI (M) was first elected in West Bengal in 1977 for a five-year term. It has since won elections in 1982, 1987 and 1991. Its rule of West Bengal,

once the industrial powerhouse of India, has given the party tremendous clout on

details about germ wartare BAGHDAD, July 2: Iraq

has disclosed new details about its germ warfare programme, UN disarmament envoy Rofl Ekeus said today, reports AFP. "The Iraqi government has

provided new information with regard to biological weapons," Ekeus, Head of the UN Special Commission on Disarming Iraq (UNSCOM) told reporters here toward the end of a three-day mission to Baghdad.

"We will assess that information and report about it to the UN Security Council. We have agreed to continue intensive work on clarifying these points, he said.