backed regime from holding

presidential election sched-

uled for November 16, re-

signed by Anour Haddam

head of the group's parlia-

mentary delegation abroad.

rejected the elections and

said it was "the duty of every-

one to prevent this manoeu-

The FIS "categorically re-

jects this election under the

form proposed by the

putschists (referring to the

Algerian government) and

warns against any attempt to

Algerian people."

crisis, it added.

ports AFP



This photo shows a recently discovered and still unnamed comet first viewed on Thursday the 40centimetre telescope at the Chilean Observatory of EI Tololo. Calculations show that the blilliance emitted by this new "space voyager" is 63 times larger than the 01-Hale Bopp comet discovered last July making it visible in the southern hemisphere after sundown with simple binoculars. The vertical branch is a reflection within the telescope. - AFP/UNB photo

Chinese PM to visit Canada: Chinese Premier Li Peng has accepted an invitation to visit Canada in late October - a trip timed to mark the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Ottawa and

Beijing, AP reports from Toronto. An invitation was extended by Prime Minister Jean Chretien during his trade mission to China last November. the Toronto Globe and Mail said in a report from Beijing.

3 rebels killed in S Lebanon: Hezbollah guerillas made an abortive attempt to infiltrate Israel's "security zone" in south Lebanon on Saturday. security sources said. Three guerillas reportedly were killed. AP reports from Marjaajoun, Lebanon.

After the foiled raid, two Israeli helicopters fire four missiles on suspected strongholds of the Iranian-backed guerillas, security sources said on condition of anonymity.

Amritsar bans 'press' stickers: Authorities Saturday banned the use of "press" stickers in the Indian city of Amritsar, saying vehicles bearing them are often used to smuggle liquor, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported. AFP says from New Delhi.

The Amritsar administration issued the ban effective for two months, noting "gross misuse" of the stickers in the northern city, but said journalists would be exempt, the news agency said.

Floods kill 5 in Vietnam: Waters rose dangerously Saturday in the red River Delta and the mountainous provinces of north Vietnam following torrential rains that have already killed five people in the past three days. AFP reports from Hanoi.

The worst flooding in 24 years has hit five provinces in the north, where thousands of houses, schools, medical clinics and roads remain under water after two weeks of rain, The Daily Vietnam News reported.

Sao Tome's ousted president freed: Sao Tome's military coup leaders on Friday released ousted President Miguel Trovoada whom they arrested when they seized control of the African twin island, state officials said, Reuter reports from Sao Tome.

Young army officers seized Sao Tome and Principe a former Portuguese colony 200 km (125 miles) off Gabon on Tuesday to protest against poverty and arrested democratically elected Trovoada, holding him in a military barracks.

3 Hamas activists surrender: Three militants from the Islamic Hamas group surrendered to Palestinian police in Gaza on Friday after a clash in which troops and civilians were wounded, Gaza's police

chief said. Reuter reports from Gaza. A senior security official said one of the three was the suspect police had sought for more than a week after being

tipped off by Israel about an imminent suicide attack. The three emerged from a house in the city's Sheikh Redwan neighbourhood after a three hour standoff and were driven off by security officers.

US citizen held in Vietnam: AUS citizen has been arrested in the northern Vietnamese port city of Haiphong for allegedly smuggling firearms into the

country, officials in Hanoi said, AFP reports from Hanoi. The Foreign Ministry in Hanoi here said Everett Milton was picked up "recently" and will be tried under Vietnamese law.

LTTE steps up fund raising move: Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerillas have stepped a campaign to raise funds to sustain their separatist war in the island's northeast Tamil sources said Saturday, AFP reports from Colombo.

In the past few weeks Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels have intensified efforts to collect money from civilians residing in areas under LTTE control to boost the independence campaign, Tamil sources said.

2 civilians killed in Kabul: Two civilians were killed and nine wounded when rockets hit Kabul Saturday for the second time in 10 days, security officials said, blaming the attack on the militant Taliban religious faction, AFP reports from Kabul.

"This is the second cowardly attack by the Taliban," a senior security official said. Taliban had denied responsibility for the previous attack on August 9, in which 21 people were reported dead and 24 injured.

reports Reuter.

about it."

airstrips," a senior military

officer told Reuters. "They

were very prominent in the

aerial photos. We saw signs

they were becoming active so

we decided to do something

runway in the jungle of

Kilinochchi, just south of the

rebels' Jaffna Peninsula

stronghold in the north, was

destroyed by airstrikes on

Tuesday, military spokesman

Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe

A kilometre-long gravel

Pak govt ignores police excesses in Karachi: AI

ISLAMABAD. Aug 19: The Amnesty International has accused Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government of condoning police brutality and serious human rights violations". reports AP.

In a statement released Saturday the human rights group said Ms Bhutto's government has ignored police excesses in its attempt to end the relentless violence that the terrorised Karachi in recent months.

"Against this backdrop of escalating violence. Amnesty International today held the government of Pakistan responsible for serious human rights violations committed in the context of (a) concerted campaign for law and order in the city," the statement said.

It went on to accuse the police in Karachi of illegally

Thatcher

meets Rao

former British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, today

called on the Prime Minister,

PV Narasimha Rao, here and

discussed India's economic

perceptions on the need to

maintain continuity in eco-

nomic policy and involve dif-

ferent groups in the process.

rent situation in the Asia-

the situation in Bosnia. The

British High Commissioner in

India. Sir Nicholas Fenn. was

Chechens continue

surrendering arms

Chechen fighters continued

surrendering their weapons

today, despite reports of on-

going fighting between

guerillas and Russian forces.

a spokesman for Chechen

separatist leader Dzhokhar

Achkhoy Martan was a provo-

cation destined to interrupt

negotiations," Movlady Udug-

ov told AFP, referring to

Russian attacks this week in

the area 50 kilometres (30

ment operation, begun Au-

gust 16 in southeast Chech-

nya would continue today in

SAN DIEGO, Aug 19:

Federal officials seized a

record 12 tons (10.8 metric

tons) of cocaine hidden in

the fuel tanks of a fishing

vessel that was intercepted

in South American waters

last month and towed to San

Diego, authorities said Friday.

than 143 million dollars - is

the largest ever by the

United States on the high

seas, said US Attorney Alan

were arraigned Friday in US

District Court in San Diego,

each on one count of cocaine

possession with intent to dis-

tribute. The 10, who range in

age from 31 to 57, are being

encountered the Panama-reg-

istered Nataly 1 on July 25

about 780 miles (709 kilome-

A US Navy cruiser first

held without bond.

tres) west of Peru.

Ten Colombian crewman

The seizure — worth more

But he said the disarma-

miles) west of Grozny.

overnight.

reports AP.

Bersin.

"The Russian firing at

Dudayev said today.

GROZNY, Russia, Aug 19:

present during the talks.

Pacific, official sources said.

They discussed the cur-

Thatcher also spoke about

The two leaders shared

reforms, reports PTI.

NEW DELHI, Aug 19: The

detaining people, beating and blindfolding suspects and killing suspects in custody.

Bhutto denied the Amnesty linernational charges. "This is a propaganda war. Farhatullah Babar. Ms

A spokesman for Ms

Bhutto's press assistant told The Associated Press today. The government denies that there have been coldblooded murders or that terrorists have been killed in

police custody." he said. In the last three months nearly 900 people have been killed random from rooftops and ethnic militants, who roam the streets in gangs armed with sophisticated weapons like rocket launch-

Mutilated corpses have been found in abandoned buses and dozens of tortured bodies of alleged police in-

formants have been found in burlap sacks left as warnings to other would-be informers.

In the hardest-hit neighbourhoods of central and eastern Karachi ethnic militants had dug trenches to keep police at bay.

Much of the violence has involved the Mohajir Qaumi Movement, an ethnic and linguistic group representing Indian Muslims who settled in Pakistan after the two countries gained their independence in 1947.

Mohajirs say they have been discriminated against since arriving in Pakistan and have asked successive governments to recognize them as a fifth ethnic group believ ing that will give them equality. Every government has denied their request.

But the MQM's campaign turned increasingly violent in recent years as the combat ants became better armed.

The MQM split into two factions about two years ago and since then they have been fighting each other and the security force in Karachi. the financial centre of Pakistan.

Bhutto's government blames much of the violence in recent months on the largest MQM faction, led by the charismatic Altaf Hussein, who has been living in self-imposed exile in London for nearly three

He faces dozens of criminal charges in Pakistan. ranging from kidnapping to extortion to murder. He has been convicted in absentia of kidnapping and sentenced to 28 years in jail.

FIS to resist Algerian presidential polls

lack of any agreement with PARIS, Aug 19: A leader of Islamic fundamentalists. Algeria's banned Islamic Algeria has been torn Salvation Front (FIS) vowed apart by violence in which today that Muslim guerillas more than 30,000 people would prevent the militaryhave did since the military-

backed regime annulled election in January 1992 The announcement of an election date came as armed A communique here groups stepped up their attacks, including exploding two car bombs Thursday in an exclusive compound outside Algiers where top government and military officials live, in which two people vre directed against the were killed and seven

> wounded. Haddam, who lives in the United States, warned in the communique that the elections, "will prolong the crisis and aggravate the people's suffering."

internationalise the Algerian The military junta wants to impose this poll on the The date for the first people by force to acquire round was announced by the legitimacy from the internagovernment Friday despite a tional community in the abplanned boycott by official sence of popular legitimacy opposition parties and the in Algeria," he added.

Taipei urges Asia-Pacific states to boost security

TAIPEL Aug 19: Con- he hopes this can be encerned over China's military threat to Taiwan, Nationalist Chinese President Lee Tenghui Saturday urged Asian-Pacific countries to strengthen their security cooperation, reports AP.

He suggested countries in the region should also "study the feasibility of forming a joint system" and hinted l'aiwan would welcome membership.

"China has been building up its military power in recent years, posing threats to l'aiwan and other Asia-Pacific countries and drawing international concern." Lee told Japanese and Taiwanese scholars at an annual meeting of the Asia Open Forum in Kaohsiung, southern Taiwan. "The possibility of military

conflicts remains," he said.

Some countries have already increased their secu-

larged to include others under a "principle of impartiality." that would allow Taiwan's involvement. Most Asian and Pacific

countries recognise the communist government in Beijing, although they trade with Taiwan. China regards Taiwan as a breakaway province and has not ruled out using military force to retake it. Anxieties in Taiwan were

heightened last month when China test-fired missiles off northern Taiwan. China began another series of guided missile and artillery tests in the same general area Thursday in an 11-day exercise scheduled to end August

Taiwan's United Daily News, quoting unnamed military officials, said Saturday four Chinese air force planes rity cooperation, Lee said, but flew near Matsu-

Iraq accuses US of spreading (false war fears

Medical personnel rush a woman and a man into Kosevo Hospital in Sarajevo Friday.

after they were wounded in an attack on a bus in a Sarajevo suburb. The attack near

Serb-held territory killed at least one person and wounded five others. Judging from the

wounds being treated, sources at the hospital said that the damage had probably been

BAGHDAD, Aug 19: Iraq's state-run press Saturday ac- that "inside Iraq, any foreign cused the United States of whipping up hysteria by spreading false war fears after two things are normals." of Saddam Hussein's top aides defected to Jordan, unusual military activity in

done by a shell.

Achkhoy Martan and in Shali, reports AP. a former separatist strong-"Why Does America Heighold 30 kilometres (18 hten the Situation?" asked a miles) south of Grozny. headline in the daily Al-Jum-Earlier today, the Russian houriya, following Washing-ITAR-Tass news agency reton's announcement that it ported a Russian soldier was killed and two others wounded in one of 12 sepa-

rate attacks by Chechen America is behaving in a fighters in the republic hysterical manner. America is not only declaring an all-out media war against Iraq, but it US seizes 12 tons is trying to convince world public opinion that this war of cocaine in the region is real."

The newspaper insisted observer, whether a diplomat or journalist, will see that

There were no signs of

Baghdad on Saturday, the beginning of the Muslim working week. Pentagon officials have said they are concerned

about Iraqi troop movements was speeding up deployment in an area south of the capiof US troops for exercises in tal. Iraqi authorities have denied conducting any unusual troop movements.

The two defectors, who fled to Jordan last week, reportedly indicated that Saddam had thought about attacking Kuwait or Saudi Arabia. US officials said Friday on condition of anonymit In addition to the Kuwait

exercises. American troops in neighbouring Jordan have begun manoeuvres with the kingdom's forces in previously scheduled joint war games. The Pentagon also is moving warships and military supplies toward the Gulf.

- AFP/UNB photo

In Iraq. UN weapons inspectors traveled Saturday to an arms site in a convoy with Iraqi officials. No details were

disclosed in advance. Meanwhile, the Clinton administration intensified psychological as well as military pressure on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Friday, hinting US diplomats in the Gulf may be reviving a



Palestinian women pray in the Ibrahim Mosque, in volatile West Bank town of Hebron Friday, where an Israeli settler shot dead 29 Muslims in February 1994. The Israeli army ordered the closure of the Jewish and Muslim holy site for five days to improve the security measures in the site. - AFP/UNB. photo

Off the Record

Apart from Hitler's love

BONN: Adolf Hitler's mistress Eva Braun had a secret lover, a senior SS officer whom she met early in 1944 in the Fuehrer's Bavarian retreat of Berchtesgaden. Bild newspaper said Friday, quoting Soviet archives, reports

Obergruppen Fuehrer General Otto Hermann Fegelein was a notorious ladies man, to the irritation of his boss. Heinrich Himmler, according to the Popular daily.

At Himmler's behest he got married - choosing Eva Braun's sister Gretl in order to be near his love. As the Nazi regime collapsed, Fegelein tried to con-

vince Braun to flee with him and leave Hitler in his bunker, but she did not dare, according to the reports. Hours later Fegelein was arrested on the orders of

Hitler, who had got wind of their affair, and Braun's lover was executed in the garden of the Chancellery.

Hold up in the bunker under the Chancellery. Hitler and Braun were then married on April 29 and committed suicide the next day as the Allied Forces took Berlin.

Kakakaua, the oldest parrot dies

NEW DELHI: Kakakaua, said by zoo officials to be India's oldest parrot, has died at the age of 101 years in a zoo in the western state of Gujarat, the times of India newspaper reported Saturday, says AFP. The Cockatoo was given by a former prince to the zoo in

Junagarh town in 1924 when it was 30 years old. local officials were quoted as saying. It lived on roots, green vegetables and fruit.

"The only cause of death was old age." a zoo officials told

Only female among the males CHARLESTON, South Carolina: The woman who became

the first female cadet admitted to a prestigious all-male Military Academy following a lengthy court battle announced Friday she was quitting for health reasons, reports AFP. Shannon Faulkner, 20, had spent most of the first week

of school, known was "hell week," under medical care after apparently being overcome by heat and exhaustion.

She spent more than two years fighting for a place in the cadet corps of the Citadel, a 152-year-old state-supported Military Academy that lost two last-minute appeals

to the Supreme Court to remain all-male.

"This is my personal health that I have to worry about now," Faulkner told journalists. " I have no earthly idea of what I am going to do now."

Tigers kill 1,104 troops since April

COLOMBO, Aug 19: Tamil Tiger rebels claimed Saturday that they had killed 1,104 security personnel in the northeast since hostilities resumed after guerillas broke a ceasefire on April 19, reports AP.

In a broadcast on their clandestine radio station "Voice of the Tigers," the rebels said 789 soldiers had been killed. The remaining dead included policemen, paramilitary guards, navy sailors, and air force personnel.

The broadcast did not say how many rebels had died. The military says more than 900 rebels have been killed in the past four months. Nearly 400 civilians have also

died in the fighting.
The military has admitted losing 690 men since the guerillas broke off peace talks.

Tigers'plan to launch air arm suffers setback COLOMBO, Aug 19: Plans told reporters on Thursday. by Tamil Tiger rebels to

"It will take them some launch the world's only time to rebuild it," he said. guerilla air arm suffered a The Liberation Tigers of setback this week when Sri Tamil Eelam rebels, fighting Lankan Air Force planes for an independent homeland bombed an airstrip they had for minority Tamils in the built in the island's north, north and east of the country. defence officials said today. built the airstrip to launch microlight aircraft acquired for their fledgling air arm, "The Tigers had built two

dubbed the "air Tigers."

The rebels have a naval arm called the "sea Tigers" that has sunk several navy patrol boats. The air force also bombed

rebel naval facility at Verugal in eastern Batticaloa. Munasinghe said.

"We think the Tigers will use the microlights for suicide attacks as the machines lack the range to attack and go back," a senior air force officer said.

"We have taken all precau-

tions to protect vital installations and airbases from air attacks, he added. The Tigers are suspect of

having trained pilots in western countries, he said. The microlights were stolen in France where the

Tigers have their propaganda office and an extensive network to raise funds and lobby for their struggle, military sources said. The air force bombed a

factory believed to have been assembling microlights near Kilinochchi in August, 1993. Newspapers have quoted

intelligence sources as saying the airstrip had been under construction since May and was fortified with nine bunkers on either side of the runway and a network of tunnels serving as emergency exits.

The runway was built by

rebels engineers, they said. The Tiger Air threat has been taken so seriously the military has installed anti-aircraft * tain a network and are knoweapons and radar to protect the residence of Sri Lankan President Chandrika Bandanaike Kumaratunga.

Anti-aircraft guns were also deployed to protect Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao from possible "terrorist aerial attacks" at India's independence day celebrations on Tuesday.

Rajiv Gandhi in Tamil Nadu

Tamil rebels used the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu as a support base for attacks in Sir Lanka during the 1980s, when New Delhi turned a blind eye to their operations. India cracked down on the rebels after accusing a Tiger suicide aratunga, a minister has said. bomber of assassinating former Indian Prime Minister

in 1991. The Tigers denied any involvement. But the Tigers still main-

wn to have support among extremist Tamils in India. With humble beginnings as

a small group known by the explosive acronym TNT (Tamil New Tigers) in the 1970s, the Tigers are now one of the world's most formidable guerilla outfits, boasting a makeshift navy. mobile radars, suicide squads and anti-aircraft missiles.

Xinhua adds: The Sri Lankan government will not talk again with the northern rebels, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who reneged the peace initiatives of President Chandrika Kum-

The government will also not allow any mediator to negotiate for a settlement of the

northeast conflict, said Constitutional Affairs Minister G L Peiris told reporters Thursday. Meanwhile, government

sources said the LTTE repeatedly refused to consider the government's political proposals and so it would be unfair by the armed forces and the people to enter into any discussions with them at this juncture.

The sources explained that the LTTE was responsible for the resumption of hostilities. There is an ongoing war with them and that is way the government did not send its political proposals. unveiled recently, to them.

The sources added we do not want to confuse everything by entering into any deliberations with the LTTE at this stage.

Flash floods kill 136 in Morocco

RABAT, Morocco, Aug 19: Flash floods that turned rivers near Marrakesh into raging torrents have killed at least 136 people in the region's worst catastrophe in 50 years, the Interior Ministry said, reports AP.

Fifty-seven homes, 53 stores and several government buildings were destroyed Friday night by the floods, which were triggered by violent storms Thursday. Moroccan television reports quoted officials as saying.

King Hassan 11 ordered a full-scale relief effort late Friday to help people left homeless in the affected El-Haouz province, a mountainous area east of Marrakesh.

Violent storms quickly overflowed the Gigaya, Ourika and Gamat rivers.