barricades prevented demon-

strators from the Indian

Youth Congress from ap-

proaching the US Embassy in

Indian Youth Congress.

Maninderjit Singh Bitta was

allowed through the barri-

cade, about one kilometre

(half a mile) from the US

Embassy, and said he in-

tended to present a letter to

the embassy addressed to

which was obtained by

The letter, a copy of

President Bill Clinton.

The president of the

the Indian capital.

in their country, reports

Iraqis, he told the parlia-

mentary assembly of the

Council of Europe," have been

imprisoned for years by an

international embargo and

have endured far too long the

absence of democracy, plural-

He urged Iraq's Kurds.

Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims to

urgently start dialogue on na-

tional reconciliation and a

new constitution based on

democracy and respect for

ism and man rights.

human rights.

in New York.

Khalistan Liberation Force, a

militant group fighting for a

separate Sikh nation in

northern India, claimed re-

sponsibility for a series of

bomb blasts in Delhi, the

Press Trust of India (PTI)

hand-written statement from

the group threatening to ex-

plode more devices in the

Indian capital, where two

bombs went of on Monday

a railway crossing in north-

west Delhi this morning

A third bomb exploded at

of them seriously.

PTI said it received a

said today, reports Reuter.

will thru' UN on others UNITED NATIONS, Sept eration of weapons of mass 26: Iran accused the United States and other big powers of imposing their will

BREFLY

Hungarian students stage sit-in:

Hungarian students began an around-the-clock sit-in on

Monday in front of the parliament building to protest

against the rising cost for college studies. Xinhua reports

Self-Rule Association, was prompted by A Government

2 Israelis killed in Lebanon: Two

Israeli soldiers were killed and two others were wounded

when Iranian-backed guerillas blasted their outpost in

occupied south Lebanon with a rocket barrage, security

banon, the last active Middle East war front, and over-

shadow the new landmark Israeli -Palestinian agreement

for expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank after

Strong quake shakes Hokkaido:

A fairly strong earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter

scale shook the northern Japan island of Hokkaido

Tuesday, the Meteorological Agency said, AFP reports from

epicentre of the quake, which occurred at 4:14 pm (0714

GMT), was located at 40 kilometers (25 miles) under the

seabed in the Pacific off Tokachi area, eastern

Blast kills 3 cops in Algeria: A

bomb which blew up on Monday inside a police station in

northeastern Algeria killed three policemen and a civilian,

residents and sources close to the police said. Reuter

during a swoop against black marketeers in Tizi-Ouzou.

some 90 km (56 miles) east of Algiers, the sources said by

telephone from the main berber northeastern city of

Floods claim 117 in Thailand:

Thailand's worst monsoon flooding in 12 years has caused

117 deaths and 80 million dollars in damages and has

destroyed 784,000 hectares (1.9 million acres) of rice

paddies, government ministries said yesterday, AFP

As the rains continue, flood waters are descending fur

ther south, tides are rising with the approach of a solar

eclipse on October 20, and rising food prices and flood re-

Clinton for keeping N-labs open:

President Bill Clinton said Monday the government's

three nuclear weapons research laboratories should

remain open to assure that warheads are safe and in order

without having to carry out testing. AFP reports from

conduct nuclear arms research at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California instead of moving the

operation to the Los Alamos Laboratory in New Mexico as

12 killed in SA violence: Gunmen

killed 12 people who had been attending a church service

The shootings brought the total to more than 130

killed in 10 days in the province where supporters of

President Nelson Mandela's ANC are feuding with mem-

bers of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party. "This

morning (Tuesday) the bodies of 12 people, who it appears

had been attending a church service, were found in a hut

Manila-MNLF talks postponed:

Peace negotiations between the Philippine government

and autonomy-seeking Muslim rebels scheduled for late

October in Jakarta have been postponed, a member of

the Joint Ceasefire Committee said yesterday, AFP

New Thai army chief named:

General Pramon Phalasin has been named Thailand's new

Army Commander in Chief, replacing General Wimol

Wongwanich who retires at the end of the month, state-

run Radio Thailand announced yesterday, Reuter reports

General Viroj Sangsnit was appointed armed forces

supreme commander, in place of General Watanachai

in South Africa's violence-racked Kwazulu-Natal province,

police said yesterday. Reuter reports from Durban.

near highflats," a police spokesman said.

a special commission recommended earlier in the year.

The Energy Department consequently will continue to

lief expenditures have added to inflationary pressures.

The bomb was hidden inside a bag picked up by police

There were no reports of any damage or casualties. The

The attack threatened to rekindle violence in south Le-

stipulation for raising fees for college students.

sources said, AP reports from Lebanon.

28 years of Israeli occupation.

Hokkaido, the agency said.

reports from Paris.

reports from Bangkok.

Washington.

Kabylie.

The strike, organised by the Hungarian College Student

ity of the world's countries. reports AP. must put to rest the illusion of his government becoming both the judge and policeman of the global community." Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Monday in a speech to the 185-nation

through the United Nations

at the expense of the major-

UN General Assembly. Speaking for the fundamentalist Islamic leadership in Tehran. Velayati accused the United States of an "arrogant approach" and said its foreign policy was being determined by allegiance to

He said Washington exploits international concerns such as terrorism and prolif-

from Budapest

Tokyo.

destruction to "advance its extraneous and illegitimate agenda.

Certain members STRASBOURG, France, 26: "continue to adopt unilateral King Hussein of Jordan, confirming his sharp turn against actions contrary to the provisions of the (UN) charter President Saddam Hussein, The US Secretary of State Velayati said. He did not made an impassioned plea on elaborate. Monday for the people of Iraq to unite to restore democracy

There was no immediate US response to his speech.

Velavati coupled his criticism of Washington with a call for reforms that would give developing countries a greater role in the UN Security Council, where five per manent members - the United States, Russia France, Britain and China wield veto power.

Security Council reform is backed by most developing countries but they have not agreed on a formula for representation on the council.

"All the Iraqi people, with the international community. must join together to bring an end to all the causes of Iraqi suffering, both inter-

unite to restore democracy

nally and externally," he said. "Il would offer them all my support," he added. The King, in his address to the Strasbourg-based assembly. did not mention Saddam Hussein and repeated that he had no ambition to Iraq.

He pleaded for the lifting of the oil embargo imposed by the UN on Baghdad following its defeat in the 1991

"We cannot look with indifference as the plight of the people of Iraq grows more and more tragic with every renewal of the United Na tions Security Council's im-

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic (R), US mediators Roberts Owen (L) and

Christopher Hill (C) talk to the media after their meeting in Sarajevo on Monday where

Silajdzic informed the US diplomats that he will attend the meeting of foreign ministers

Sikhs claim responsibility

for series of blasts in Delhi

PTI said the Khalistan

Liberation Force statement

was delivered to its office in

Srinagar, the summer capital

of Jammu and Kashmir state.

The Punjab, the home state

of the Sikhs, is adjacent to

organisation claimed the

miles) north of Delhi today

injured seven people, PTI

slightly injured a child, but ened security across the 7:30 pm (1400 GMT)

bombs were triggered by re-

The news agency said the

A fourth explosion in a

AFP adds: Police tight-

earlier explosions.

Jammu and Kashmir.

mote control.

NEW DELHI, Sept 26: The to be unconnected to the two

night, injuring 6 people, two, town about 100 km (60

police said the blast appeared Indian capital today and

position of sanctions," he

King Hussein, who had antagonised the West and many Arab leaders by expressing sympathy for Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, turned sharply against Saddam Hussein last month after granting asylum to high-level Iraqi defectors in Amman.

Another AFP report adds from Kuwait City: Iraq and Kuwait began talks today on the whereabouts of 605 people Kuwait says went missing during the 1990-1991 Iraqi occupation, officials here

Delegates met at the headquarters of the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) at Umm Qasr.

— AFP/UNB photo

launched a manhunt after two

bomb explosions overnight

Detectives conducted

left up to 60 people injured.

raids overnight Monday at

dozens of suspected hideouts

of Sikh and Muslim militants

in the city's east and western

residential districts to track

down the bombers, a police

department spokesman said.

rested anyone", the official

said, he said security had

been further tightened in

New Delhi following the ex-

plosions in one of the busiest

The first blast occurred at

areas of the city.

Please help me

Arafat faces tough task selling complex accord to people

Monday,

"So for we have not ar-

officials here said.

Lanka relaxes censorship on foreign media

COLOMBO, Sept 26: Sri Lanka relaxed censorship today on foreign media reports of military developments. saying it was up to them to police themselves, but kept in place the four-day old strictures on domestic

"We have not lifted the censorship, only relaxed it for the foreign media," chief government censor Edmond Javasinghe told Reuters. "But the rules remain unchanged for the domestic media."

Under the new guidelines. Jayasinghe said, the foreign media would not be required to get a clearance from censors for news reports on military affairs.

But Jayasinghe said the foreign media was now free to resume its coverage of the

Kobe survivors committing

January are committing suithe Japanese bureaucracy, a

"Their human rights are regularly violated," said the lawyer, Takeyoshi Igarashi, a lot of homeless people have committed suicide because of the inhuman living condi-

More than 6,000 people which devastated the west suicide.

Russian army to contest State

Grachev told a news con ference that the State Duma, the lower house of Russia's parliament, has not provided enough funds to the military He particularly criticised the Duma's Defence Committee, which is headed by Sergei Yushenkov, an outspoken critic of the war in Chechnya.

NATO begins air exercise in France

PARIS, Sept 26: Aircraft from seven allied countries on Monday began the first NATO exercise in France since Paris withdrew from the Atlantic alliance's integrated military command 30

A NATO spokesman, Lieutenant-Colonel Walter Schneider, said about 60 aircraft and 1,000 personnel were taking part in the fourday TAM (Tactical Air Meet 95 exercise over eastern France, with hits headquarters at a French air base in

"We last had a NATO exercise in France in 1965. This is first time since then that France has hosted NATO," he said.

"On a military level, it is a small step forwards. Politically, it is harder to

ing most of its Arab population — after a step-by-step Israeli troop pullout from lands it has occupied since

Cong's youth wing protests US arms supply to Pakistan stall" the dollars 368 million

NEW DELHI. Sept 26: arms sale package for Police fired water cannon today to disperse about 2,000 Pakistan which the US demonstrators from the Senate approved last week. youth wing of Prime Minister

There is great resent-V Narasimha Rao's ment in the minds of Indian people due to this unfortu-Congress Party protesting against a US arms package nate step taken by US for Pakistan, reports Reuter. Senate," the letter said. About 150 police manning

"Political leaders cutting across their party lines have unanimously condemned this action and the whole country stands united to express their anger and anguish over this arm package.

The demonstrators shouted "Clinton, shame, shame" and "Pakistan, shame, shame" as they tried to scale the metal barricades.

Sanjay Chandok spokesman for the Indian Youth Congress, accused Pakistan of having a hand in two bomb blasts that injured at least 46 people in Delhi on

Reuters, called on Clinton to suicide

TOKYO, Sept 26: Survivors of the Kobe earthquake in cide in frustration at the stricken-city's treatment by lawyer representing inhabitants said today, reports AFP

were killed in the earthquake ern city of 1.1 million people on January 17. Around 180,000 people were left homeless. Igarashi did not say how many committed

Duma polls

MOSCOW, Sept 26 Russia's armed forces wil field their own candidates for parliament because current lawmakers have let the army down. Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said Monday, reports

Grachev said 123 servicemen — most of them officers and 23 of them generals _ will run in parliamentary elections in November. That decision was made by his ministry, he said, after district commanders analysed parliament's perfor-

years ago, reports Reuter.

Toul.

"We are very happy that

the French invited us to hold exercise here, Schenider told Reuters.

l evaluate.

Off the Record

All she did to take a trip with friend

BEIJING: A 13-year-old girl has been accused of smothering her 79-year-old gradmother to steal 24 dirs to take a trip with a friend, the official Beijing Youth Daily reported Monday, reports AP.

The girl, identified only by her family name. Yang, went with the 18-year-old friend named Zhang to ask Li Zhijun for money on August 15 in the southwestern city of Chengdu

When the woman refused. Yang and Zhang pounded up sleeping pills and put them in the woman's porridge at dinner. But, the newspaper said. "Li didn't pass out and the two didn't drop their idea."

Yang covered the woman's head with a blanket to smother her, and called Zhang over to help when Li fought back, the newspaper said.

After she died, the two allegedly made off with 200 yuan (dlrs 24) in cash they found around the house.

Twins again

BEIJING: A giant panda has given birth to twins bringing to four the number of cubs born to the rare and notoriously unproductive animals in China's biggest reserve since last month the official Xinhua news agency said, reports Reuter.

It was the second time the panda has given birth to twins. Xinhua said in a report overnight on Sunday. She produced a pair four years ago.

One cub is being raised by researchers at the Wolong Nature Reserve because the mother is having difficulty feeding two cubs, Xinhua said.

Four cubs have now been born in the reserve in southwestern Sichuan province since August 16, Xinhua said, the Reserve's Research Centre has helped to breed 13 panda cubs since 1986 and now boasts 30 giant panda.

No more than 1,000 giant pandas are believed to survive in the wild in China experts say one reason their numbers are dwindlings that the animals have poor reproductive capabilities.

Trial remarriage

LONDON: The Duke and Duchess of York are considering living together again in a "trial remarriage", the News of the World weekly reported yesterday, reports AFP.

According to the paper the Duchess, the former Sarah Ferguson recently told close friends. "He wants me back. I love him and we both love the girls. I don't know what's stopping us.

The Duchess is thinking of returning to live at Sunn Ghil Park, the house west of London which Queen Elizabeth II gave her son Prince Andrew and Fergie as a wedding present, the report said.

Speculation on DPRK's power succession

SEIOUL, Sept 26: North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam has cancelled a UN speech, a report said Tuesday, arousing speculation that it may be related to the country's expected power succession, reports AP.

Kim, who also serves as a vice premier, had been scheduled to speak at the UN General Assembly on October 11 and attend a summit meeting of the world's nonaligned countries in Colombia October 19-20. He has cancelled both

schedules without clear explanations, South Korea's national news agency Yonhap said in a dispatch from New

Yonhap quoted an unnamed diplomatic source as saying the move may be related to activities marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of North Korea's communist Workers Party on October 10.

There has been strong speculation that North Korea's de facto leader Kim Jong 11 may assume full power on the anniversary, one of the country's most celebrated holidays.

The 53-year-old leader became the supreme commander of North Korea's 1.2million-strong military in 1991. But he has yet to assume the other two major formal titles that his late father, Kim Il Sung, had held presidency and head of the communist party.

The long delay in assuming full power by the junior Kim has spawned speculation that he may be ill or face an internal power struggle.

Kwon Young-hae, head of South Korea's main government spy agency, the Agency for National Security planning, said in Seoul last week that the younger Kim appears in good health and in firm

control of the country.

new plans to use force in Chechnya

MOSCOW, Sept 26: Russia has drawn up new plans to use force in Chechnya if the Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said Monday, reports

General Gravel told journalists: " a plan covering a return to the use of force was drawn up recently at Sochi between the president, the defence minister and the head of the Federal Security Service Mikhail Barsukov, in case the illegal armed bands refuse to comply with the July 30) disarmament agreement.

President Boris Yeltsin is currently holding in Sochi, resort on Russia's Black Sea

reports AP. the Palestinian people," a ton. buoyant Arafat said Monday, after returning to his headquarters following a week of talks that yielded the accord on Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Palestinian lays.

the trappings of statehood,

elections. virtually always backs his policies, approved the agreement Monday in a special three-hour session.

Two ministers expressed

GAZA CITY, Sept 26: Un- spokesman Marwan Kanafani. der attack Monday from Labour Minister Samir hard-liners, Yasser Arafat de- Ghosheh and Communicafended a new peace agree- tions Minister Abdel-Hafeez ment with Israel that gives al-Ashab said they found the rebels refuse to disarm there. him control over one-third of arrangements for the West the West Bank and some of Bank town of Hebron unsatis-

> The agreement is to be "The dawn has started for signed tomorrow in Washing-

factory, Kanafani said.

Arafat faces a tougher task selling the complex accord to his people, many of whom appeared indifferent or skeptical after months of de-Even some Arafat loyalists

Arafat's Cabinet which were openly critical Monday. Mustafa Natche, mayor of the West Bank town of Hebron, was disappointed that the agreement permitted 450 Jewish settlers to stay in Hereservations, said Arafat's bron, home to 120,000

cats and other family animals can take them on holidays and visits abroad.

"The symbols of occupation might disappear, such as the military headquarters from which the orders of occupation were issued," Natche said. "But the main problem, the settlers, will remain.

A labrador with a passport around his neck is chained to the gates of 10 Downing Street

whilst his owner delivers a petition demanding a reform in the quarantine laws on

Monday in London. The angry animal lovers were demanding passports so their dogs,

In fresh clashes in the troubled town, Palestinians and Israelis threw stones at each other Monday. Israeli troops stood by as one Israeli civilian hurled a stun grenade at Palestinian teenagers. It was not clear if the man was a settler.

Militant Jewish settlers. including those in Hebron, have vowed to try and scuttle the agreement, but settler reaction not expected before sundown Tuesday, the end of the Jewish New Year holiday.

The Muslims militant group Hamas, a leading opponent of the peace talks. accused Arafat of selling out. "Hamas will be committed to its pledge for resisting the occupation," said spokesman Ibrahim Ghosheh.

- AFP/UNB photo

The agreement was also denounced by Libya and Iran. Syria said the agreement was in Israel's favour and damaged peace efforts in the region. Syria's peace negotiations with Israel are deadlocked.

The accord is to be signed at the White House on Thursday, with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Jordan's King Hussein attending.

The pact allows for Palestinian self-rule in 30 per cent of the West Bank - contain

the 1967 Middle East war. the troop withdrawal wili

clear the way for Palestinians to elect a 82-member selfrule council with legislative and executive branches. Asked Monday whether

the accord would lead to statehood, Arafat was evasive. "Look, no doubt it's our right to look forward. It's a

demand of our people," he said. "It's not very easy but we have to work on it." Earlier Monday, Arafat

briefed Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan in Amman and acknowledged that the agreement was not all he had hoped for "We should always

seek the best, but we don't have to be perfect," Arafat One of the immediate re-

sults of the agreement will be the release of hundreds of Palestinian detainees from Israeli jails this week. The chief Palestinian

prosecutor, Khaled Kidreh, said Monday at least 650 prisoners will be freed Thursday, the day of the signing. Among them will be the 28 Palestinian women held by Israel.

A second group will be freed on the eve of Palestinian elections which are to be held sometime in the next

Sufian Abu Zayde a Pales tinian spokesman, said Mon day at least 2,000 prisoners will be freed by election day

Ex- Italian PM faces trial as Mafia member PALERMO, Sicily, Sept 26:

Italy's former prime minister Giulio Andreotti went on trial in the Sicilian capital Palermo today on charges that he was a member of the Mafia, reports Reuter. The 76-year-old life sena

tor, Italy's prime minister seven times, was driven into the fortified court complex inside Palermo's Ucciardone Prison under heavy escort Dressed in a dark blue

suit, he shook hands with his lawyers on the front bench of the courts, built to try some of Italy's most dangerous mob bosses in the 1980s. The presiding judge, Francesco Ingargiola, opened the trial at 10 am (0900 GMT)

Wootisiri who also retires on September 30, the radio said. Russia draws up

from Bangkok.

reports from Zamboanga.