

A Chicago policeman looks at an abortion protester on Saturday on the Michigan Ave. bridge in Chicago, IL. The Christian Defence Coalition is planning to protest abortion clinics in the Chicago area during the Democratic National Convention which begins today. - AFP/UNB photo

Japan deported 4.069 illegal immigrants following a nationwide crækdown from late May to early June, the Justice Ministry said vesterday. AFP reports from Tokyo

South Korea had, the most deportees with 1,104, followed by China with 694 and Thailand with 474, according to the ministry's immigration bureau. The ministry said 3,630 of those deported, almost 90 per cent, had been working without valid visas. About two thirds of the men were working at construction sites or factories, while most women were employed as bar hostesses, it said

Israeli FM to visit Cairo: Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy has received an official invitation to visit Egypt and could travel to Cairo early next month, official sources said vesterday. AFP says from Jerusalem.

Diplomatic sources said the invitation was transmitted to Levy by Egyptian ambassador Mohammad Bassiuny. An Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said no date had been set but that the visit should take place in early September. Levy discussed the visit last week in a telephone conversation with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. officials said.

China executes 9 more criminals: China has executed nine men for stealing cars and cash in a two-year crime spree across several countries, the Beijing Daily reported yesterday. AFP reports from Beijing.

Another six men, members of a gang of 15, were given life sentences or suspended death sentences. A suspended death sentence can be commuted to life imprisonment for good behaviour after several years. Since the end of April, more than 1,500 people have been executed in a nationwide anti-crime campaign that media reports Friday said would be extended for an unspecified period.

Shanouk asks PM to pardon newsman: King Norodom Sihanouk formally asked his two prime ministers Sunday to pardon an opposition newspaper editor serving a one-year jail sentence for calling them a pair of thieves, AP reports from Phnom Penh.

"I understand your unhappiness," said Sinhanouk's letter to the prime ministers. "But those who injure or insult me or drag my name through the mud will never be punished. I will never riposte and they will stay safe and sound and free."

Floods in Vietnam claim 200: Nearly 200 are confirmed dead and more than 700 are still unaccounted for following typhoons and floods in northern Vietnam in the past month, reports said yesterday, AFP reports

Another 12 people died this week when tropical storm Niki hit the north of the country, bringing the confirmed death toll to 194 people, according to a statement released by the storm and flood control committee:

2 German jets crash in Canada: Two German tornado jet fighters crashed about 130 kilometres (95 miles) west of Goose Bay Saturday during low-flight training exercises, the search and rescue centre in Halifax. Nova Scotia said, AFP reports from Goose Bay, Canada.

One pilot was dead and three were injured. Offictals said the three injured were not in a life threatening situation. Officials said three of the pilots were found close together while the fourth was found later - some distance away - and was declared dead at the scene. Earlier officials said he was injured.

Voting begins in North Lebanon: Voting began yesterday in north Lebanon in the second round of parliamentary elections with 580,000 voters eligible to choose 28 members of the 128-member parliament. Reuter reports from Tripoli

A thin trickle of voters began casting their ballots in this northern port city for the five rival lists of candidates as polling stations opened at 7 am (0400 GMT).

Noted Egyptian newsman dies: Ahmed Bahaa Eddin, the former editor of Egypt's most prestigious

daily newspaper Al-Ahram, died Saturday after a long illness, the newspaper announced. He was 67. AFP reports from Cairo. One of the most respected journalists in Egypt and the Arab world. Bahaa Eddin founded the magazine Sabah al-Kheir, or good morning, in 1956 when he was 29 and the youngest chief editor in the Arab world. Bahaa Eddin was appointed editor in chief of Al-Ahram in 1974. An admirer of President Gamal Abdel Nasser, he left Egypt for Kuwait at the beginning of 1976 after differences with Nasser's successor, President Anwar Sadat.

25 Iranians held from dance party: Twenty-five young Iranians have been arrested and sentenced to 10 lashes of the whip for attending a "depraved" dance party in Tehran, the newspaper Keyhan reported Saturday, AFP reports from Tehran

Police arrested 28 boys and girls between the ages of 17 and 20 years old at the dance party Thursday night in an apartment in the Velejak district of the capital, the newspaper said. Twenty-five of the party-goers were sentenced to be whipped 10 times while three boys were jailed, it said.

German space scientist dies: wilhelm Angele, a German-trained engineer and scientist who helped develop the American space programme, died Thursday at age

91, AP reports from Richmond. Angele graduated from the University of Nuremberg during the late 1920s and went to work as an engineer for the German electrical giant Siemens in Berlin.

Plane crash kills 1 in US: The pilot of a small plane appeared to be struggling to avoid an office building and hotel just before the aircraft crashed in flames short of Seattle's busy airport, witnesses said, AP reports from Seatac. The lone passenger was killed Friday when the twin-engine Beechcraft Baron clipped a utility pole, cartwheeled three times and a slammed into a grassy area near a parking garage at the

Army rounding up Tamil civilians

Lanka plans to ban LTTE

COLOMBO, Aug 25: The Sri Lankan government is considering a ban on the main Tamil rebel group that is waging a civil war in the country's north and east, newspapers and a government official said Sunday. reports AP.

Government ministers had consulted Tamil political par ties last week on banning the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the Sunday Leader newspaper said.

An imminent ban had been indefinitely postponed because a possible rebel backlash would disrupt an international cricket tournament being played in Colombo, another newspaper. The Sunday Times.

Both the newspapers quoted unnamed government sources A government official confirmed that such a move was being discussed But no final decision had yet been taken, said the senior official, who spoke

7,000 feared stranded

Kashmir blizzard

death toll rises

SRINAGAR, India, Aug 25

The death toll in Kashmir rose

to 138 today at er blizzards

decimated a Hindu pilgrimage

in the Himalayas, officials

cluding two women from Bel-

gium and the Netherlands.

reached safety following a mas-

sive land and air rescue opera

Further reports, however.

Indian soldiers found 15

suggested as many as 7,000

people could still stranded in

more bodies on the Himalayan

peaks of Seshnag and Mahagu-

nas, 3,380 metres (11.154 feet)

died from exposure as snow and

heavy rains wrecked roads in

close to the Amarnath Cave, be-

lieved to be the home of the

Hindu god of death Shiva. The

shrine is visited by thousands

India's 'adult' TV

channel to be

launched in Sept

NEW DELHI, Aug 25: India's

first 'adult' television channel

is poised to be launched at the end of next month in a blaze of

"Plus 21", a restricted pay

channel, promises a diet of rude

jokes, adult songs and risque

serials. Its opponents, however.

are promising determined op-

position in this traditionally

adult programmes," said Suresh

Kumar, Chief Executive Officer

of Globe Internet Ltd which

phy, but, yes, we will show nu-

northern city of Chandigarh,

beaming four hours daily on

India's Independence Day on

August 15 before being delayed

by organisational changes.

added: "It will be a channel for

"Plus 21" has already an-

nounced its programmes for the

clude programmes which would

never be screened on state-run

television.

first three months, and they in-

the mentally matured people."

said the channel, due to start

"We will have all kinds of

"There will be no pornogra-

Kumar, speaking from the

controversy, reports AFP.

conservative country

owns the new network.

dity if the story demands.

of Hindus in August every year.

Most of the dead reportedly

Other bodies were found

above sea level today.

the Kashmir valley.

Around 60,000 people in

said, reports AFP

the danger area

· to 138

on condition of anonymity The discussions to ban the LTTE coincided with a visit by counter-terrorism experts from the United States, who concluded a series of meetings in Colombo, the details of which

were not made public.

The Tigers have been fighting for an independent Tamil nation since 1983, and accused of assassinating many Sri Lankan politicians including President Ranasinghe Premadasa

But the government has

never banned the group because

it could close the doors for a ne-

gotiated settlement to the ethnic crisis between majority Sinhalese Buddhists and the minority Tamil Hindus. The group was banned in neighbouring India after its alleged involvement in the 1991 assassination of former prime

minister Rajiv Gandhi. He was

killed by a suicide bomber in an

election rally

An LTTE front group called the People's Front of Liberation Tigers was a registered as a political party in Sri Lanka in

Banning the LTTE would only make it harder for the government to talk to the LTTE. It will delay the process of negotiation." said Jehan Perera, a newspaper columnist and political commentator. AFP adds; Security forces

have begun rounding up large numbers of Tamil civilians in north-western Sri Lanka triggering an exodus of refugees to neighbouring India. Tamil Tiger guerillas said today. The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)

ducted a massive cordon-andsearch operation at Pesali in the Manner district from where refugees were fleeing to India. "It is from Pesali that large

said government forces con-

numbers of Tamil refugees are now fleeing to India to escape

from Sri Lankan Army repression, the LTTE said in a statement issued from its London

For its part, the military here said that it was the Tigers who were forcing civilians to flee to India as government forces kept up pressure against The Defence Ministry here

said the LTTE had mounted a "propaganda campaign" to kick off an exodus of refugees to the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu which once provided a safe haven to the Tigers

Reports from India said at least 420 Tamils from Sri Lanka arrived in the southern India last weekend in the biggest single day's exodus of refugees since the latest round of fighting between the Tigers and government forces

Rameswaram, on India's southernmost tip, is separated from Sri Lanka by a narrow stretch of sea.

NATO force bans army movements into Bihac

SARAJEVO. Aug 25: The NATO-led peace force has banned Bosnian army helicopter flights and prohibited the movement of army troops and equipment into a tense northwest province. reports

The force intercepted an eight-truck convoy Thursday night carrying about 200 newly trained recruits from central Bosnia into the northwest Bihac region. Ltd Col Max Marriner, a peace force spokesman, said Saturday The army had not tried to get the required permission from the peace force for the troop movements, he

On Friday, four Bosnian military helicopters carried more than the number of passengers authorized by the peace force. They, too, were traveling between Zenica and the Bihac region. Marriner said.

The transport bans will remain in effect until further notice, Marriner said Tension remains in the Bi-

hat region, where Muslim fought Muslim parallel with the Muslim-led army's war against Bosnian Serb rebels. Intimidation of opposition political activists and attacks against them occur frequently. Occasionally, grenades are lobbed against the houses of opposi-

tion figures. Alexander Ivanko, the UN spokesman, said Saturday that the local chief of police in Cazin, in the Bihac region, had been fired.

In May, Haris Silajdizic, the former prime minister and now opposition candidate, was beaten during a rally in Cazin. Investigators concluded that the beating was engineered by the ruling party. the Muslim Party for Democratic Action. and that local police were ac-

AFP adds. Bosnian president Alija Izetbegovic appealed to his compatriots in Germany on Saturday to return home to help rebuild the war-shattered country.

Lankan PM slams minister for raising doubts about parentage of her only son

COLOMBO, Aug 25: Sri Lanka's matriarch Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike slammed a senior minister today for raising doubts about the parentage of her only son. Anura, who is an opposition legislator, reports AFP.

Bandaranaike, 80, warned Energy Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte, also a close relative of the Bandaranaikes, to in future "speak with a sense of responsibility" and not to defame the country's first family.

Ratwatte, who is also junior defence minister under President Chandrika Kumaratunga. the second daughter of Premier Bandaranaike, had said the Anura was someone else's child. accidentally given to the fam-

"I am compelled to write to you in view of the churlish public statements made by you concerning my family which has distressed me greatly and caused me pain of mind," Bandaranaike said in a letter to her cousin Ratwatte today.

You should in future try to speak with a sense of responsibility without defaming members of my family and myself," the prime minister said in her letter, a copy of which was released to the press.

Bandaranaike said all her three children were born at home and there was no question of a mix-up at a hospital. Ratwatte is loyal to Presi-

dent Kumaratunga, who won a succession battle over brother Anura. The president is a ferocious critic of Anura, who quit the family's Freedom Party to join the rival United National Party in 1993.

Their father, Solomon, was prime minister until he was assassinated in 1959 and their mother stepped into his shoes to become the world's first elected woman prime minister in 1960. Anura Bandaranaike has

declared he will file defamation charges against Ratwatte and his mother is expected to be a key witness.

Pakistan building missile factory with China's help'

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic addresses supporters in front of the board with the

Bosnian coat of arms at park stadium on Saturday during an electoral rally. Some 20,000

people attended the meeting in the stadium, normally home turf of the first division squad

Schalke 04. The first Bosnia-wide elections since the war there ended are set for Septem-

ber 14. Some 30,000 Bosnians live in Germany, either as immigrant workers or war

WASHINGTON, Aug 25: Pakistan is building a factory to produce medium-range missiles using blueprints and equipment supplied by China. The Washington Post reported Sunday.

refugees

reports AP. Quoting unidentified US intelligence officials and a classified report, the newspaper said the factory is being erected in a suburb of the northern city of Rawalpindi.

It is expected in a year or two to be capable of producing most of the major components of a missile either similar or identical to the Chinese-designed M-

11, the Post said. Officials told the Post that the project raises the possibility of a major new arms-proliferation dispute with Beijing, perhaps leading to broad economic sanctions against both the Chinese and Pakistani governments.

The United States has twice imposed limited sanctions against China for selling M-11 missile launchers and finished

missile components to Pakistan but lifted them after China promised to cease such deliveries. It recently also set tled a dispute with China over the sale of nuclear-related equipment.

A recent US National Intelli gence Estimate, a classified report reflecting the consensus of intelligence agencies, described the purpose of the new factory. the Post said. The report also suggested

that Pakistan may have developed nuclear warheads to be mounted on the M-11 missiles. Completion of the factory

would for the first time give Pakistan the ability to match the Prithvi medium-range missile of its arch-foe, India, which also could be outfitted with nuclear warheads, the Post said.

Reuter adds, the partially completed factory in a suburb of the northern city of Rawal-· pindi, near Islamabad, was expected to be capable in a year or two of producing most of the major components of a missile

modelled on the Chinese-designed M-11, according to the

AFP/UNB photo

Some US officials believed the factory would produce precise duplicates of the missile. the Post said The United States has twice

imposed limited economic sanctions against China for selling M-11 missile launchers and finished missile components to Pakistan, but lifted them after China promised to stop such deliveries.

Washington recently settled a dispute with China over a sale to Pakistan of nuclear-related equipment and the Post quoted officials as saying the construction of the missile factory raised the possibility that broad economic sanctions eventually could be imposed on both countries.

The existence of the Pak istani factory had been known to US intelligence officials since last year when construction evidently began, the newspaper said.

Off the Record

Mummy behind series of deadly incidents

LIMA: Juanita the frozen Inca mummy has already been at the center of an international tiff. Now, some Andean shamana say she's behind a series of deadly incidents that have plagued Peru since she was discovered, reports AP.

The self-described shamans say they need to appease the mummy, known as the "Ice Princess," because she was unhappy with being disturbed from her resting place on Mount Ambato, in Peru's southern Andes.

Earlier this week, they held a healing ceremony in the city of Arequipa, 465 miles (750 kms) southeast of Lima, near where the mummy was found in October.

Among the incidents they say have plagued the area since then are the February 29 crash of a Peruvian commercial jet that killed the 123 people aboard and deaths of 35 people electrocuted last week when a high tension cable fell on a crowd cel-

ebrating the 456th anniversary of the city's founding. Is the mummy cursed? The American archaeologist who found her says no. Johan Reinhard said in an interview published in the El Sol

newspaper that Juanita was a gift of the "apus," a Quechua term for the spirits of the mountains that are part of traditional Andean beliefs.

"I didn't dig to find her. She was in plain sight and was not discovered thanks to any human effort, but thanks to another "apu", the volcano Sabancaya, which heated the area," Reinhard

Reinhard said others have suggested "the mummy was happy to have been found, because she was sad at being exposed to the

Doctors struggling to save Mother Teresa's life

CALCUTTA, Aug 25 : Doctors were struggling early today to save the life of Mother Teresa, whose faltering heart showed little signs of improvement as she remained on a respirator in intensive care in a Calcutta hospital, reports Reuter.

A team of six doctors was keeping a round-the-clock vigil on the 85-year-old Roman Catholic Nun, who was awarded the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize for her missionary work to mitigate the suffering of the world's destitute and flying.

*Sunday will be crucial for her. She must respond to treatment," said a doctor on duty at the city's Woodlands Nursing Home.

Doctors said she was suffer.

ing from irregular cardiac beats and nagging fever caused by malaria. She was admitted to hospital last Tuesday with a hightemperature and severe



Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity pray for Mother Teresa in Calcutta on Saturday The Albarian-born 86-year-old Mother Teresa was admitted to Calcutta's Woodland nursing home last Tuesday with a high temperature. Mother Teresa's condition deteriorated today after she suffered a left ventricular failure.

Foreign Office welcomes ceasefire

UK offers to host talks between Kurdish parties LONDON, Aug 25: Britain of nounced by the US will lead to a

fered on Saturday to host peace talks in London between two Kurdish factions in northern lraq, reports AP.

The Foreign Office welcomed a ceasefire that ended six days of fighting and said it supported efforts by the United States to bring about reconciliation between the two sides.

On. Friday in Washington. the State Department said the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan had agreed to a truce. State Department Spokes-

man Glyn Davies said KDP leader Massoud Barazani and the PUK's Jalal Talabani pledged to meet with US Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau in September to seek reconciliation.

The British Foreign Office statement said, "We hope that the talks in September an-

durable peace agreement between the two Kurdish parties. We stand ready to host talks in London, if this will help reach such an agreement.

Some 3.5 million Kurds live in the Iraqi Kurdistan region, where allied forces set up a "safe have" in 1991 following a failed rebellion against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's rule,

The uprising followed Iraq's defeat in the 1991 Gulf War that evicted Iraqi troops from Kuwait, ending a seven month occupation that sparked an international confrontation.

However, after the common threat from the Iraqi army was eliminated, the two Iraqi Kurdish groups turned against each in a struggle for supremacy. Last week's fighting shat tered a year-old truce brokered

Russian, Chechen soldiers jointly patrolling Grozny PA shuts 3 East Jerusalem offices

edge of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

JERUSALEM, Aug 25: Palestinian Authorities (PA) have shut three East Jerusalem offices which Israel had demanded be closed as a condition for pursuing the peace process, Palestinian officials said to-

day, reports AFP. A Palestinian officials speaking on condition of anonymity said the offices - one dealing with Youth and Sports. a Geography Institute and a Statistics Bureau - had all halted operations and some of their activities were being transferred to West Bank areas under Palestinian control.

He said the decision was taken by the leadership of the Palestinian authority.

ter 20 months of war, Russian and Chechen soldiers jointly patrolled this devastated city. and Chechen fighters even brought food and water to their Russian counterparts, reports

GROZNY, Russia, Aug 25: Af-

The patrols Saturday were the first step in implementing the truce signed two days earlier. On Sunday, fighters from both sides were supposed to start pulling out of Grozny.

Also Sunday, Russian security advisor Alexander Lebed prepared to meet again with the top Chechen military commander, Aslan Maskhadov, to hammer out a political settlement to end the conflict. Prime . Minister Viktor

Chernomyrdin said Lebed, miles (kilometres) away, the would offer the Chechens a referendum on their rebel republic's political status in five years. The Chechens are fighting for independence from Russia, something Moscow says it will never allow.

Lebed, who came back to Chechnya on Saturday with Boris Yeltsin's endorsement of his peace efforts, held talks with Russian officers, then sat down with Maskhadov in Noviye Ataki, 15 miles (24 kilometres) south of Grozny.

"We must stop this barbarism.because there can be no victors in this war." Maskhadov said. "We must help Gen. Lebed end this war.", Outside a Russian base a few

first joint patrols were formed. The Russian soldiers stood facing a ragtag band of the tough Chechen guerrillas who had run them out of Grozny. Then, in what could be a prelude to peace, the former foes melded into a single unit. Later, another unit jointly patrolled

Grozny. "This war has cost us a great deal and now in our hands we have the chance to end this war or to continue it, to kill people or not. We must step back from war," said Russian Major Gen Vyacheslav Ovchinikov. In addition to the pullback

scheduled Sunday for both

sides, the Russians were to

withdraw from several south-

ern regions next week and. eventually, from Chechnya altogether. While Russian military re-

ported occasional shooting, including an attack on a military convoy Saturday in Grozny, the capital was relatively quiet Saturday. Chechen fighters, who over-

ran the city August 6 in some of the worst fighting of the war were even helping bring food and water to some of the beleaguered Russian units they had had surrounded inside Grozny. They also had their Russian prisoners digging up Russian dead from the battle so the bod ies could be returned home.

"I'm not 100 per cent constatus "should be decided by the vinced this agreement will

work," said a top Chechen commander in the capital. Isa Astamiroy. "But if we work together, maybe it can. It's in the hands of God.

Every previous agreement in Chechnya has crumbled amid mutual distrust and the latest one still looks shaky. The Chechens insist they'll settle for nothing less than the full independence Russia has tought so hard against.

But it appeared that Lebed instead would toy to persuade the Chechens to put aside their demands for independence, at least for a few years.

The ITAR-Tass news agency said quoted Chernomyrdin as saying Chechnya's political

people" in a referendum in five years, after the situation has stabilised. But the prime minister in

sisted that Chechnya should remain part of Russia "That's for sure," he said. "But when and with what status should be decided later, not now."

Chechnya declared indepen dence in 1991. In December 1994. Yeltsin sent in troops to crush the separatist movement igniting a protracted, bloody conflict that had claimed at least 30,000 lives, mostly noncombatants.

The president recently put Lebed, an ambitious generalturned-politician, in charge of resolving the conflict

Mutiny in ship: 12 seaman killed in South Pacific SEOUL. Aug 25: Twelve seamen were killed, including

by Washington.

seven South Koreans, in an apparent mutiny on board a Honduran-registered fishing boat in the South Pacific, a South Korean maritime police spokesman said today, reports Reuter He said a Japanese vessel on

Saturday picked up a distress signal from the boat drifting without fuel after an uprising by ethnic Korean crew members from China who had complained of hard work. A Japanese maritime police vessei reached the stricken trawler at 5.00 am (2000 GMT Saturday) and was investigating the inci-