US, UK fail to overcome Russian veto threat

India slams US for launching

missile attacks on Iraq

US House seeks to block its troops under UN command

WASHIINGTON, Sept 6: The House sought Thursday to limit the president's ability to place US troops under United Nations command, reports AP.

The move came on a 299-109 largely partisan vote, even as Senate leaders were negotiating over a resolution endorsing this week's missile strikes in Iraq. The House bill conveyed the

view of the Republican majority - echoed by Bob Dole on the presidential campaign trail that Clinton too often yields command of US troops to the United Nations.

However, the measure. drafted by Rep. James Longley Jr. a freshman Republican and former marine, is a long way from becoming law.

There is no guarantee the Senate will even take up the bill in the three weeks remaining in the session, and it would face a certain presidential veto. Clinton last year vetoed a defence spending bill in part because its contained a similar provision, lawmakers later removed it from the bill.

On Thursday the House also passed, 276-130, an amendment NEW DELHI, Sept 6: India stemming from the case of today criticised the United Michael New, an Army medic States for launching Cruise based in Germany who was missile attacks on Iraq and court marshaled last year for pressed Washington to end its refusing to wear United Nations military action, reports AFP. insignia on a preacekeeping "The US missile attacks on mission to Macedonia. It would September 3 and 4 are highly prohibit the military from reregrettable." External Affairs quiring service members to

"What we're responding to here," said Republican Rep. Robert Dornan, "is the administration's repeated subordination of US interests to the UN agenda.

wear United Nations insignia

Democrats called the bill a transparent political attack on Clinton.

ton not to launch further missile attacks on Iraq and to respect Baghdad's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

It was India's strongest criticism of the United States in recent years and came three days after the Foreign Ministry had expressed "grave concern" over the first round of US missile at-

India has close relations with Iraq. Hundreds of thousands of Indians fled the Middle East following the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Earlier report says, the United States and Britain on Thursday failed to overcome a

Russian veto threat after three days of negotiations on a UN reaction to an Iraqi offensive which prompted US missile

Russia is threatening to veto a draft resolution notably be cause of the lack of any reference to the US action, on which the British and Americans have so far refused to yield.

Security Council president Alfredo Lopes Cabral told reporters that the council would meet again today after the UN envoys of Russia, the United States and Britain held direct talks in a bid to end the dead

Following the talks between

Russian ambassador Sergei Lavrov US, British delegation was due to draft a new text to be discussed by the 15-member council today.

Lavrov, in comments to reporters after more than one hour of negotiations with the Americans and the British, said the Russian position "has not changed."

Meanwhile, the United States failed Thursday to rally French support for an enlarged "no-fly" zone in Iraq though France said it would continue to enforce northern and southern exclusion zones within the limits set after the Gulf War.

Court charges Advani for taking huge bribes

'Russian troops won't pull

out of Chechnya until

all POWs exchanged'

NEW DELHI, Sept 6: The leader of India's main Opposition party was accused by a court today of accepting huge bribes in a multi-million-dollar pay-off scandal, reports

Special judge V B Gupta or-dered the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to charge L K Advani, president of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP. Indian People's Party), with corruption and criminal conspiracy.

Advani, a veteran politician who has denied the charge, was not present in the packed courtroom when the ruling was

The judge said in his 267 page order that there was prima facie evidence that Advani had taken six million rupees (170.000 dollars) from a businessman, Surendra Jain, who

MOSCOW, Sept 6: Russian

troops will not pull of Chech-

nya until all prisoners on both

sides have been exchanged.

Russian security chief Alexan-

der Lebed said Thursday at the

start of new peace talks, reports

comrades behind, how could

they then be rescued?" Lebed

told interfax news agency.

"How can they leave their

If there is an authority in

Chechnya which claims to be

legitimate, then it should solve

the prisoners question," he said

on arrival in the southern

Chechen village of Novy Atagi

for talks with the Chechen rebel

of holding about 1,000 prison-

Each side accuses the other

leadership.

began in 1975.

after in India

is at the centre of the 21-million -dollar scandal.

Jain allegedly bribed around 115 top politicians and bureaucrats between 1988 and 1991.

The scandal erupted ahead of national elections in April May this year. Advani quit parliament and refused to contest the polls, saying he wanted to clear his name

"Corruption has eaten into the nation's material fibre, and rectifying this should be the top priority, Gupta sáid.

The sweeping corruption scandal, which shook the political establishment to its roots. involved all political parties except the communists.

The CBI uncovered the scandal when it seized two coded diaries from Jain which listed politicians and government officials he had given money to in return for unspecified favours.

ers and Russian officials have

complained over the last few

days that the Chechens are not

spokesman Movladi Udugov

said that two Chechen rebel

television journalists had been

arrested by Russian authorities

and that "as long as they're not

released we're suspending the

the whole process of exchange

of prisoners. It's a provocation,

kered Saturday by Lebed, the

20-month war is to stop and

most Russian troops are to be

pulled out of Chechnya.

This is a very hard blow to

Under a peace accord bro-

prisoner exchange.

he said.

Off the Record

He becomes doctor in a

dead man's registration

NEW DELHI: A student who took on the identity of a dead

The bizarre case came to light two months ago following a tip

man to study medicine and later worked as a doctor for 10 years

from a citizen in the northern state of Punjab, unnamed police

Balwant Singh, a student of pharmacology 21 years ago, took on the identity of Kashmir Singh, who had been admitted to the

coveted course in medicine but had died just before classes

Admission to medical colleges is difficult and much sought-

Balwant Singh graduated as a doctor, worked as a resident in

It was not immediately clear what prompted a citizen in the

a hospital and began practising as a doctor in 1986 in the state

government, the newspaper said. All along, he called himself

has been arrested, a newspaper reported Friday, says AP.

officials told the Indian Express newspaper.

Singh and no one realised the deception.

Tuesday, rebel

cooperating in the swaps.

BRIFFIY

EU donations for floods in China: The European Union (EU) announced Thursday it had donated 700,000 European currency units (896,000 dollars) to aid victims of China's disastrous summer flooding. AFP reports from Beijing.

The donation will be channeled via the International Federation of the Red Cross and medecins sans frontieres and will be used to purchase blankets, clothes, medicine and food for the 13 Chinese provinces hit hardest by the flooding.

British diplomat convicted: A senior British diplomat was found guilty Thursday of smuggling a large consignment of child pornography into Britain, AP reports London

Robert Coghlan's collection of 109 obscene videos, including 70 that featured child sex, were seized by British customs officials conducting a random search in March.

The 54-year-old diplomat recently spent four years as a first secretary in the embassy's information department in Japan and was headed for a new appointment in Spain.

China to erect Mao's bronze statue: China announced plans yesterday to erect a 8.15-metre (28.9 foot) bronze statue of its "great helmsman" Mao Zedong at his revolutionary base in Shaanxi province, AFP reports from

The statue is part of a one-million dollar injection of funds for Yan'an, where Mao and his revolutionaries regrouped after the Long March and spent almost a decade preparing to take control of China.

7 killed in hurricane in US: Hurricane fran has caused at least seven deaths since it slammed into north Carolina, Cable News Network (CNN) said early yesterday, AFP reports from South Carolina.

Most of the deaths since late Thursday attributed to the storm, which has been downgraded to a category one hurricane. occurred in North Carolina, CNN said. Earlier, a spekesman for the North Carolina emergency told the news channel that there were six unconfirmed, storm-related deaths in his state. He said most of the fatalities were in traffic accidents.

15 more executed in China: China has executed another 15 convicted criminals, including five from the troubled region of Xinjiang, reports said yesterday, AFP

reports from Beiting. Ten convicted robbers were executed in central Hunan Province on Thursday, according to the China Youth Daily, while five people convicted of theft and murder were executed in northwest Xinjiang, the Xinjiang Daily said.

Dengue fever claims 100 in Vietnam: More than 100 people have died in an epidemic of dengue fever in central and south Vietnam this year, according to a health ministry report quoted by newspapers yesterday. AFP report from Hanoi

Dengue, an illness transmitted by mosquitoes, left 30 dead in the month of August alone, the union newspaper Lao Dong said without giving further explanations for the surge, labelling it "exceptional.

Blast kills 4 in Vietnam: Four people were killed and 16 seriously injured when a gas cylinder exploded in a privately operated factory in Ho Chi Minh City, a newspaper report said yesterday, AFP reports from Ho Chi Minh City.

The explosion was due to the carelessness of the workshop owner, the Daily Saigon Giaiphong said, without elaborating. The victims included several members of the owner's family, his staff and passers-by.

Mother, 3 children burnt to death in SA: mother and her three teenaged children were burnt and tortured to death by the masked attackers in the family home in Thandanai reserve, north of the Kwazulu-Natal port city, police said Thursday, AFP reports from Durban, South Africa.

The attackers tied the victims' hands together, hanging one of the youths, 18-year-old Thulani Nsele, by his neck to overhead rafters and setting him alight late Monday, police spokesman Frik Truter said in a written statement.

S Korean president in Chile: South Korean President Kim Young-Sam was to meet with President Eduardo Frei on Friday as part of a trip to strengthen South Korea's trade and political ties with Latin America, AP reports from Santiago, Chile. Foreign Minister Jose Miguel Insulza welcomed the Korean

leader at the airport Thursday as he arrived here from Guatemala in the second leg of a five-nation tour. Road mishaps claim 16 in Egypt:

Sixteen people, including children and policemen, were killed and more than 40 others injured in two road accidents in the southern province of Minya on Thursday, Egyptian police said, AFP reports from Minya, Egypt.

Six children died and 26 others were hurt when a van collided with a truck near Salamut, they said. The children, aged 7 to 15, were on their way to pick cotton. Another 10 people, two of them policemen, were killed and 16 seriously injured when a bus smashed into a van near the village of Maghagha.

Libel case of MP Major summoned

Minister Inder Kumar Gujral

told parliament here. "We are

Guiral said the attacks failed

to meet "norms of international

Delhi was closely monitoring

the situation while liaising

The minister urged Washing-

conduct." He added the New

unable to accept the justifica-

tion for the attacks."

with other countries.

in court

LONDON, Sept 6: British Prime Minister John Major received a summons on Thursday to give evidence in court in a libel case involving one of his members of parliament, reports Reuter.

The case is expected to go to court in October and could mean that Major and deputy prime minister Michael Heseltine, who was also subpoenaed, could miss part of their Conservative Party's annual confer-

If he attends, Major will be the first British Prime Minister to have given evidence in a court case.

Former trade minister Neil Hamilton is suing The Guardian newspaper over it claims that he accepted money in exchange for asking questions in parliament.

Who's in charge during Yeltsin's operation?

MOSCOW, Sept 6: President Boris Yeltsin's planned heart operation leaves an authority vacuum bound to be filled with intrigue and scramble for power, reports AP.

Under the Russian constitution, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin takes charge if the president is permanently incapacitated or dies. Chernomyrdin has to call new elections within three months.

However, barring such extremes, a formal or even an informal transfer of power might not occur during Yeltsin's hospital stay. During previous bouts of heart trouble, Yeltsin has remained in charge, at least nominally, ruling from his hospital bed.

Day-to-day matters of running the state will be left to Chernomyrdin, a Soviet-era technocrat turned reformer, but the prime minister is not likely to be ruling alone.

Chernomyrdin's government is balanced by another centre of power - the presidential administration run by Anatoly Chubais, a leading reformer who was the architect of Russia's privatization programme.

100 Hutu rebels, 3 troops killed in two days

BUJUMBURA, Sept 6: About 100 Hutu rebels and three soldiers of Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army were killed in clashes in the hills around Bujumbura in the past two days, an army spokesman told AFP early this morning.

The army launched a sweep Wednesday against the guerillas after the rebels lobbed three mortar shells into the capital on Tuesday and put on a display of automatic rifle fire-power in the hills in what a rebel spokesman said was a warning that they could attack Bujumbura any time they wanted.

"Eleven weapons - kalashnikovs and automatic rifles were seized," Lieutenant Colonel Isaie Nibizi told AFP.

US President Bill Clinton stresses a point as he delivers remarks on Thursday to the citizens of Broward County, Florida, on health care in America. The President is on a twoday campaign swing in Florida. - AFP/UNB photo

Polls won't be free, fair: UK parliamentary group

'HR abuse by govt, opponents threaten to mar Kashmir polls'

NEW DELHI. Sept 6: Human rights abuses by government and opposition forces threaten to mar Kashmir's first state elections in nine years, Amnesty International warned in a statement today, reports AFP.

The London-based human rights organisation in a faxed statement said there were signs that abuses reported during national elections in May could be repeated.

In May, many Kashmiri political groups boycotted general elections for India's Lok Sabha, or lower house of parliament. "Prominent citizens, human

rights defenders, journalists and political leaders were at risk of atrocities by government security forces, by militias under government control elections in May," said the Amnesty statement, received in New Delhi. "The signs are similar now,"

During the national elections in May, accusations were made that people were forced to vote at gunpoint by Indian troops but these were denied by the authorities.

Earlier Reuter says: A British parliamentary group said on Thursday that elections this weekend in Kashmir, which India hopes will end a six-year regional revolt, would be neither free nor fair.

"The people of Kashmir are not going to be able to vote on the one thing that is important to them and that is the constituand by armed opposition groups tional position of the territory," before and during Lok Sabha Lord Avebury, chairman of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group, told Reuters.

"To say the elections will end the problem when they do not even address this issue and there are half a million troops in the area seems absurd," he

The elections to the Himalayan state's 87-seat assembly begin on Saturday and will be held over four days, ending on September 30. Meanwhile, some 200,000

Indian security officers fanned out across Kashmir today ahead of the first local elections since a separatist rebellion erupted six-years ago.

Voting in the first stage of elections to the Jammu and Kashmir state assembly was set for Saturday in 26 of the 87 constituencies in the Himalavan state.

city of Amritsar to complain to the police. Charges will be pressed later. Hitler stashed earnings into Swiss bank! LONDON: Adolf Hitler stashed the huge earnings from sales of his political tract "Mein Kampf" into secret Swiss bank Thursday, says Reuter.

accounts, Britain's Jewish Chronicle newspaper reported on The Chornicle said that recently declassified U.S. intelli-

gence reports show that Hitler held numbered accounts at Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) in Berne and that they were handled by one of his collaborators, Max Ammann, a German. The authors of the 1944 intelligence report also believe that the foreign exchange income of Hitler's Nazi Party was banked at UBS in Neutral Switerzland, the Chronicle said.

A UBS spokesman in London declined to comment on the report, saying Swiss law prohibits bankers from discussing their customers' accounts. The report follows the recent declassification of other U.S.

documents that showed several tonnes of gold seized from holocaust victims by the Nazis was placed in Swiss Bank accounts and divided up between the allied after World War II. Hitler wrote "Mein Kampf" (My Struggle), in which he set out

his Nazi political philosophy, while he was in prison for his part in the abortive Munich Beer Hall putsch of 1923, It was published in 1925 and after Hitler came to power in 1933 it was made a school textbook, selling millions of copies

in Germany and abroad. "The discovery of the "Hitler accounts" is seen as underlining the importance of Switzerland as a banking haven for the

Nazis," said the Jewish Chronicle. The World Jewish Congress believes that billions of dollars belonging to holocaust victims are still hidden away in

Switzerland and it wants the banks to release the money, Some of the money was placed in the banks by Jews before the war, but much of it was stolen by the Nazis.

- AFP/UNB photo Netanyahu under fire for meeting Arafat Mother Teresa returns home

from hospital CALCUTTA, Sept 6: Mother Teresa left hospital and returned home here today after recovering from life-threatening heart problems, doctors

said, reports AFP. She was accompanied by her personal physician, Dr Ashim Bardhan, one of six-strong team which had been caring for the 86-year-old Nobel Peace laureate at Woodlands Nursing Home.

The hospital van left the hospital at 5:20 am (2350 GMT) heading for the Missionaries of Charity headquarters in the

She was also accompanied by four nuns and her personal friend and India's former Davis Cup captain, Naresh Kumar. Mother Teresa was taken out

of the building in wheelchair and then transferred to the ambulance by stretcher. Mother Teresa, awarded the Nobel Prize in 1979 for her work in the Calcutta slums, was taken to hospital on August 20 with an irregular heart beat,

later complicated by malaria

and pneumonia.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu waves as he arrives at the Likud party central committee meeting in Tel Aviv on Thursday. - AFP/UNB photo

TEL AVIV, Israel, Sept 6: On election night, they jubilantly danced and hailed him as a political savior. But after Benjamin Netanyahu met with Yasser Arafat, Likud Party faithful greeted the prime minister in stony silence, reports

As shouts of "traitor" and "resign" mounted at his party convention Thursday, Netanyahu promised there would never be a Palestinian state and assured the audience that shaking the Palestinian leader's hand "wasn't easy."

But one by one, speakers rose to condemn his meeting with Arafat Wednesday, the first time a right-wing Israeli premier has met the guerrillaturned-peacemaker. The summit appears to have rekindled a peace process Netanyahu has long opposed and which he put on ice during his three months in office.

Cabinet minister Ariel Sharon won rousing cheers as he tirelessly listed past terrorist incidents in which Arafat was involved. "For 20 years US presidents... did not let Arafat shake their hands or visit their capital. They knew some things mustn't be forgotten." His colleague Benny Begin -

Around 2,000 Bosnian-Serbs participating at a Serb Democratic party (SDS) election rally

in Dobrinja, a Serb-held part of Sarajevo, hold up banners of Radovan Karadzic, the former

Bosnian-Serb president on Thursday. Karadzic stepped down from the election under US

pressure since he is an indicted war criminal wanted by the UN war crimes tribunal.

whose father, the late Likud founder and ex-premier Menachem Begin, reviled Arafat said the meeting "signals to the PLO that Israel is trapped" in the peace process set out by the previous Labourparty govern-

Alluding to Netanyahu's warning that Cabinet minister was oppose his peace efforts would be fired, Begin said he "wasn't born in the govern-

ment. Tempers flared in the seemingly divided audience, with several scuffles and much shouting erupting between supporters and opponents of the peace moves.

"Bibi has betrayed us," said Amram Cohavi, a veteran Likud member, referring to Netanyahu by his nickname. He was shouted down by another man, who said he was wounded in the 1973 war. "I have five children...l want them to enjoy peace and that's why Bibi had to meet Arafat," said the man. One women stood up

Netanyahu supporters at Thursday's convention - like moderate Tell Aviv mayor Roni throughout Netanyahu's speech Milo — argued the Netanyahu

holding an umbrella - an allusion to British premier Neville Chamberlanin who tried to appease Hitler.

As opposition leader, Netanyahu had unservingly condemned the late premier Yitzhak Rabin for his landmark peace accord with Arafat in 1993. But Netanyahu's resolve to boycott Arafat appeared to weaken as he courted centrist voters essentially supportive of the peace process but angry at mounting Islamic fundamentalist terrorism.

Wednesday's summit was widely interpreted as final acceptance of the peace process by the right-win half of Israel. Haim Romon of the opposi-

tion Labour Party said it meant Likud's dream of a "Greater Land of Israel" was dead. "Netanyahu is weaning himself of his illusions," he said. But ex-premier Yitzhak

Shamir was deflant, saying historic positions cannot change "because of any meeting with one Arab... The struggle for the Land of Israel is not yet over."

was pursuing an optimal course that both preserved the peace process but would minimize concessions.

While Labour appeared posed to upgrade the Palestinian's West Bank-Gaza self-rule into the statehood Arafat seeks, Netanyahu pledged to reach a deal that is "not a Palestinian state but autonomy.

"There is not, and will never be, a Palestinian state," Netanyahu said. "Chief Palestinian negotia-

tor Saeb Erakat told Israel's Army Radio Netanyahu's comments were regrettable. "The peacemaking will not succeed until there are natural ties between two countries — the Palestinian state alongside Israel," Erakat said.

The summit resolved none of the current disputes - like Israel's desire to change the terms of its promised pullout from the West Bank town of Hebron and the Palestinians' demand that Israel ease the six-month closure of their territories.

Netanyahu and Arafat agreed to a series of lower-level talks to resolve such issues. Is raeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai was to meet Sunday with Arafat.

Photocopier dust can cause lung disease

LONDON, Sept 6: Photocopier dust can cause serious lung disease. Austrian doctors

said today, reports Reuter. Christine Armbruste and colleagues at the University of Vienna described the case of a man who evidently developed two conditions from the tiny metal particles in photocopier toner.

In a letter to the Lancet Medical Journal, they said a 39year-old man who did not smoke had suffered a persistent dry cough for a year. He was diagnosed with granulomatous pneumonitis, caused by breath ing in tiny particles of metal, and lymphadenopathy - a swelling of the lymph glands.

"With increasing use of photocopiers, more patients with pulmonary disease due to exposure to toner duster expected. they wrote. Two years ago Spanish doc

tors wrote to the Lancet about a 44-year-old woman who suffered another lung disease, siderosilicosis, from working in a photocopying shop.