Deposed Pak PM alleges

Opponents using Imran to install Islamic regime

CAIRO, Nov 24: Deposed Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has accused her political opponents of wanting to install an Islamic regime in Pakistan using former cricket star Imran Khan as their "fictitious" leader, reports AFP

In an interview with the Arab newspaper Al-Havat published here today. Benazir said Pakistan's main fundamental ist party. Jamaat-i-Islami, and other parties closely linked with former president Mohammad Ziaul Haq were working to bring Islamists to

"The Jamaat-i-Islami and sectarian and extremist parties are seeking to form a widened alliance with Imran Khan as their fictitious leader." Benazir said, referring to Pakistan's cricket great and son-in-law of Franco-British billionaire James Goldsmith.

Benazir was sacked on November 5 by a former close ally President Faroog Ahmed Leghari for alleged corruption and misrule of her government but is currently campaigning to revive her political fortunes.

Meanwhile, the rousing welcome given to deposed Pakistan prime minister Benazir Bhutto in Punjab province was an early boost to a campaign to revive her political fortunes. Thousands of party workers

and supporters turned out Saturday in Lahore to see her first rally since her sacking on November 5 by President Farooq Ahmed Leghari.

The enthusiastic reception by her followers has motivated her party's rank and file and has successfully set in motion a mobilisation campaign." prominent English-language daily The News said.

But Benazir faces an uphill

Russian President Boris Yeltsin meets with his Kazakh

counterpart Nursultan Nazarbayev at a sanatorium

outside Moscow Saturday in his first meeting with a

foreign leader since his heart bypass operation earlier this

BUIFFIX

Hillary in Thailand: US First Lady Hillary Clinton arrived in Thailand yesterday to pounding drums and

cymbals and hundreds of dancers and flag-bearers in the

colourful costumes of the local Lanna hilltribes. AFP says from

ficial flight from Manila at 3 pm (0800 GMT), leaving her

husband at the summit of the Asia Pacific Economic

Cooperation forum for a day and half while she visits northern

Thailand. She will visit education programmes designed to

stem the outflow of female students who leave primary school

Kumaratunga to visit France: Sri

Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga leaves on a three-

day state visit to France on Monday, on an invitation by French

Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, the foreign ministry said

Kumaratunga will meet Chirac and French businessmen to

discuss investment in Sri Lanka, a ministry statement said

Kumaratunga has had close ties with France since she studied

development economics at the Sorbonne in Paris in the early

UN for reducing Macedonia force:

The United Nations is recommending a phased reduction in the

1,100-member UN force in the former Yugoslav republic of

Boutros-Ghali recommended that 300 troops be withdrawn

In a report released Saturday, UN Secretary-General Boutros

During her visit, the first by a Sri Lankan president

The wife of US President Bill Clinton touched down on an of-

task to galvanise her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and repair the political damage caused by a faltering economy and allegations of corruption against her government, analysts said.

Her three years in office were marked by bitter confrontation with the opposition, bloody political unrest in the commercial capital of Karachi, high inflation and uneasy relations with big business

More serious set back to her grip on power came when Benazir picked a row with the Supreme Court over a verdict curtailing her authority to appoint judges. That finally undermined her rapport with the president.

Leghari, a former close ally. said in his proclamation sacking Benazir he was acting be cause of an imminent economic

He later said that efforts to

convince her to adopt corrective measures went unheeded.

Benazir has insisted though that Leghari was acting out of "consuming personal malice against her and a lust for power after leading a procession through Lahore. Benazir called Leghari a "turncoat" and blamed him for throwing the country into constitutional and political crisis.

She said the president dismissed her under a "conspiracy" and that he was now trying to break the PPP in a bid to create his own "king's party."

The welcome in Lahore was seen as encouraging for Benazir after the celebrations over her ouster in her home province and in other parts of the coun-

Even critics admit the 43vear-old Benazir will remain in the limelight as she stages a fight back.

Comoros plane crash 100 bodies found,

MORONI. Nov 24: Fifty-two people survived when a hijacked Ethiopian airliner carrying up to 180 people crashed into the Indian Ocean off the Comoros islands Saturday a crisis centre set up by Commorian Foreign Ministry said, reports AFP.

52 survive

The plane plummeted into the sea just north of the islands after being hijacked on a flight from Addis Ababa to Nairobi. Local divers and boat owners rushed to help as the Boeing 767 crashed into the waters hitting a coral reef about 40 kilometres (24 miles) north of the capital

Witnesses said about 100 bodies had been counted.

Among the survivors were three Italians two of them officials with the Italian Embassy in Addis Ababa, the Italian Foreign Ministry said. The third is a worker with a nongovernmental organisation. In Jerusalem the Foreign Ministry said that eight Israelis were on board.

224 reburied in Bosnia

BILJANI, Bosnia, Nov 24: About 10,000 Muslims on Saturday reburied the bodies of 224 of their ethnic kin, who the Bosnian government alleges were massacred by Serb forces in a somber ceremony in the destroyed village of Biljani, reports Reuter.

Rows of simple coffins covered with green flags bearing the Muslim crescent moon and star stood before empty graves as speakers recalled the morning of July 10, 1992 when residents of the village in northwestern Bosnia died.

The killings which Muslims say included women and children, occurred in the opening months of the Bosnian war when Serb ethnic cleansing was at its height.

"They killed even children. They committed a crime against the Bosnian people. against the country of Bosnia and against European civilisation, said Bosnian federation Vice-President Ejup Ganic. We are asking for justice and we will never stop.

The bodies reburied on Saturday had been exhumed from two mass grave sites. Bosnian government authori ties report that a total of 258 Muslims were killed in Biljani in the massacre.

Peace prevails at Bangalore

New Miss World pledges to work for ailing, handicapped

BANGALORE, India. Nov 24: The New Miss World Greek model Irene Skliva, today said India had been her most unforgettable experience and pledged to work for the ailing and the handicapped, reports AFP.

"I thank India. It has been good and hospitable to me. This has been the biggest experience of my life... you are the best. the 18-year old told a news conference here, hours after winning the title

Columbian Carolina Arango was the first runner up while Brazilian Anuska Prado won third place in the early Sunday finale here.

"I'd like to be successful in my life. I want to do my best for people across the world." Skliva said in halting English after greeting journalists with a "Namaskar" — the traditional Indian welcome with folded hands.

Skliva declined questions about the ugly protests against the Miss World 1996 contest in this southern city, the first international beauty contest hosted in India, saying she wanted to "be positive."

She said she would return to India to participate in fundraisers for welfare projects, including open heart surgery for poor children and projects for spastics. She will remain in India for a week before going

Sporting a purple silk sari, trimmed with a white, red and gold border, and a traditional Indian dot or "bindi" on her forehead. Skliva said she felt totally at ease in the outfit.

I like the sari I am wearing. I feel comfortable in it." she

The five-foot nine-inch brunette, who described the role of a woman in society as of a wife, mother and career woman" said she planned to the world and have travel fun.

She refused to answer guestions about a boyfriend, saving: "I don't like to speak about my private life.

The journalism student, who speaks Greek, some English and a smattering of Italian, said she would take one-year break from her studies.

She said her feelings at the moment of victory were mixed and was undecided about how she would spend the 80,000 dollars she had won

"I was nervous and happy when I heard I had won," she said. "I spoke to my family late and they were crying with joy." Miss World International Vice President Julia Morley said there had been no formal

decision on whether the event would be hosted in India again next year. "We are vet to take a decision. I think we have a threeyear contract with (local organiser) Amitabh Bachchan Corp

Ltd. Anyway we have to take a decision by January. "We have yet to evaluate how

this year's event went off," she

Peace restored

Another report says: There was widespread relief in Bangalore in yesterday as the Miss World contest ended without the threatened violence and suicide protests from Indian feminists and nationalists.

Police chief in the southern city. Sarat Chandra Burman said the extravaganza, marred by threats of self-immolations. bomb attacks and kidnappings had enjoyed a successful finale early yesterday. The title went to Miss Greece Irene Skliva.



winning the beauty contest Saturday at Bangalore. - AFP/UNB photo

Israel destroying ME peace: Syria

DAMASCUS, Nov 24: Syria on Saturday accused Israel of working deliberately to destroy the peace process after the rightwing government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced plans to build hundreds of new homes for settlers on the annexed Golan Heights. reports AFP.

"The Israeli government's decision to build settlements in the Golan for tens of thousands of Israelis shows that the government wants to deliberately sabotage the peace process and increase tension with Syria, the government newspaper Teshrin said.

A spokesman for Israel's Infrastructure Ministry, headed by hardliner Ariel Sharon, said on Friday that 900 new homes would be added to existing settlements on the Golan next year, a sharp rebuff to Syrian demands for the return of the strategic plateau.

"The Netanyahu government is defying international peace efforts by working publicly to make the situation in the region explode and to kill off the - AFP/UNB photo | American peace initiative

based notably on the exchange of land for peace." Syria's official Ath Thawra newspaper

The Arab League also denounced the plans, saying Netanyahu was attempting to create a climate of tension in the region and calling on the international community to take a firm stand against Israel's ac-

"This proves that Israel is going back on its fundamental commitments towards the peace process," said Arab League spokesman Ahmed Ben Helli.

Some 16,000 Israelis have settled on the Golan Heights since the territory was captured from Syria in the 1967 Middle East War. Israel annexed the Heights in 1981.

Israel's previous Labour government launched negotiations with Syria late last year on the basis of returning much of the Golan in exchange for full peace between the two countries.

But since coming to power in June. Netanyahu's right-wing administration has refused Syrian demands to resume the talks on the same basis.

No commitment for military action in Zaire

Donors end talks on coordinating relief for Central Africa

GENEVA. Nov 24: Western aid chiefs and donors ended talks on Saturday to coordinate relief for Central Africa's refugee crisis with pledges to help Rwanda resettle its Hutu returnees but no commitment for a military force in east Zaire, reports Reuter.

It's still necessary to provide aid to the refugees. But no one wants a military force to go there for no reason. If people allow that aid to go in by other means that's fine. Canada's international Cooperation Minister, Don Boudria told a news briefing at the end of the one-day talks behind closed doors.

Boudria said senior European and US aid officials and heads of relief agencies who attended the meeting agreed to boost help for Rwanda to resettle 500,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees who fled a Tutsi revolt in east Zaire.

Participants also urged Zaire, Rwanda and Tutsi rebels to urgently help provide aid agencies access to hundreds of thousands of refugees on the run in east Zaire, where rebels

who control large swathes of the area are blocking aid agencies from pushing deeper into Zaire to find and assist the

The Geneva meeting coincided with inconclusive talks for a second day on Saturday in Stuttgart, Germany between prospective troop-contributing nations for a planned military mission, where participants could not agree on the number of refugees at risk.

Disagreement between the US government, the United Nations Refugee Agency UNHCR and several other agencies over the number of refugees in need in eastern Zaire has complicated talks over what kind of relief should be sent and where. Meanwhile Rwandan

refugees are a emerging from the forests of eastern Zaire saying many more are on their way, but just how many appears to be critical with the despatch of a promised international military force still in the bal-

The US army, which has been using surveillance aircraft, put the numbers roaming the region at just over 200,000 a third of the UN refugee agency's projection.

In Stuttgart, Germany, western and African military lead ers struggled to establish how many refugees needed help in Zaire amid signs interest in the multi-national mission was flagging.

more people will favour keeping situation is starting to take care of itself, "one European official

donors ended talks on Saturday to coordinate relief with pledges to help Rwanda resettle its Hutu returnees but no commitment for a military force in east

ganisations launch a programme to assess the number of Rwandan refugees still in Zaire and what assistance they need. "We have agreed on details of how the (assessment) will work and we expect them to start working on Sunday."

Clashes claim 43 in Angola last week

LISBON, Nov 24: As many as 43 people were killed in Angola in the five days up to Saturday in attacks by unidentified gunmen on civilian vehicles including one belonging to an Italian aid worker, the Portuguese news agency Lusa reported, citing UN sources reports AFP.

A total of six attacks had taken place since Wednesday, the report said.

That against a vehicle of the Italian non government cestas organisation, took place in Bengo province between Ucua and Caxito and left three injured, the report said

On Friday between Benguela and Huambo 10 and 20 people were killed in two separate attacks while on Wednesday a bus was ambushed near Kanjala in Benguela province and ten passengers including three policemen were shot dead.

Another three people died in an ambush near Bailundo, Lusa

Angolan police have blamed the attacks on soldiers of the former rebel UNITA movement The United Nations verification mission in Angola has opened its own enquiry to identify the culprits.

Off the Record

\$ 7.86 b of \$ 10 b total royal fortune belongs to queen

LONDON: The total fortune of Britain's royal family amounts to almost six billion pounds (10 billion dollars), of which 4.68 billion pounds (7.86 billion dollars) belongs to the Queen, the Sunday Business Weekly reported, says AFP.

The paper published the results of a six-month investigation into the assets of royal family members but admitted that its figures were based on estimations.

For Queen Elizabeth II, the paper counted the value of the crown estates, which though legally her property, have been technically the property of the state since 1760 in exchange for an annual allowance paid to the monarch.

In the event that the queen decided to buy back the crown estates. Sunday Business said her fortune would come to 4.68 billion pounds. This would include art collections estimated at 1.1 billion pounds (1.8 billion dollars) which belong to her personally.

She wished she had a double

WARSAW: After winning this year's Nobel Prize for literature, media-shy poet Wislawa Szymborska said she wished she had a double to make public appearances for her. So a Polish tabloid decided to help her find one, reports AP. The popular Super Express newspaper announced a look-

alike contest Friday, asking readers to send in a photo if they thought they could pass for the 73-year-old poet - a distinguished-looking woman with short salt-and-pepper hair.

The winner will be selected during a Christmas television show and will get a diploma with the title official double. Super Express said.

Antoni Pawlak, head of Super Express weekend section, said Szymborska had agreed to appear on the show. But her publisher and friend. Ryszard Krynicki, told The Associated Press he knew nothing about the contest. "I personally doubt if she would appear on a TV show for that reason," he said.

Andre Malraux: Homage to a French

for Culture Obaidul Quader is in

ration ceremony along with

dignitaries from around the

world.

Paris to attend the commemo-

Clinton meets Zemin privately

MANILA, Nov 24: US Presi the two nations, reports Reuter. "We've had good meetings

and we'll have another one." Clinton said after shaking hands with Jiang as they met on the fringes of an Asia-Pacific trade summit in the Philippines. It was the fourth time the two men have met.

Clinton was asked by a reporter if he was concerned that some human rights groups objected to the meeting because of alleged abuses by Beijing. "No. we're doing the right thing." he replied.

A senior US official said it was likely the talks, slated to last one hour, would solidify a tentative agreement that Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen would visit Washington in February or March, followed by a visit by Vice President Al Gore to Beijing in the first half

Chinese Premier Li Peng would then visit the United States followed by a Clinton-Jiang summit in Washington in the second half of 1997. Clinton would likely visit China in

accord with Bosnian army

SARAJEVO. Nov 24: Islamabad is to sign a military agreement with the mainly Muslim Bosnian Army, Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Shaikh, said in Sarajevo on Saturday, reports AFP.

Speaking at the close of a two-day aid conference of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference here (OIC). Shaikh said a military cooperation agreement would be signed shortly.

Part of the defence agreement will cover training facilities for 200 members of the Bosnian Army in Pakistan, he said, similar offers of military training and equipment were made by other Islamic countries during the conference Shaikh told reporters.

Since the signing of the Dayton peace accords which ended the Bosnian war last year, the Bosnian Army has begun openly receiving military aid and equipment from a variety of sources.

During the war government

forces laboured under an arms embargo which was lifted after the Bosnia's peace deal was struck. Following the peace agreement, the Bosnian Army is officially linked with Bosnian-Croat forces to form the armed forces for Bosnia's federation, an alliance between Muslims and Croats controlling one half of Bosnia. In a drive to upgrade the two

forces to match those of the Bosnian Serbs, Washington has devised an "Equip and Train"

"Equip and Train" programme. These programmes will be completely transparent The US has so far delivered a

100-million dollar shipment of American tanks and guns to the federation. OIC nations already offering

training to the Bosnian Army include Iran, Egypt and Turkey, Malaysia has recently signed an agreement under which it will open training facilities for the Bosnian Army.

calls for economic assistance to

Bosnia to be lined to compliance with the Daylon peace plan. We do thing that the implementation of the civilian part of the Dayton agreement is very slow, unacceptably slow, said Shaikh.

of the Islamic donors confer-

The donations are "meant to supplement not supplant" a USbacked programme meant to put Muslim-Croat forces on an even par with those of their rivals, said Naimuddin A. Shaikh from Pakistan, chairman of a preparatory meeting

The Us-led "Train and Equip" programme, worth dirs 800 million, was designed to create a balance between the Bosnian Serb sub-state in Bosnia and the Muslim-Croat federation as a guarantee of stability in the region.

and a half year war in Bosnia primarily from the stores of the Serb-led Yugoslav army. The Bosnian Croats were logistically supported by neighbouring Croatia, and the outgunned Muslims received him

ited amounts of weapons

mainly from Iran despite an ex-

isting international arms em-

Balkan leaders signed an agreement to limit weapons across the battlefields of former Yugoslavia in June.

the status quo and not stepping up the commitment since the

there said. Western aid chiefs and

Zairean rebels have agreed to let international relief or

8 prisoners executed in China

BEIJING, Nov 24: Authorities in China's southwestern Guizhou province have executed eight prisoners convicted of taking part in a vigilant jailbreak, the Guizhou daily said reports Reuter.

The eight were shot after a mass sentencing in a prison in the provincial capital of Guiyang on November 18, the newspaper said in an edition seen in Beijing on Saturday. They had been convicted of taking part in an attempt to escape from prison in which several guards and inmates were killed and injured.

Clashes leave 20 dead in Colombia

BOGOTA, Nov 24: Three separate attacks from rightwing paramilitary groups left at least 20 dead Saturday in northern and western Colombia, officials said, reports AFP. In the western province of

Antioquia, a group of heavily armed men opened fire on four men and a woman who were standing outside the woman's home in a working class neighbourhood of Apartado. The gunmen escaped but witnesses said they belonged to

one of several paramilitary

groups that operate in the ba-

nana-growing region. Another eight people were also murdered at the rural town of Frontino by a group,

champion of freedom, democracy **Toufique Imrose Khalidi writes from Paris** Andre Malraux, the great Frenchman who fought for freedom all his life, was remembered in grandiose fashion in France 20 years after his

the nation's painful birth. Stately ceremonies officiated by President Jacques Chirac marked the transfer of the ashes of the beloved statesman, the celebrated author, the great Resistance leader, and the minister for culture under Charles de Gaulle, to the Pantheon, where the French head of state pays his homage to dead heroes of the nation annually. on Saturday, the 20th anniver-

death. He passionately espoused

the cause of Bangladesh during

sary of his death. Born in 1901. Malraux is hailed as the one having involved himself "in all the great causes of our century" until his death in 1976.

Described as an asthete and greatly reputed as an art critic. he fought against French colonialism in Indochina, fascism in Spain and Nazi Germany. While his high-soaring lyri

cism as the minister for culture is remembered, special mention is made in official biographies of his travel "towards the end of his life" to war-devastated Bangladesh "as the messenger and precursor of a kindred spirit that did not yet bear the name of humanitarian aid. Bangladesh State Minister

Andre Malraux held for 12 years until 1969, he outlined his vision of culture and is eulogised as the one who "introduced the French public to the wealth of civilisations and cultures outside Europe." Malraux, as a writer and

thinker denounced the misery

second, he painted the great dramas of history in "The Con-As the first French minister querors" (1928), "Days of Hope" for culture, a position he had (1937) and 'The Walnut Trees of Altenburg" (1943) A Spanish Civil War veteran

as an airman who later joined the French military. Malraux became a celebrity for his film on the War, L'Espoir Wounded and imprisoned

during the war against Ger-

of man and exalted his great

ness. Winner of France's most

prestigious literary prize for his

1933 novel "Man's Fate", his

many, he escaped to join politics and eventually become the general secretary of the political party founded by De Gaulle. In 1971, Malraux threatened to join the Liberation War of

Bangladesh, but was persuaded to continue his work towards mobilising support for the He was the first and perhaps the only international celebrity who worked in Western Europe

for the Liberation struggle for Bangladesh." Prithiwindra Mukherjee, a celebrated Indian musician whose poems on the movement in French newspapers drew the attention of Malraux: recalled. In December 1970. Mukherjee said. Le Monde dedicated a full page on the events leading to the war. In fact, Malraux inspired

other younger intellectuals in France and other contraries to fight for the cause." Mukherjee

from the UN Preventive Deployment Force. He also asked the Security Council to approve a six-month extension of the force's mandate, which expires at the end of the month.

month.

Chiag Rai, Thailand

for prostitution.

Sunday, AP reports from Colombo

Macedonia, AP reports from United Nations.

dent Bill Clinton met privately with Chinese President Jiang Zemin today for talks aimed at resolving differences between

The two leaders posed briefly for pictures, with their respective flags behind them. Both smiled as photographers and television camera crews captured the moment.

of 1997.

Islamic world ready to supply arms

Pakistan to sign military

programme for the merged armies. Shaikh chairman of the conference said OIC agreements made bilaterally or through the OIC are meant to supplement not supplant the international

The conference also heard

AP adds: The Islamic world is ready to supply the Muslim-Croat federation with arms within limits foreseen by an arms control agreement signed earlier this year, the chairman ence said Saturday.

in Sarajevo.

The Islamic countries will provide equipment and training for the members of the joint Muslim-Croat forces, he said. ne did not provide any specifics.

The Bosnian Serbs were armed at the beginning of the 3

bargo imposed on the region.

"It seems now as though