India's deployment

of Prithvi may

trigger arms

race in S Asia'

istan told the United States

Friday that deployment of the

nuclear-capable Prithvi missile by India had changed quali-

tatively the entire security en-

vironment in South Asia, offi-

potential to trigger a ballistic

missiles race in the region.

President Farooq Ahmed

Leghari said at a meeting with

Rick Inderfurth, the new US

Assistant Secretary of State for

zero-missile regime in the re-

gion which has been rejected by

India, the state run television

quoted him as telling Inder-

"firmly believes in good neigh-

bourly relations and desires

peaceful resolution of all out-

standing issues including the

"core issue of Kashmir," plagu-

mains the biggest threat to re-

gional and international peace

Leghari also referred to

"Gross human rights violations

and atrocities" being committed

by Indian troops in Kashmir,

where a separatist drive since

1989 has claimed more than

Astronauts fail

to pinpoint

holes in

damaged Mir

spacewalk lasting six hours, an

American astronaut and a Rus-

sian cosmonaut failed Saturday

to pinpoint any holes in the

space station Mir, damaged in

the worst space collision ever.

Mir commander Anatoly

Solovyov, assisted by astronaut

Michael Foale, combed over two

suspicious sites that could be

the source of leaks on the

However, they could not pos-

itively identify any punctures

and were told by ground con-

trollers to return to the Mir af-

ter more than five hours in

open space. They re-entered the

Mir and closed the hatch at

around 11 a.m. (0700 GMT), just

over six hours after they

Spektr module, battered in a

June 25 space crash.

reports AP.

MOSCOW, Sept 6: Despite a

"The Kashmir dispute re-

ing ties with India.

20,000 lives, it said.

and security," he added.

Leghari said Pakistan

Pakistan had proposed a

South Asia.

"The Indian move has the

cial sources said, reports AFP.

ISLAMABAD, Sept 6: Pak-

MOSCOW, Sept 6: A bomb exploded in Tajikistan's capital at a heavily guarded hotel that was to house opposition politicians and former rebel leaders. officials said Saturday, reports

No casualties were reported in the blast at Dushanbe's Vaksh Hotel, which appeared to be an attempt to wreck peace efforts in the Central Asian na-

The bomb, with a force equivalent to 500 grams (1.1 pounds) of TNT, was planted inside a large refrigerator in the hotel's dining hall, and went off shortly before midnight Friday.

The hall was "practically destroyed," the Interfax news agency said, adding that the Vaksh was guarded at the time both by government security forces and opposition fighters.

Opposition leader Said Abdullo Nuri, who chairs the country's National Reconciliation Commission, and his first deputy Akbar Turadzhonzoda were to stay at the hotel next

The commission was created by a peace agreement signed in June between Tajikistan's hard-line government and mainly fundamentalist Muslim rebel groups to end a protracted

Last words of Mother Teresa

CALCUTTA, Sept 6: "I can't breathe anymore" were the last words of Mother Teresa clutching her chest moments after she completed her dinner at the 'Mother House' last night, reports AFP.

Nuns in her missionaries of charity said after her frugal dinner, the Mother prayed for about ten minutes and spoke to some of them before retiring for the night.

It was then she complained of uneasiness and the sisters were taken aback at the sudden deterioration of her health.

"Before she could put the glass to her lips, it fell off her hands and the mother collapsed on her bed.

Alarmed nuns called Dr Alfred Woodward, Mother's personal physician, living in the next room, who rushed in and started massaging her chest. The Mother, they said, failed to respond.

At 2130 hours, the Mother was pronounced dead.

According to Dr Woodward of the Assembly of God Church Hospital, the Mother had mild stomach infection a few days ago, but she seemed to have recovered since yesterday. The 87-year-old Mother, in

fact, gave no time to arrange medical treatment for her, the sobbing nuns muttered.

Pak floods death toll rises to 342

ISLAMABAD, Sept 6: Recent gushing floods and tormenting rains in Pakistan have devoured 342 live besides extensively damaging the standing crops, emergency relief officials said Friday, reports Xinhua. The federal government has

asked the administration of all the four provinces to submit details of the damages to ascertain the actual losses, they said These details, the officials

said, will be presented before Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for the approval of compensation for the victims from the PM's relief fund.

Greece may grant legal status to half a million

immigrant workers ATHENS, Sept 6: Greece said

on Friday it expected to grant legal status to almost half a million immigrant workers by this time next year in its effort to control a large illegal labour market, reports Reuter. "The completion of this pro-

cess is expected by the end of September 1998," government spokesman Dimitris Reppas told reporters.

Albanians who have crossed Greece's rugged northern borders to escape violence and poverty in their country make up about half of the illegal immigrant labour force.

Others come from other eastern European countries, Africa and the Far East.

Illegal immigrants make up about five per cent of Greece's 10 million population. A law passed in June gave residence rights to many foreign workers but excluded those who came from neighbouring countries. including Albania. Turkey and Macedonian.

4 Municipal polls' candidates killed in Algeria

ALGIERS, Sept 6: Islamic militants assassinated four candidates running in Municipal elections set for October, during an attack in eastern Algeria, their Conservative Party for Algerian renewal said late Friday, reports AFP.

The terrorist madness has hit citizens who offered themselves as candidates with the courage to help their countrymen," the party said in a statement without giving the exact circumstances of the assassi-

nations. It was the first such attack against candidates running for the October 23 elections.

Britain says goodbye to 'queen of people's hearts'

LONDON, Sept 6: Britain closes a week of shock, sorrow, regret and recriminations Sat urday with a massive goodbye to Princess Diana, whose astonishing popularity troubled the royal family in life and humbled it in death, reports AP.

The funeral at Westminster Abbey follows an unprecedented outpouring of public grief, measured in hundreds of thousands of bouquets laid outside London palaces.

It came after Queen Elizabeth II shattered royal protocol by making her first live, televised address since the early days of her 45-year reign to pay tribute to her former daughter-in-law.

"In good times and bad, she never lost her capacity to smile and laugh, nor to inspire others with her warmth and kindness," the queen said.

Diana's sons, Prince William, 15, and Prince Harry. 12, were on the streets Friday with their father. Prince Charles, to hear words of comfort and concern from the crowds, to take hold of the hands extended toward them.

And the queen and Prince Philip themselves mingled with the mourners at Buckingham Palace.

Carrying sleeping bags and sandwiches, people stood in drizzling rain all night outside the London palaces and West-

PARIS, Sept 6: World leaders

paid tribute to Mother Teresa.

saying that her death Friday

was a loss to humanity and de-

scribing her as a shining ex-

ample of charity and a symbol

who died at the headquarters of

her Missionaries of Charity in

Calcutta, was universally

hailed for her devoted service to

John Paul II was "deeply sad-

dened" by news of her death and

would hold a special mass in

her memory on Saturday at his

summer residence of Castel-

Nobel Peace Prize laureate on

several occasions, was "greatly

moved" after he was informed

that the 87-year-old nun had

died of heart failure Friday, his

called her "an incredible per-

son" and "one of the giants of

touched the lives of millions of

people in India, here in the

United States and all around

leaders, including Queen Eliza-

beth II, drew parallels with the

earlier death of Diana, Princess

the world," Clinton said.

US President Bill Clinton

"Her unconquerable faith

In Britain civil and religious

The pontiff, who had met the

gandolfo, near Rome.

The Vatican said that Pope

India's poor.

office said.

our time.

The Roman Catholic nun.

of compassion, reports AFP.

minster Abbey to claim prime

viewing spots. The mixture of old and new in the service at the royal church — solemn choral music. Diana's favorite hymn, "I Vow To Thee My Country," and a song by Elton John written for Marilyn Monroe and reworked for his royal friend — reflected her life and passions.

Diana's coffin lay overnight at Kensington Palace before the 3.5-mile (5-km) procession on a gun carriage drawn by six gleaming black horses and soldiers of the King's Troop.

Around the world, a TV audience of up to 2.5 billion people was expected for the earl's daughter and former kindergarten teacher who became perhaps the most-photographed woman in the world.

Diana was killed in Paris on Sunday with her new beau. Dodi Fayed, and their chauffeur in a high-speed flight from paparazzi photographers.

To many, the queen's address Friday was as much a peace offering to her subjects as a paean of praise for the 36year-old Diana, whom she stripped of the title of Her Royal Highness after the divorce from Prince Charles a year ago.

It was the queen who had insisted on the divorce, which Diana had publicly resisted. Caught off guard by the

World leaders pay tribute

to Mother Teresa

for us in the United Kingdom, if

was with deep sadness that

learnt this evening of the death

of Mother Teresa," the Queen

said in a message to the Mis-

poor and destitute of all reli-

gious has been an inspiration

the hearts of all those who have

been touched by her selfless

"Her untiring devotion to the

"She will continue to live in

sionaries of Charity.

worldwide.

"At this time of mourning

loosening up of the 71-year-old monarch, who usually epitomizes stoicism, restraint, tradition and pageantry.

enormous displays of grief at

Diana's death, the palace exe-

cuted a series of about-turns af-

ter widespread criticism that

And it seemed to work, this

the royals had remained aloof.

The queen normally speaks to the nation only on Christmas Day. Friday's speech was the second exception in her reign; the other was on Feb. 24. 1991, at the end of the Gulf War.

TV stations continuously rolled pictures of the princess laughing with her children; clasping an AIDS victim; wearing a stunning evening gown - while playing Elton John's funeral song, "Goodbye England's Rose."

Supermarkets and museum closed, many sporting events were canceled

On Friday evening, Charles, William and Harry visited Diana's coffin at St. James's Palace, then followed in a limousine its slow processing through the packed and hushed streets to Kensington Palace.

Some 2,000 people were invited to the Abbey Saturday: just a sprinkling of officialdom and foreign VIPS, hundreds of people from her favorite charities, friends and people who had known her kindness.

Mother Teresa's Charity had

said before her death that she

would offer special prayers in

memory of the Princess, whom

she met in June, during her fu-

of the Roman Catholic church

in England and Wales, said: "It

is rather lovely to think that

Mother Teresa, who was very

friendly with Princess Diana.

should have gone so soon to

Both had "in different ways

"I would think that both in

their own ways have given us a wonderful example of how we

should all be concerned for each

other and serve Christ in each

of England, Archbishop of

Canterbury George Carey, said

Mother Teresa's "deep and com-

pelling spirituality ... combined

with a practical application of

faith ... drew Princess Diana

and others to hold her in such

also be remembering her as we

focus our thoughts and prayers

commented: "In a week already

filled with tragedy, the world

will be saddened that one of its

most compassionate servants

"Many of us, I am sure, will

Prime Minister Tony Blair

And the head of the church

Cardinal Basil Hume, head

neral on Saturday.

served people in need."

join her

other."

affection.

on Diana," he said.



The Prince of Wales (R) and Princes William (C) and Harry meet members of the crowd outside Kensington Palace in London Friday. The princes collected floral tributes for their mother and placed them with the sea of flowers already laid outside the official home of Diana, Princess of Wales, who died in a car crash last Sunday. - AFP/UNB photo

Fascinated social scientists say

Public mourning Diana's death not as fictional character

PHILADELPHIA, Sept 6: The mass outpouring of tears and affecting for Princess Diana has begun to fascinate social scientists, some of whom say the public is not mourning a flesh-and-blood person so much as a fictional character created by the media, reports Reuter.

By way of a phenomenon known to sociologists as "parasocial interaction," the millions who would line London streets for today's funeral or get up at odd hours around the world to watch it on television have forged an emotional bond with the late Princess of

Her grace, beauty and humanitarian spirit have been praised by tearful well-wishers in countless TV interviews. written testimonials and shrines that have flourished since her death in a Paris car crash last Sunday The only problem, say scien-

tists, is that Diana the saint has been produced by the same media and public relations industries that earlier cast her as a sinner.

"People who follow celebrities develop what is almost a personal relationship with those celebrities, from their point of view - not from the celebrity's point of view. That's

what we're seeing with Princess Diana," said British anthropologist Elizabeth Bird, the author of a book on the tabloid press.

entitled "for enquiring minds." Tve been amazed reading tributes to her where people say they felt they knew her personally. She was a good person, a sweept person. And yet, everything they feel about Princess Diana — literally everything is from the media."

Diana, the media creation. has undergone a transforma tion by death much like the one that overtook US President John Kennedy, who sociologists say was never so popular in life as he has been since his assassination.

The British satirical magazine Private Eye made the point this week with an "apology" which said its editorial staff in recent years "may have inadvertently conveyed the impression that the late Princess of Wales was in some way neuritoc, irresponsible and manipulative troublemaker ... we now realise as of Sunday morning that the Princess of Hearts was in fact the most saintly woman

who has ever lived ... So, Diana appears destined to take her place in the same celestial pantheon which houses the beloved souls of Elvis Presley and James Dean.

But because the emotional bond which connects celebrities with their adoring fans is almost wholly imaginary, scientists warn that it can just as easily lead to destructive behaviour including the stalking and even murder of famous people such was fate of John Lennon. Gary Alan Fine, a sociologist

at Northwestern University. says some negative aspects of celebrity worship seem now to be afflicting the surviving British Royals, who have been criticised for failing to mirror public grief over Diana's death.

"I'm rather fascinating by this enormous outpouring of antagonism for the British Royal Family," he said.

"One can think of this simply as the case of a rather unpleasant daughter-in-law, so any grief they showed would be in some measure, artificial and yet there's this public demand for them to show grief for this person whom they clearly didn't much like.

The power of celebrity may be as old as the human imagination itself according to anthropologist John Caughey. who claims the way modern people regard famous figures is similar to the manner in which remote Pacific islanders approached their tribal gods.

started. "I can't see anything yet." Solovyov said at one point as he scrutinized the dented radiator and support struts on the Spektr module, considered a

likely site for one or more of the holes. Solovyov said he felt fine. but was breathing heavily at times and expressed frustration at one juncture, saying, "Of

course, this spacewalk is overloaded with work." He used a blade to scrape away coating on the radiator,

sending small pieces of debris drifting into space like snowflakes

US troops to guard Mexico border: The US House of Representatives on Friday voted for its support for deploying up to 10,000 troops to guard the border with Mexico to keep out drugs and illegal immigrants. Xinhua reports from Washington.

The measure, proposed by Republican Jim Traficant, was approved by a vote of 261-150. Under the bill, the troops could render aid to the border patrol and immigration authorities in inspections and detaining illegal aliens.

Orchestral conductor Solti dies: Sir Georg Solti, the Hungarian-born conductor who led the Chicago Symphony Orchestra to international fame as its music director from 1969 to 1991, has died at age 84, AP reports from London.

He died peacefully in his sleep Friday while on vacation in Antibes in the south of France, said Charles Kaye, his executive assistant. Kaye said Solti became ill Tuesday, but he did not disclose the illness.

Bangkok may scrap deal with HK co: Thailand's minister of transport will ask the Cabinet to cancel its contract with Hong Kong's Hopewell Holdings to build a 3.2 billion dollars elevated road and rail system in Bangkok, local newspapers said Saturday, AP reports from Bangkok.

Minister of Transport and Communications Suwat Liptapallop said he will ask that the deal be scrapped when the Cabinet meets next week, the Bangkok Post reported.

5 die of food poisoning in India: A 33 year old woman and four children under ten years of age died of suspected food poisoning late on Friday night, PTI reports from Thiruvananthapuram.

About 300 persons were admitted in the Medical College Hospital and the Sree Avitam Thirunal (SAT) hospital for women and children. The condition ten of them were serious, the sources said. About 100 children were being treated at SAT hospital. Those dead and now in the hospitals were all from the Vizhinjam and Poovar coastal Panchayais in Thiruvananthapuram district. Most of them were stated to have developed giddiness and vomitted after eating mussels.

Vice mayor of Beijing resigns:
An aide to the disgraced former Beijing Communist Party and an enemy of party chief Jiang Zemin has resigned, just days before the start of a crucial party meeting, state media said yesterday, Reuter reports from Beijing.

"Zhang Baifa, 63, vice mayor of Beijing, had tendered his resignation and this had been accepted, the capital's mayor and party chief Jia Qinglin told the closing day of a meeting of the city's local parliament on Friday, the Beijing Daily said.

Serbs fail to comply with deal: Bosnian Serbs have failed to comply fully with a deal to moderate their propaganda against a Bosnia peace agreement after getting control of a television transmitter on Tuesday, the State Department said on Friday, Reuter reports from Washington. State Department spokesman James Foley said compliance

with stipulations set out by international mediators in exchange for the for the transmitter had been "uneven". "We've been monitoring through the foreign broadcast information service, their broadcasts, and our view is that they have not met all the stipulations," Foley said at a briefing. 26 murderers executed in China:

Authorities in the southwestern Chinese city of Chongqing

have executed 26 people convicted of first-degree murder.

robbery and rape, the official legal daily reported yesterday, AFP reports from Beijing. The executions followed a mass sentencing rally on Friday attended by 1,000 ordinary citizens, it said. The death sentences marked an important step for reinforcing the national "strike hard" anti-crime campaign and safeguarding city's peace. Vice Mayor Gan Yuping was quoted as telling the rally.

Mother Teresa made India belong to the world: Media

NEW DELHI, Sept 6: The death of Mother Teresa, a Christian Missionary in a Hindu-majority country of 960 million people, dominated television news and newspaper front pages here today, reports

One newspaper went so far as to compare her to Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of modern

The state-run Doordarshan television channel began its news programme with a lengthy opening tribute to the 87-yearold missionary, who died in

Calcutta late Friday. The newspapers, meanwhile, dedicated most of their front pages to the Roman Catholic

nun's death. .The Pioneer newspaper compared Mother Teresa to the "Father of Nation," Mahatma Gandhi, adding: "One belonged to India and shaped it in his image. The other made India belong to the world."

Mother Teresa, awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her missionary work, died following a cardiac arrest at 9:30 pm (1600 GMT) Friday.

Publishers of

thriller on Di

postpone sale

LONDON, Sept 6: The pub-

lishers of a thriller centred on a

murder plot against Princess

Diana have postponed its sale.

ports AFP.

until next April.

further comment.

London booksellers said, re-

elites as Trooper Barry Davies.

had been scheduled to appear

for sale in September, but book-

"Royal Blood," by former

However a spokesman for

The book centres on a plot by

The Princess was killed last

the publishers, Virgin Books.

denied they had ever intended

to produce the book and refused

rightwing extremists to murder

Diana by means of an injection

of contaminated blood to pre-

Sunday in a car crash in Paris.

along with her companion Dodi

Al-Fayed, who was a muslim.

Their friendship developed af-

ter the book was written.

vent her marrying a Muslim.

She is to be buried at Mother House, the headquarters of the order she founded in Calcutta almost half-a-century ago, on September 10.

India has more than 800 million Hindus and 120 million Muslims. The country's 22 million Christians represent around two-and-a-half per cent of the population.

The Pioneer added Mother Teresa was the "embodiment of the ultimate human quality, compassion ... she was a global citizen in the finest sense of the "It was God's will that she

could bestow her incredible power of compassion upon the destitutes of Calcutta, turn that morbid metropolis into city of The Indian Express, mean-

while, under the headline "Mother dies, poorest of the poor orphaned," said "India loved her as one of its own." The daily said had there

been "initial reservations" in Calcutta when she had begun her missionary work among Hindu priests.

Queen condoles Dodi's death

in his eyes, Mohamed Al-Fayed on Friday personally thanked hundreds of mourners weeping for his son Dodi and Princess Diana, reports Reuter.

wishers who pressed forward to hug him outside his Harrods department store in London. Clearly moved by the emotion-charged welcome he re-

promptu shrine. "It's so brave of him to come out, bless him," said one woman as he reached into the crowd.

Mohammed Al-Faved. whose son died with Diana in a high-speed car chase with photographers in Paris, was surin public before the cameras.

the front of the luxury store that is covered in flowers and poems to Diana and Dodi.

Inside, his spokesman Michael Cole staged an equally emotional press conference where he revealed the agony of Mohamed Al-Fayed as he went to identify his son in a Paris mortuary.

AFP adds: Egyptian billionaire Mohamed Al-Fayed, whose son Dodi died alongside Diana. Princess of Wales last weekend, has received a message of condolence from the Queen, his spokesman announced Friday.

Al-Fayed, often seen as a throne in the side of the British establishment, received a letter from Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday delivered from Balmoral Castle, Scotland, the spokesman said.

"It was a most kind, warm and generous letter of condolence to Mr, and Mrs, Al-Fayed and the whole Fayed family were truly grateful," he told a news conference.

Al-Fayed owner of London's famous Harrods department store and the Paris Ritz, replied immediately with a similar letter, which was waiting for the Queen when she returned to Buckingham Palace on Friday.

Not an ornate roy al tomb

GREAT BRINGTON, Sept 6: The family of Princess Diana chose as her final resting place not an ornate royal tomb, but a simple grave within the grounds of her ancestral home, awarding her the privacy she lacked in life, reports AP. Initially, she was to have

been interred with 20 generations of her ancestors at the village churchyard. But plans were changed out of concern that Great Brington would be strangled with tribute-payers.

The night before the princess' Saturday afternoon burial, the village was as quiet as the peace the nation hopes she has found.

Police had cordoned off the village two days earlier, allowing only residents to enter, and also blocked the road leading to the ancestral home of Althorp Park, which sits outside this Northamptonshire village of

about 200. Diana's brother, Earl Spencer, announced Friday she would be laid to rest privately on an island in an ornamental

lake at Althorp. The burial place would be opened to the public for a "number of weeks" each year, with appropriate safety and security measures, he said.

At the traffic cones blocking the road leading to Althorp. about a half-dozen people had gathered Friday night, holding candles and a sign reading "Princess Diana, Our Queen of Hearts, Home to Rest." A family of four was camped out down

The quiet was almost unnerving compared with London. 50 miles (80 kilometers) to the south, where crowds estimated to swell into the millions gathered along the route of Diana's funeral cortege.

the road.

The burial spot is on the part of the Althorp Park grounds known as the Pleasure Gardens, in an arboretum where the future princess and her sisters had planted trees.

Earl Spencer said the new site would not only take pressure off the village, but would allow her relatives - especially sons Prince William and Prince Harry - to have critically needed privacy when visiting

Clearly, in these extraordinary circumstances ... it is the right thing to do," the Right Rev Paul Baker said Friday as he consecrated the burial site.



A pavement artist draws a likeness of Diana on a street in Central London, Thursday, as a tribute after hearing of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Four days after the tragic death of the Princess in a car accident in Paris whilst accompanied by her friend Dodi Al Fayed, visitors are still arriving in the hundreds and up to 2 million people are expected to watch the funeral procession on Saturday. AFP/UNB photo

Al-Fayed thanks mourners

LONDON. Sept 6: With tears

"God bless you and thank you all," he told sobbing well-

ceived, he paused to talk to mourners who had come to pay their respects at the storefront which has become an im-

obviously drawing comfort from the tidal wave of support.

rounded by phalanx of security guards for his first appearance He was accompanied by his brother Ali for the walk down