

Britain's Prince Charles shares a joke with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia at Claridges Hotel in London Tuesday during the latter's three-day official visit to - AP/UNB photo Britain.

27 die as train, bus collide in China: A passenger train collided at a railway crossing in northern China's Shanxi province with a bus carrying a bride's family and friends to her wedding, killing 27 people and injuring one, a newspaper said in a report seen Wednesday in Beijing, AP says from Beijing.

The impact of the collision, which occurred Sunday morning, pushed the bus more than 200 metres off the road, the Yangcheng Evening News reported Tuesday. The report said the bus was carrying about 70 people. It provided no other details about the victims of the crash.

17 kg heroin seized at Delhi airport: In the biggest narcotics haul in recent years, customs authority seized 17 kg of heroin worth 17 crore rupee in the international market from three Ethiopia-bound Nigerians, including a woman; at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New

Delhi on Tuesday, PTI reports from New Delhi. The narcotics were seized from the Nigerians, who were to travel separately by an Ethiopian Airways flight bound for Addis Ababa, on the basis of observation by alert officials of the Air Customs Preventive Unit, Customs Commissioner Vijay Zutshi told reporters. The three were being interrogated and were yet to be arrested. Zutshi said.

Floods claim 407 in S Mexico: More than 400 people died in last week's torrential rains in southern Mexico, while 849 were missing and may have been buried under a sea of mud, the government said on Tuesday, Reuters reports from Tustla Gutierrez.

According to an official document obtained by Reuters, the worst flooding in four decades in southern Chiapas state killed 407 people, made an estimated 107,000 homeless and cut off 353 communities from the outside world. The rains, which dumped two feet of water in five days, made rivers burst their banks.

4 held with N-material in India: Police in Voranasi have seized one kg of 'brown powder. suspected to be uranium, from four persons, including a Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) jawan, and arrested them for uranium trafficking. Deputy Inspector General of Police AK Jain said Tuesday, PTI reports from Varanasi.

The four accused, booked under 'Atomic Energy Act,' have been remanded to judicial custody. Jain told reporters, adding the 'brown powder' contained in two bags has been sent to the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai, for testing.

Missing plane found in NZ: Rescuers flown in by helicopter Wednesday reached a light plane that crashed three days ago north of Mount Cook to find all three people aboard had been killed, police said, AP reports from Wellington.

A local pilot and two Japanese women tourists apparently died when their four-seater Cessna slammed into a rocky, snow-covered slope at the side of the Rudolph Glacier, some (30km) north of Mount Cook

US against legalising marijuana:
Marijuana is a dangerous and addictive drug and should not be legalised for medical use, the House of Representatives said in a resolution passed 310-93 Tuesday. AP reports from

Washington. Efforts to legalise marijuana for medical use in several states are sending the wrong message to teenagers and the nation as a whole, supporters of the resolution said during debate on the House floor. The Marijuana Policy Project, which opposed the measure, denounced the vote.

Ariane blasts off with satellite Western Europe's 110th Ariane rocket blasted off from French Guiana yesterday and placed into orbit a communications satellite for the Connecticut-based global satellite operator Panamsat, Reuters reports from Kourou.

The Ariana-4 rocket lifted off at 3:31 AM local time (063) GMT). Twenty-one minutes later, space officials said the Pas 7 satellite separated from the rocket. Pas 7 is designed to provide video and telecommunications services to Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Serb offensive in Kosovo continues

PRISTINA, Sept 16: Serb security forces pounded 12 villages in the north of Kosovo on Wednesday, bringing the crackdown on ethnic Albanian rebels to a previously calm area of the strife-torn province, ethnic Albanian sources said, reports

"We see this as a tendency for Serb offensive operations to extend further north," said Muhamet Hamiti, a spokesman for the pro-Albanian Kosovo Information Centre. "This means more than half of Kosovo has been directly affected by the Serb offensive of the last seven months.'

No statement from Serb forces was immediately available, and the reports could not be independently confirmed. Late Monday and early Tuesday, Serb and Yugoslav security forces ousted the Alba-nian Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) from villages in the Drenica region of western Kosovo, considered the KLA's last major holdout in Kosovo.

According to a fighter near Cirez, four guerillas were killed in action early Tuesday. No reports of Serb casualties were immediately available.

Tuesday's attacks sent hundreds of Albanian refugees fleeing to Cirez, where about 10,000 to 15,000 people have been taking refuge for more than a month.

With food and medical supplies running short, humanitarian agencies are worried that the tens of thousands of people forced to flee the fighting in Kosovo won't make it through the harsh winter. Since July, the Serbs have

reduced the KLA's territory from 40 per cent, to all but a few patches, mostly in the moun-

Militants kill 5 in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Sept 16: Sus-pected Muslim rebels Wednesday stormed the house of a former militant and killed his five male relatives after lining them in a high security area of this Jammu-Kashmir capital, police said, reports AP.

Mohammed Yusuf Gadru, the main target, escaped since he wasn't at home. The unidentified assailants spared the female members and children in Soura neighbourhood in the Dal Lake area which is heavily guarded by the Indian military and paramilitary forces.

Gadru is a member of the Ikhawan-ul-Muslimoon, a militant outfit which surrendered to the security forces and was later armed by the government to, fight the rebels.

2 'Chinese spies' held at Dalai Lama's HQ

CHANDIGARH, Sept 16: Two men believed to be Chinese spies who had detailed information on the Dalai Lama's security arrangements have been arrested at the seat of the Tibetan leader's government-inexile in northern India, police said Wednesday, reports AP.

The men, identified only by their first names as Chomphil 29, and Migmar, 30, were arrested late on Tuesday with maps, sketches and other documents related to the multilayered security ring thrown around the Dalai Lama by Indian forces. Superintendent of Police KC Sadyal said by Telephone from Kangra town in northern Himachal Pradesh

In Beijing, the Chinese Foreign Ministry had no immediate comment on the arrests.

9-year-old boy charged with brother's murder

LOS ANGELES, Sept 16: A 9year-old boy was charged with second degree murder on Tuesday for allegedly killing his 11year-old brother with a steak knife, the Los Angeles county district attorney's office said. reports Reuters.

According to the charge, the boy, who was not identified because he is a minor, stabbed his brother to death on Saturday. A police spokesman earlier

said the stabbing occurred as the two brothers played with another boy at their home in the Los Angles suburb of Bellflower.

He said it was first believed to be an accident and that the victim had fallen on the knife during "horseplay" but when detectives interviewed the two boys they "determined that the younger brother was responsible for the death," Los Angeles county sheriff's spokesman Bob Killeen said.

100m victims of poverty in rich nations: UNDP

THE HAGUE, Sept 16: Shat-tering the myth that human deprivation and poverty are prevalent in only developing countries, a United Nations report says that more than 100 million people across rich nations suffered the same fate and an equal number of them are

homeless, reports PTI. At least 37 million people in these countries are unemployed and almost 200 million have life expectancy below 60 years of age, says the Human Development Report 1998 of the UN Development Programme

(UNDP).
The report, released here recently by UNDP's principal coordinator Richard Jolly, says poverty and deprivation are found in all industrial countries despite high consumption, and are growing in some of these nations.

Presenting a new index of poverty in industrial countries - a multi-dimensional measure of human deprivation - it points out that 7 to 17 per cent of the population in developed countries was poor.

The United States, which has the highest average income among the 174 ranked nations, also has the highest population (16.5 per cent) experiencing human poverty among 17 industrial countries.

Despite enjoying a booming economy and low unemployment, the US has one-fifth of its people functionally illiterate and 13 per cent not expected to survive till 60 years of age.

people about the affair, sent re-

vealing e-mail from her De-

fence Department computer.

even sparked a ruckus at a

As a presidential paramour,

the independent counsel's re-

ports portrays her as astonish-

ingly indiscreet and remark-

ably demanding. Psychologists

say Lewinsky behaved like

many women who become in-

volved with powerful man only

to end up dumped and disillu-

came Lewinsky's life," her own

psychotherapist told Kenneth

According to Starr's report,

Lewinsky began flirting with

the president only a month af-

ter arriving at the White House

in July 1995 as a unpaid intern.

A few hours before their first

sexual encounter, the report

said, she flashed him a peek at

the top of her thong panties.

Starr's investigators.

President Bill Clinton "be-

sioned.

White House gate, reports AP.

India won't sign CTBT unconditionally

MADRAS (Chennai), Sept 16: Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee said today that India would not sign the Comprehensive Test Bank Treaty (CTBT) in its present form, report agen-

"No," he told reporters in this southern city in response to a question on whether India would join the global pact banning nuclear tests as it now stands.

In exchange for signing the nuclear test ban treaty. India wants technology for its energy programmes that it has been denied because the material also has military uses, the prime minister said.

Vajpayee's comments to reporters confirmed speculation about ongoing negotiations on India's nuclear policy between his envoy Jaswant Singh and US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott.

The United States, which led the world in punishing India's May nuclear tests with economic sanctions, has called on New Delhi to sign the CTBT unconditionally. Indian officials have said they would be willing to sign an amended form of the down from that position

Amending the treaty would require an international conference on a measure approved

by 158 countries in a UN General Assembly vote in 1996. Only India, Bhutan and Libya opposed it. "I know the treaty is not going to be changed," Vajpayee

said. "But certain other arrangements will be made to facilitate our work ... particularly with regard to transfer of high technology. We are having talks on this and other front." Vajpayee was clearly refer-

ring to the "dual-use" nuclear technology India has been denied because it has applications in weapons as well as energy research.

engaged in the delicate task of

Vajpayee and his aides are

changing public perception of the CTBT, which for years was denounced in India as doing too little to encourage disarmament while denying most of the world the chance to catch upwith the nuclear know-how Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States had developed over decades of testing. In recent months, the government has made clear it now treaty, but Vajpayee backed considers itself one of the nuclear haves.

"Whatever data we required we have collected, there is no need for any further tests," Vajpayee said Wednesday.

"That is one of the reasons why our attitude (toward the CTBT) has changed.

India's May test prompted answering tests from neighbour and rival Pakistan, with whom India has fought three conventional wars. The United States and other countries, fearing nuclear war could one day break out in this volatile region, imposed economic sanctions on both countries and demanded they sign the CTBT.

Pakistan is also engaged in a CTBT debate. On Tuesday a leading Pakistani religious university threatened to launch a holy war against the government if it signs the treaty. A decree issued by Dar-ul-Aloom Haqqania said signing the treaty would leave Pakistan at a military disadvantage against India.

During a debate on the signing in Parliament Tuesday, the opposition stormed out saying the government already had decided to sign. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Siddiq Kanju said no decision had been

Taliban ask Iran to settle differences peacefully

KABUL, Sept 16: The supreme leader of the Taliban. Mullah Mohammad Omar, today called on Iran to resolve their differences peacefully after Tehran ordered its forces to prepare for action against the

Islamic militia, reports AFP, "Iran should solve its problem with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in accordance with the international law." Omar said in a statement over state run Radio Shariat.

"In case the authorities of Iran are not ready to settle the issue with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan according to international law, the United Nations should blame Iran."

Omar's statement came after the spiritual Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei ordered tens of thousands of his soldiers on Afghanistan's western borders to be prepared for ac-tion against the Taliban after the killings of nine Iranian diplomats during the capture of a northern opposition stronghold last month.

"We have human, Islamic, political and national concerns in Afghanistan - that is to protect our national interests and thwart a threat to the country and the nation," Khamenei told commander of the elite Revolutionary Guards on Tuesday.

"All officials and armed forces should be prepared to

firmly and in a timely manner carry out whatever plans and correct decisions the (top) officials have made for the interest

of the country," Khamenei said. A Taliban spokesman im-mediately hit back warning that any Iranian attack would be dealt with in kind. "We shall target '-anian

cities if our territory is attacked," Taliban spokesman Wakil Ahmed was quoted by the Afghan Islamic Press as saying Omar's soft-worded statement today did not contain any threats to Iran about conse-

quences of an attack. The radio, however, criticised the UN for allegedly ignoring repeated Taliban calls for the world body's intervention to

defuse the tension. The UN should not meddle in Afghan affairs in future if it fails to convince Iran to opt for a negotiated solution to the current crisis, it said.

Another report from Islamabad adds: Anti-Taliban forces have staged a series of counter attacks around Bamiyan city in central Afghanistan and have recaptured the local airstrip, UN sources said here today.

Ethnic Hazara forces staged the attacks in the southwest of Bamiyan town, adding Taliban claims that the militia controlled the strategic Shebar Pass were untrue.

Typhoon Stella hits Japan

TOKYO, Sept 16: Typhoon Stella, packing winds up to 108 kilometers per hour, hit land in central Japan early Wednesday, triggering floods and injuring at least 17, a news report said, reports AP.

Waves as high as 7 metres battered coastal areas in Shizuoka prefecture, where Stella came ashore at a round 4:30 am (1930 GMT Tuesday), the Meteorological Agency said. Two of those injured were

power company workers in Shizuoka knocked to the ground by the high waves, said prefectural police spokesman Kenji Nomura. Katsumi Inamoto, 46, suf-

fered a skull fracture, and Masashi Suzuki, also 46, sustained bruises to his body. Both men were treated at a hospital in Higashiizu, a coastal hot spring resort 150 kilometres west of Tokyo, Nomura said. In Fukushima prefecture

north of Tokyo, 60-year-old Haruo Igari was hospitalised for pains in his hip after being blown from his roof while trying to patch a leak, a police spokesman said.

Most of the 17 injuries were reported in coastal areas, Kyodo News agency said.

Stella, the season's fifth typhoon, dumped up to 36 centimetres of rain over 24 hours on areas still recovering from severe flooding caused by a typhoon last month.

Republicans push for release of Albanian govt gives videotape of Clinton's testimony several times and once had to WASHINGTON. Sept 16: plans. However assistant Re-

Congressional Republicans pushed on Tuesday for release of the videotape of President Bill Clinton's grand jury testimony about Monica Lewinsky as the White House beefed up its effort to head off impeachment. reports Reuters.

At the same time, representative Henry Hyde, the Illinois Republican who heads the House of Representatives judiciary committee, warned Clinton supporters not to dig into the private lives of members of Congress to find embarrassing "Efforts to intimidate mem-

bers of Congress or interfere with the discharge of their official duties in relation to the impeachment matter could constitute violation of federal criminal law. Hyde said. Republicans Senate

held a caucus but the leadership said the Senate was a long way from making any impeachment

publican leader Don Nickles of Oklahoma said, "If he (Clinton) was in the private sector, he'd be fired from any job I'm aware

From left a right: Farooq Abdullah, V. Gopalaswami, Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari

Vajpayee, Prakash Singh Badal and Defence Minister George Fernandes wave to sup-

porters in Chennai during a rally organised by the MDMK Tuesday. - AP/UNB photo

Several members of the judiciary committee and its staff went to a guarded room near the Capitol on Tuesday to review 17 boxes of evidence that Starr said supports his claim Clinton committed possibly impeachable offences during the affair with the former White House in-

Republican and Democratic judiciary staff met late into the evening Tuesday to try to reach agreement on what material would be released to the public

Republicans insist the videotape should be released, while Democrats are reluctant, saying it casts Clinton in a bad light. Those familiar with the closed testimony have been quoted as saying Clinton lost his temper

take an hour break to cool

Representative John Conyers, ranking Democrat on the committee, said a decision by Republicans to "muscle" through the vote on releasing the tapes "jeopardises the process and demeans our activities," although Democrats would be willing to release a transcript of the grand jury testimony.

He said the videotapes of Clinton's grand jury testimony "don't add anything at all. They put the president in a very embarrassing position. He was the only one who was videotaped."

The committee, facing its first possible presidential impeachment hearings since Richard Nixon in 1974, was due to meet in close session, probably on Thursday, to vote on how much more material should be given to a public that according to polls, has had enough al-

ultimatum to rebels TIRANA, Sept 16: Albanian automatic gunfire lasting a

Prime Minister Fatos Nano told gunmen holed up in the opposition Democratic Party headquarters to lay down their arms by dawn today or face the full force of the law, reports Reuters. Nano, addressing parlia-

Monday's unrest during which armed men looted his office and residence, said the government was determined to crush any attempt to destabilise the country. "We have told the interior ministry to invite everyone in

ment late on Tuesday after

possession of weapons at the Democratic Party head office to hand them over a dangerous arsenal is still in their hands. "All those who hand over

their weapons by dawn will be allowed to leave without consequences, otherwise, they will be hit with the force of law by the police forces," Nano said. During the televised session of parliament, an exchange of

couple of minutes could be heard echoing around Tirana. Shortly before midnight Democratic party spokesman Mentor Shehu called Reuters and said the building was being shot at from three sides.

"It's 1145 (2145 GMT) and we

are surrounded from the south. west and east, they are shooting in our direction. It's dark and we cannot identify who they are. Some are civilians with masks," he said. Interior ministry

spokesman Artan Bizhga said the firing was not coming form police, minutes later, Shehu said the shooting had stopped and nobody had been hurt. Earlier Nano put the blame

for Monday's violence squarely on former Albanian president Sali Berisha, calling him the "chief organiser of a coup d'etat' in a televised address after coming out of hiding.

US First Lady Hillary Clinton is greeted by members of the Shriver family as she arrives for a dedication ceremony in Washington Tuesday for the new Peace Corps headquarters. From left: Peace Corps Director Mark Gearan, Jeanne Shriver (holding six-month-old daughter Molly), Jeanne's husband Mark, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Eunice Shriver.

results postponed SARAJEVO. Sept 16: Bosnia faced political uncertainty and confusion today after a decision

Release of Bosnian polls

Monday.

to postpone until next week the release of results from general elections seen as crucial for its post-war future, reports Reuters. The surprise announcement by the Organisation for Secu-

rity and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the body organising the vote, will do little to counter claims by Bosnia's main nationalist parties of a strong showing in the election. Gains for the hardliners

would be a bitter blow for massive western efforts to ease ethnic tension between the country's Muslim, Serb and Croat communities following the 1992-1995 war which killed more than 200,000 people.
It could also make it more

difficult to start reducing the NATO-led Stabilisation Force - AP/UNB photo | (SFOR), whose 32,000 troops

safeguard inter-ethnic peace. Explaining his decision to wait until all the votes had been counted before announcing the result. OSCT Ambassador Robert Barry told reporters on

the political dialogue well by putting out a competing set of incomplete figures which to us don't prove anything and will prove still less to others." The OSCE had earlier on Tuesday said it would publish

"I don't think we will serve

partial and preliminary results later the same day. Barry's move came a day after several Bosnian nationalist

parties claimed victory in the election, which the west had hoped would help heal ethnic But Barry dismissed the var-

ious, and sometimes conflict ing, claims, saying, "nobody has yet a basis for claiming victory"

The mystery of Jupiter's Lewinsky behaved like a woman 'crazy in love': Psychologists

NEW YORK, Sept 16: Jupiter's mysterious rings were formed from dust from four of its moons, astronomers with Cornell University announced Tuesday, reports AFP.

The latest observations produced by the Galileo probe. show that the planet's large, very neat, exterior ring is composed of material from Jupiter's small moons, Amalthea and Thebe, Professor Joseph Burns told a news conference. "For the first time we can see

the Gossamer-bound dust coming off Amalthea and Thebe. and we now believe it is likely that the main ring comes from Adrastea and Metis," he said. "We now know the source of

Jupiter's ring system and how it Flyovers of Jupiter by the Voyager probes at the end of the 1970s produced evidence of the

rings — a main one of 6,000

kilometers, a diffused halo and

gin was never known until now. Thirty photos taken by Galileo in 1996 and 1997 show in fact that the exterior ring is made up of two concentric rings. Burns said. They were created after violent collisions of meteorites with Amalthea and Thebe, according to Burns.

an exterior ring — but their ori-

"In these impacts, the meteoroid is going so fast it buries itself deep in the moon, then vapourises and explodes, causing debris to be thrown off at such high velocity that it escapes the satellite's gravitational field," he said. This is only possible because

of the very small dimensions of the two moons, he added.

The ring particles are electrically charged and pushed back by Jupiter's massive electro-magnetic forces which keeps them at a certain distance from the planet.

WASHINGTON, Sept 16: No wonder they were caught: Monica Lewinsky told at least 11

She was 22 years old. It was Lewinsky who is said to have pushed Clinton to become more emotionally intimate after their first hurried physical encounters. "In this just about sex ... or do you have some interest in getting to know me as a person?" she asked during their fifth tryst in three

port. Following her cue, he began talking more. And she decided they were in love, even telling friends the pair might have a future together, the report said.

months, according to the re-

"Almost every young woman who has an affair with a married man thinks it's love and he will get divorced," said psychologist Joyce Brothers. "That's really how women even today have managed to convince themselves that it's OK to have

this fling." Later, when she was transferred to a Defence Department job and their relationship was relegated to occasional sexy telephone calls, she began hov-



with major donors at his 50th birthday fund-raiser, Lewinsky reached across the rope line and touched his crotch in a "playful" fashion, according to her testi-

Although she sounds bold. Lewinsky described herself as

therapists. Dr Irene Kassorla, testified that Lewinsky suffered from depression and low selfesteem. That may be one reason she was attracted to the president,

"an insecure person." One of her

as some women are drawn to athletes or movie stars, said Les Parrott, a Psychology professor at Seattle Pacific University. Parrott, who studies relationships, has never met Lewinsky. Lewinsky and her family have declined to comment on her testimony or feelings.

Insecurity also may explain why she told friends, despite assuring Clinton that no one knew about them. "Can you think of another

person in the world who would validate your worth as a human being more than the president of the United States?" Parrott said. "How can you keep that secret?"

According to Starr's report, Lewinsky told six friends and a former boyfriend about the affair, often in explicit detail. She

wrote e-mail about it on her computer at the Defence Department. She confided in two therapists and her mother. Lewinsky even described one of the sexual encounters to an aunt, who made it clear she didn't want to hear any more.

She also told presidential friend Vernon Jordan that she had "telephone sex" with the president. And she alluded to the relationship in a remark to Clinton's secretary, Betty Currie, who cut her off before she could say more. Eventually, an anonymous

tip alerted the lawyers representing Paula Jones in her sexual harassment lawsuit against Clinton, and Lewinsky was named as a potential witness. One of her confidants had been Linda Tripp, who tape-

recorded their conversations and turned the tapes over to the independent counsel. It many have been the power of his position that first at-

tracted her, but by the end

Lewinsky was treating Bill

trant boyfriend than a president. They argued. She cried. She

complained that he "was not paying enough attention to me." According to the report, she became enraged when Secret Service agents at the White House gate told her the president was meeting with another women. She wrote peevish letters demanding that he help her get

a good job in New York. "I know

Clinton more like a recalci-

that what is going on in the world takes precedence, but I don't think what I have ask you for is unreasonable," she wrote at one point. She made vague threats to end their affair. Psychologist Parrott said her attitude, oblivious to Clinton's position and what was at

risk for them both, defines the popular term "crazy in love." "To be so brazen with the

president of the United States only makes sense when you are truly in love with him," he said.