Turkey may send troops into Syria as well

ANKARA, Oct 4: The Turkish government, which sent about 10,000 soldiers into northern Iraq to attack Kurdish rebels. has said it might send forces into Syria to eradicate guerilla bases there, according to news reports, says AP.

Turkey's incursion into northern Iraq on Friday followed two days of airstrikes against suspected rebel bases. the daily Hurriyet said Satur-

Turkish Kurdish rebels fighting for autonomy in southeastern Turkey wage cross-border raids from camps in Iraq, Iran and Syria. The Ankara government accuses Syria of aiding the rebels, a charge Damascus denies.

Turkey warned the Syrian government Friday that its "patience was running out," and Gen. Huseyin Kivrikogulu, chief of the general staff, has described the mounting tension with Syria as "an undeclared

Fueling tension between the two countries are Turkey and Israel's expanding military and diplomatic ties. Syria claims the ties are a threat to the Arab world, and on Saturday, Dam-

NEW DELHI, Oct 4: United

States President Bill Clinton

has written a "thoughtful and

positive" letter to Indian Prime

Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee.

according to the Indian Express

daily here today, reports Zin-

ferment of his trip to India

which had been planned for

November this year and wel-

comed the progress made in

Indo-US talks following India's

US administration officials

told its correspondent in Wash-

ington that the communication

would keep the two leaders in

more frequent contact directly

in the weeks ahead as they work

more closely to bring the dia-

logue between the two countries

that a letter had been sent but

receipt in New Delhi where a

clutch of holidays was expected

The letter, which was sent

to delay an official reaction.

withheld comment pending its

Indian diplomats confirmed

The newspaper said senior

nuclear tests in May.

to fruition.

Clinton explained the de-

ascus again accused Turkey of plotting with Israel to under-

mine Syria. In Jerusalem, Israeli Defence Ministry Spokesman Avi Benayahu on Saturday denied his country was involved "in any way" in the looming Turkey-Syria confrontation.

In an effort to head off a military conflict. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was to arrive in the region Sunday for emergency talks in Turkey and Syria, Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said Saturday in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

In a show of force Friday, Turkish jets buzzed the Syrian border, the daily Radikal re-ported. Defence Minister Ismet Sezgin also said Turkey would soon carry out military exercises near the Syrian border. private NTV television re-

Sezgin said Turkey was still trying to use diplomacy to settle its long-standing border issues with Syria. "But there is a limit of patience." NTV quoted him as saying. "Then we will do whatever necessary."

has killed more than 37,000 people since 1984.

Clinton did not respond to

The India Express said that

Vajpayee's letter soon after the

tests which excused himself for

Washington wanted to convey

its appreciation of India's

changing stand on the Compre-

hensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

although it now said more

across the board progress needs

to be made on a range of prolif-

eration and security-related is-

Quoting a senior US official,

the Indian Express said Clinton

paid close attention to what the

Indian leader said to both the

United Nations General Assem-

bly and the Asia Society in New

speed of the dialogue between

the two countries exceed the

pace of domestic consensus in

India, the official reportedly

(Vajpayee) has to deal with his

coalition, with the opposition,

with public opinion. We do not

"The Prime Minister

Washington did not want the

York recently.

Britain considers sending troops to Kosovo

Y'slav air defence put on alert to counter NATO airstrikes

province, which is populated largely by ethnic Albanians.

and an estimated 275,000 peo-

ple have been driven form their

appointed by the Serbian Par-liament to head the 18-member

Interim Executive Council, told

the new members at their first

session in the Kosovo Parlia-

ment building, "We have to de-

feat the terrorists and work for

defence has been placed on the highest state of alert to counter

possible NATO airstrikes, said

a Yugoslav army commander

who spoke Saturday on condi-

The Yugoslav government also has called a special session

of the Federal Parliament for

Monday to discuss how to "Pro-

tect the international position

and state interests" of the coun-

leaders rejected the interim

seven Serbs, five ethnic Alba-

nians and the rest Turks and

Muslims. He said he consulted

moribund since 1980, was part

no political parties.

Ethnic Albanian political

Andjelkovic appointed

Constituting the council.

tion of anonymity.

Meanwhile, the Yugoslav air

the benefit of all our citizens."

Zoran Andjelkovic, the man

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, Oct 4: The Yugoslav air defence has been put on high alert as the threat of NATO airstrikes against Yugoslavia to put an end to fighting in Kosovo draws near, reports AP.

In an effort to show they are willing to back down, Serbian authorities on Saturday installed an interim government in the rebellious Serbian province. A western diplomat also said that up to 120 Yugoslav army armoured vehicles. including tanks, have been pulled out of Kosovo so far.

But the West apparently remained unmoved.

Speaking in Copenhagen, Denmark, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said that the NATO intervention clock "is at one minute to 12." He stressed that "no ultimatum, no date has been set," but added: "Milosevic must know that we are serious."

The Yugoslav government said on Friday the fighting had ended and blamed continuing violence on ethnic Albanian rebels. Serbia is the larger of two republics that comprise Yu-

Hundreds of people have died The Turkish-Kurdish war since the Serbs began their efforts to crack down on separatist resistance in the of a last-ditch effort to show that Serbs intend to end the conflict.

UN chief Kofi Annan plans report on Monday to the Secu-rity Council on whether Belgrade is complying with de-mands to half its assault on ethnic Albanians. If not, Washington has indicated that NATO airstrikes will follow within two weeks.

Momentum for international leaders to step in has increased in the past week amid revelations of massacres of ethnic Albanian civilians in

the forests of Kosovo.
Reuters adds from London: Britain is considering sending British Rapid Reaction Troops with tank units to Kosovo if NATO bombs Serbian forces the Sunday Telegraph reported. The paper said government

ministers were drawing up plans to send "several thousand" Royal Marines to the strife-torn Serbian province. The troops have been placed on immediate standby, it said.

A ministry of defence spokeswoman refused to com-

Earlier on Saturday, US Defence Secretary William Cohen warned of NATO intervention within two weeks.

To Monies - Hoggy Birmay! Bin Clinter 7-23-97

A photograph of President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky in the Oval Office at the White House serves as a birthday gift from the president to Lewinsky. The photograph was part of the material in the Starr Report released by the House Judiciary Committee on Friday.

- AP/UNB photo Linda Tripp wanted to write book

Gerald Ford for public rebuke of Clinton instead of impeachment

NEW YORK, Oct 4: While Republican leaders press for impeachment hearings against President Bill Clinton over the Monica Lewinsky scandal. former Republican president Gerald Ford today called instead for a public rebuke of Clinton, reports Reuter.

In an essay published in today's New York Times, Ford said he had no particular interest in "rescuing" Clinton, who is a Democrat, but wrote: "I do care, passionately, about rescuing the country I love from further turmoil or uncertainty."

Ford became the 38th presi dent in 1974 after President Richard Nixon resigned during an impeachment inquiry over the Watergate scandal, Ford later pardoned Nixon for any federal crimes he might have

committed as president. Ford, who spent 25 years in the House of Representatives. described a "harshly worded rebuke as rendered by members of both parties," televised and dehyered in the well of the House

as a more appropriate punish-

impeachment. By accepting the rebuke,

ment than a monetary fine or

wrote Ford, Clinton would "accept full responsibility for his actions... no spinning, no semantics, no evasiveness or blaming others for his plight." "Let all this be done without

partisan exploitation or meanspiritedness, let it be dignified. honest and above all, cleansing the result, I believe, would be the first moment of majesty in an otherwise squalid year." In a related story, the Times

quoted Gregory Craig, special counsel to the president, as saying he welcomed Ford's comments and did not rule out the possibility of a rebuke. "President Ford is absolutely

right: This kind of conduct doesn't rise to the level of an impeachable offence." Craig was quoted as saying.

AFP adds: Linda Tripp, the friend who betrayed Monica Lewinsky, wanted to write a book about Bill Clinton and his female conquests even before she became aware of his liaison I tremely precise notes.

with the former White House intern, according to documents released by Congress. Tripp, who worked at the

White House until 1996, was in contact with New York literary agent Lucianne Goldberg of the summer of that year, but had been "horrified" by the agent's counter-proposal which she found too sensational.

In September 1997, after becoming friendly with Lewinsky, Tripp again contacted the fiercely anti-Clinton Goldberg who advised her to record her telephone conversations with her young friend to avoid being destroyed by the political "ma-

Goldberg also suggested that Tripp obtain evidence of the Lewinsky-Clinton relationship, suggesting that Lewinsky send letters and gifts to the president through a courier service affiliated with her brother.

In the next months, Tripp reconstructed her relationship with Lewinsky, taking ex-

Wednesday, is Clinton's first want to pish the debate faster formal communication to the than it can be absorbed." he Indian Prime Minister after the said BRIFFIY

Clinton welcomes progress

in Indo-US talks

nuclear tests.

the blasts

2 die as police opens fire in India: Two

persons, one of them a woman, were killed late Saturday night when police opened fire on a crowd which attacked a locality dominated by members of another caste at Tiruppulani village about 10 km from Ramanathapuram in south of Tamil Nadu. police said. PTI reports from Chennai.

District police sources told PTI that Muniammal, a 45-year old woman died on the spot, while Arumugam, 47 succumbed to bullet injuries in the Ramanathapuram Headquarters Hospital. Another man nursing a bullet injury had been admitted to the hospital. A report from Ramanathapuram said, quoting the police, that the firing occurred when a group of Dalits from a neighbouring village arrived at Tiruppulani late in the night and started attacking shops, leading to a lathi charge by the

Cardoso certain to remain in power: Brazil's President Fernando Henrique Cardoso is virtually certain to remain in power, with an opinion poll giving him 49 per cent of the vote on the eve of the Sunday's election, AFP reports from Rio de Janeiro.

Cardoso's main rival, Luis Inacio Lula da Silva would get 24 per cent of the vote, according to the poll conducted by the Brazilian Public Opinion Institute (IBOPE) and broadcast by Globo Television. Cardoso's support was up two percentage points from a Friday poll, while Lula's remained the same

Thai police detain 1 for smuggling: Police

have seized 21 kg of heroin from a man from Malawi as he was preparing to board a flight to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Thai newspapers reported yesterday, AP says from Bangkok. Police quoted the man, identified as Yenri Suen Onabanjo. 32, who was arrested Saturday, as saying was trying to smuggle

the drug, the Bangkok Post reported. It said the heroin had been

concealed inside audio loudspeakers.

Bus accident claims 11 in China: A bus packed with holiday travellers has veered off a bridge in south China, killing 11 people and injuring 30, the state-run Beijing Evening News reported yesterday, AP says from Beijing. Only one person, a small child, on the bus escaped injury

when it plunged about 80 metres in Hunan province's Cili county on Thursday, the newspaper said. Among those injured, some were in critical condition, it said. British-born actor McDowall dies: Roddy

McDowall, the British-born actor who starred in "Planet of the

Apes" and "How Green was My Valley." died at his home on Saturday. He was 70, AFP reports from Los Angeles. McDowall was diagnosed in April with terminal cancer and he died at his studio city home, KNX Radio said. Funeral arrangements have not been announced. Flowers were placed on his star on the Hollywood walk of fame and Hollywood Mayor Johnny Grant called him "a true gentleman" and a "Splendid'

11 killed in shootouts in Malaysia: Police Killed 11 people, including a woman reported to be eight months pregnant, in two weekend shootouts with groups of alleged criminals, according to reports on Sunday, AP reports

from Kuala Lumpur. No police were injured in either of the firefights. Police said they killed six men in a van who refused to stop when intercepted late Saturday night and started to shoot at officers. The Kelantan state police chief said police had not identified the bodies, but that all the dead men were wanted for armed robbery, firearms smuggling and drug trafficking. One of five people killed Friday night when police stormed a house in the capital to arrest kidnappers of a politician's son was eight months pregnant. The Sunday newspaper reported, quoting her relatives. The women and her husband were both killed, leaving

daughter aged 5 and 8, the paper said. Russia marks Sputnik launch day: Russia marked the 41st anniversary on Sunday of the launch of the Sputnik satellite - the first manmade object sent into

Earth's orbit, AP reports from Moscow.

Sputnik, launched on October 4, 1957, was a crude satellite. The size of a beach ball, it went around and around the Earth, sending "beep, beep" signals by radio. But the little satellite, the first manmade object to orbit the Earth, profoundly changed human history. Then, at the height of the Cold War, the space race was on, and the Soviet Union and the United States were committed to spending whatever it took to gain dominance in

Indonesian police to be separated from army

JAKARTA, Oct 4: Indonesia's police will be separated from the Armed Forces (ABRI) from April next year, Military chief General Wiranto said today, reports Reuters.

"ABRI is set to reposition or separate the national police from the army," Wiranto, who is defence minister, told a news conference.

"Starting from April 1999, the operation and supervision of the national police will be released from ABRI and placed with, or more accurately returned to, the defence ministry." Indonesia's police force, was incorporated into the armed forces in 1965.

Separation of the police and army was one of the demands of Indonesian reformists calling for the military to be overhauled in the wake of the resignation of former president Suharto in May amid a deep economic crisis, mass protests against his rule and an explosion of rioting in Jakarta.

Anwar now takes his battle against KL authorities to court KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 4:

Malaysia's deposed deputy premier Anwar Ibrahim, forced after his arrest to abandon his nascent reform movement on the streets, now takes his battle against the authorities to the courts, reports AFP.

Anwar, who denies 10 corruption and sodomy charges, is represented by nine top lawyers. They have been told to appear at the High Court on Monday when a trial date will be set, legal sources said.

The stage is set for a protracted legal battle at the trial as Anwar's defence panel is made up of experts in civil. criminal and traditional Muslim laws. This is a high-profile court

case. It is unprecedented and the court proceedings are unpredictable at this stage. Anwar's case is the most unique in Malaysia's legal history," one source added. The sessions court denied

Anwar bail as he was detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA) which allows detention without trial. The cases have all been referred to the High Court. AP adds: Former deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim

left a hospital Sunday after overnight medical check-ups of injuries he received during police custody.

A police motorcade whisked Anwar, seated in the back of a jeep with tinted windows, away from the government-owned University Hospital, where he had been admitted late Satur-Anwar's lawyers said they

did not know where he was being taken. They had been denied access to their client since his last court appearance Wednesday. Hospital officials refused to comment on Anwar's condi-

Anwar was scheduled to be rearranged Monday in High Court. Then a trial date will be

An eye surgeon who examined Anwar last week determined the jailed politician had been "assaulted" but the injuries had not caused permanent eye damage. The court granted Anwar's request for further medical attention after he complained of neck and back pain. At the hospital, Anwar was

expected to undergo checks including X-rays on his backbone and his bruised left eye.

CTBT will collapse within decade of implementation'

MOSCOW, Oct 4: The Com prehensive (nuclear) Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) may collapse within a decade of its coming into force, if no steps are taken towards total elimination of nuclear weapons, a top Russian defence expert says, reports PTI Professor of the Russian Military Sciences Academy. Major Gen (retd) Vladimir Belous did not rule out that "one or other" recognised Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) may walk out of CTBT in the name of "supreme national interests," after eight to 10 years of its coming into force and will set

Belous believes that by that time the permitted sub-critical tests and other procedures under CTBT permitting the verification of existing stockpiles and "vertical proliferation" would become obsolete.

"example" for others to follow

In its latest issue "Voyennove Obozrnie" (military review), a weekly supplement of "Nezavisimaya Gazeta" daily, Belous wrote an article on the problems of verifying the integrity of existing nuclear stockpiles of the NWS.

Blair to question China over its HR record

LONDON, Oct 4: Prime Minister Tony Blair has said that he will question China's Communist regime over its human rights record during his visit to the country, Sunday Business newspaper reported, says AP.

There is no point in denying we have our differences with China. Over political and civil rights. Over Tibet. Over freedom of speech. The treatment of dissent. Religious freedom. The importance of democracy," Sunday Business quoted Blair as saying in an article in the newspaper attributed to the prime minister.

Blair departs Monday on his five-day visit to China and the former British colony of Hong Kong, which reverted to Chinese rule on July 1, 1997.

Andrew forced to deny media reports about palace

LONDON, Oct 4: Prince Andrew was forced to deny Saturploitation cannot be isolated day reports in the British media that royal press spokesmen has lied to the media during the last 20 years, reports AP. In an informal interview in

Malta with the daily tabloid The Mirror, The Duke of York, Queen Elizabeth's second son, was said to have compared the royal press service at Buckingham Palace to soviet bureau-

Off the Record

For the love of mom! NEW DELHI: In the hope that he could bring her back to life,

a doting son kept the dead body of his mother for 126 days in the central Indian city of Jaipur. The last rites of Harpreet Singh's mother Nirmal Kaur, 56, who died on May 29 this year was performed only last week, newspapers have reported, reports IANS. "I always believed that my mother would become alive one day. I could never imagine living without her," Singh, in his 20s, told a television channel. So attached was Singh, an unemployed engineer, to his

mother that he didn't tell any of his relatives, friends and neighbours about her death. Instead, he kept the decomposing body of his mother in a room of his isolated home in a neighbourhood in Jaipur city. Singh, considered mentally disturbed by his relatives, started special prayers for the resurrection of his mother, newspapers said. For all the four months he lived only on milk, delivered on his door steps by a milkman. "He never spoke to us. He lived a very isolated life. We never

knew that he has kept the body of his mother here. The only thing that came from his building was the smell of insects." one of Singh's neighbours said. The bizarre incident came to light when Nirmal Kaur's younger sister Sudershan Kaur came from Delhi to meet her. On reaching her sister's place, Singh reportedly told Kaur that his mother had gone to Chandigarh. What came as a big shock for Kaur was when Singh asked her aunt to immediately leave her house.

Realising something was amiss, she telephoned her relatives in Chandigarh and came to know that Nirmal hadn't contacted them for several months, papers said. Thereafter she sneaked into the house and was shocked to see her sister's decomposed body on a cot. She soon contacted the police, who opened the door of the room. The last rites of Nirmal were conducted after a post-mortem, which said her death was natural.

In support of legalisation of Marijuana

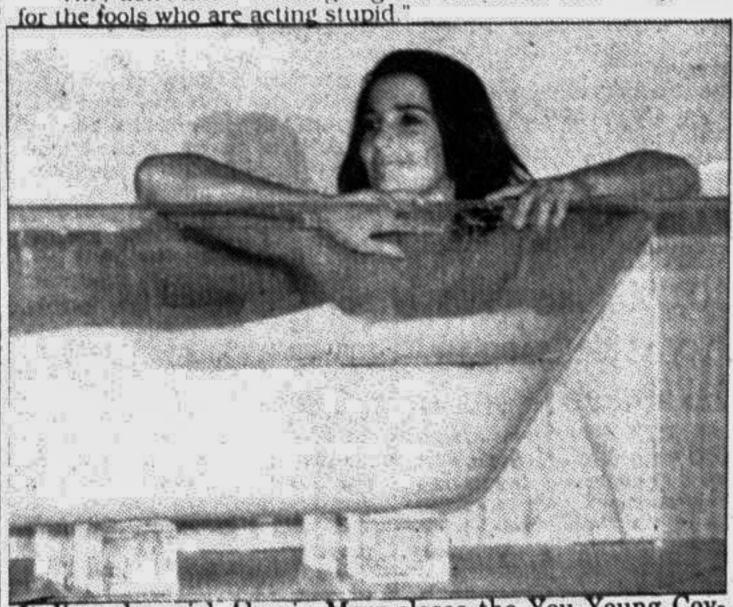
BOSTON: With swirls of marijuana smoke wafting through the air, about 40,000 people gathered in Boston on Saturday for a rally supporting legalisation of the drug, reports AP.

Police, who had vowed a crackdown on the 9th Annual Freedom Rally, arrested about 40 on drug possession charges. That's far fewer than the 150 arrests at last year's event, which attracted about 10,000 more people.

"The cops were trying to intimidate people from coming ... but I don't think it worked," said Bill Downing, president of the Massachusetts Cannabis Reform Coalition.

At one police checkpoint, Amy Cook and three other students prayed for pot smokers to turn away from drugs. "They're going to do what they're going to do. But they might see us and think twice later," she said

Doug Goudreau, 19, of Peabody, said marijuana was plentiful at the rally - at about dlrs 5 per cigarette, or dlrs 20 to dlrs 30 for a small bag. The police, he said, missed a lot of the dealing. "They don't know what's going on," Goudreau said. They look



Italian showgirl Alessia Merz closes the You Young Coveri Fashion show taking a bath in a tub filled with milk, in Milan on Saturday. The show was part of the presentations of the fashion collections for the - AP/UNB photo Spring/Summer 1999.



Australian Prime Minister John Howard, center, is surrounded by his family after winning the Australian Federal Election in Sydney on Saturday. From left are Howards' son Richard, Howard's wife Janette Howard, his daughter Melanie and his youngest son - AP/UNB photo

Over half a million minors catering to 'sex tourists' in Asia

LONDON, Oct 4: Asian and European countries will agree next week a programme to combat child prostitution in Asia, where more than half a million minors are estimated to be involved in a trade catering to "sex tourists," reports AFP. A three-day conference in

London will gather experts from 10 East Asian and the 15 European Union nations, Interpol, charities, international children's organisation and the private sector will also attend. "The aims is to agree practical steps in the fight against the commercial and sexual ex-

British Foreign Office. The October 6-8 meeting was initiated by Britain and the Philippines at the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in April. The 10 Asian countries rep-

ploitation of children, said the

resented are Brunei, China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. But already on the eve of the conference governments are facing criticism that they are

not doing enough to fight the scourge of child prostitution. The End Child Prostitution Pornography Trafficking Campaign (ECPAT) said that while it welcomed ASEM's role in combatting child abuse more re-

sources needed to be devoted to the effort. We must have the commitment for resources not just for individual projects from the ASEM meeting but for the fundamental building blocks of ed-

ucation and development on

which everything else stands. ECPAT said in a statement. "Children are being sexually

abused and exploited each day ... we must start to turn words into action."

So far tougher laws and greater cross-border police action have failed to stop paedophiles, pimps and traffickers destroying the lives of hundreds of thousands of children across Asia each year.

ECPAT has estimated that there are 200,000 children lured or forced into prostitution in Thailand, many smuggled in from Burma, China's southern Yunnan province, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

In Cambodia one third of prostitutes are aged 17 or below and some are just 10 or 12 years old while the Philippines has between 60,000 and 100,000 child sex workers according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Sri Lanka is still a haven for

homosexual paedophiles with thousands of beach boys among the 30,000 child prostitutes and in India major cities have an estimated 20,000 -30,000 minors working in the sex industry, UNICEF said. Among the practical steps the conference is to adopt are -

cooperation between police

forces (including intelligence sharing on when known sex offenders travel abroad), training and assistance. Production of an Internet guide for prosecutors and police on different Asian and European child sex offenders, legis-

A programme of exchanges of Asian and European social workers and sharing information of the best means of preventing child abuse and rehabilitation of victims.

British police have already

begun training programmes for their counterparts in the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand, which are known to be leading centres of child sex in Asia. And a number of paedophiles from Europe have recently been

efforts in Asian courts as well in their home countries. Britain, Australia, Belgium; France and Germany are among a number of Western countries to have adopted legislation to enable them to prosecute citi-

zens who travel overseas to

abuse children.

convicted through cooperative

But just as international cooperation is stepped up, the mounting economic collapse in the region threatens to fuel an upsurge in child sex abuse as the offspring of the poorest families enter desperate times. "Commercial sexual ex-

from poverty, family breakdown and discrimination against girls," UNICEF said. In Thailand the government has show the way forward by backing campaigns to raise the awareness of officials and debt

ridden rural parents of daughters sold into prostitution, while providing scholarships. so girls at risk can stay in school.