BELGRADE - Yugoslav and Croat leaders have agreed to hold peace talks in Geneva and the United Nations is increasing pressure on the Zagreb government to halt a march by Croatian refugees to recover their homes in territory now held by Serbs.

KATHMANDU - A Pakistani airliner slammed into a rugged Himalayan hill while coming in to land at Nepal’s Kathmandu airport during a rainstorm, killing all 167 people on board, officials said.

LUANDA - Angolans begin voting in their first multi-party elections, hoping to put behind them 3 decades of bloodshed that has devastated the country.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

HERALD TRIBUNE: EC officials vow to resist 'two speeds'

"European Community finance ministers vowed Monday to resist any moves toward a 'two-speed' monetary system that would divide Europe into different economic camps, while Britain came under renewed pressure to get back in line with its EC partners. Yet, even as EC officials, meeting in Brussels, reaffirmed their commitment to the European Monetary System, their efforts to salve the deep wounds created during the past 2 weeks of European currency wars quickly fell apart. German officials angrily rejected London’s bid for major changes in the Community’s fractured currency grid while France warned that other EC nations were 'not going to wait indefinitely' for Britain to ratify the Maastricht treaty calling for greater economic and political unity."

THE TIMES: Lamont cools war of words with Germany

"...In an attempt to end Britain’s war of words with Germany over the government’s handling of the sterling crisis and the future of the Maastricht treaty, Mr Lamont apologised to the Germans. He told a news conference: ‘There has been a lot of controversy. We have had our differences and I am sorry if it has caused offence’. Earlier Germany’s finance minister, Horst Koehler, launched a stinging attack on British attempt to blame Germany for the sterling crisis. He made it clear that the German government and the Bundesbank were fed up with taking the blame for the chaos in the ERM. He accused Britain of ‘wild accusations and scape-goating’."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Danes may vote Yes next year, poll shows

"A majority of Danish voters would consider voting Yes in a second referendum on the Maastricht treaty next year if special arrangements are made to exempt Denmark from some treaty obligations. A Gallup poll published yesterday said 64% of those questioned would consider voting Yes under these circumstances and only 16% would vote No. In a referendum in June 50.7% of voters rejected ratification of the treaty, while 49.3% voted in favour. An agreement giving special exemptions to Denmark from participating in a common European defence policy, or introducing a common currency and European citizenship is under discussion."

WORLD TOURISM

REUTER: Study forecasts nearly a billion tourists worldwide by 2010

"Close to a billion tourists could be thronging the world’s hotels and airports by the year 2010, the World Tourism
Organisation (WTO) said on Monday. Last year’s 450 million tourists should have increased 50% by the end of the decade and have doubled by 2010, WTO figures show. Despite the long-drawn out economic recession in many of the wealthiest countries, experts from the Madrid-based intergovernmental body expect an average 3.7% annual growth in tourism in the 1990s. Tourism leaders from more than 70 countries, meeting in Seville to celebrate World Tourism Day, were optimistic that international cooperation would help the industry bounce back from last year’s Gulf-war exacerbated 1.4% decline... The highest growth areas are expected to be regional travel within Central and South America, East Asia and the Pacific area and the Middle East."

AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

THE INDEPENDENT: 150,000 car jobs at risk in Europe, study says

"Up to 150,000 car jobs could be at risk as European motor manufacturers cut costs to make themselves more price-competitive with Japanese producers, according to a study published yesterday. European car prices are 33 to 45% higher than in Japan but are likely to be forced down as Japanese manufacturers increase their share of sales in Europe, the report by Ludvigsen Associates, the automotive research group, and Euromotor say. In order to maintain their market share, Europe’s big car makers will be forced to match Japanese efficiency levels. ‘The conclusion is that European car plants employ close to 150,000 more assembly workers than they would if average Japanese standards were maintained’."
WASHINGTON - "President George Bush is renewing his stand against new taxes - but this time it’s not a promise, just an expression of his philosophy, according to administration officials. Mr Bush and his advisers are increasingly frustrated that voters seem to be ignoring conventional political wisdom and siding with Democrat Bill Clinton, despite his call for generating $150bn through higher taxes... ’The big difference in this election is going to be over taxes’, Mr Buh said in a broadcast interview on Monday. ’My opponent has already said he wants to slap a tax on the American people. It’s going to be right on the middle class. And I’ve said I don’t’. ’This is the defining difference’, Mr Bush said on a nationally broadcast morning news show. ’Tax and spend versus lowering the taxes and lowering the spending’.”

Canada

FINANCIAL TIMES: Canadians warned over No vote

TORONTO - "Forces campaigning in support of Canada’s proposed new constitution are warning of the economic cost of a No vote in next month’s referendum. The economic argument has become more vociferous as opinion polls show increasing support for the No campaigners in Quebec and the western provinces of British Columbia and Alberta. According to a poll by Angus Reid Associates, half the voters in the 2 western provinces plan to vote No in the October 26 referendum, against 34% who support the new constitutional proposal. In Quebec, opponents outnumber supporters by 45% to 38%. Supporters of the deal, including all 3 main political parties and premiers of the 10 provinces, are trying to convince voters that the proposals - though imperfect - offer the best way to preserve national unity and avoid economic uncertainty."