

# BRIEFLY

**UN meet on Haitian crisis:** Security Council ambassadors held an emergency session Monday night on the Haitian crisis caused by the ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide by rebel soldiers, reports AP from United Nations.

The meeting was called at the request of Haitian Ambassador Fritz Longchamp.

Council diplomats said they had no confirmation of Haitian military claims that Aristide had been flown to exile in France.

US and French diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they doubted that the Council would take any action overnight, or even issue a statement.

**Y'slav army near Croatia:** Yugoslav army tanks and troops massed on the border of Croatia and fierce fighting raged across the breakaway republic bringing an eight-day ceasefire to the brink of collapse, reports Reuter from Belgrade.

Western diplomats said the truce agreed by Yugoslav Defence Minister General Veljko Kadijevic and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman on September 22 was crumbling.

Croatian officials said Tuesday there were no signs that convoys of tanks and soldiers gathered in the area, a few kilometres inside Serbia, were about to cross the border but vowed to resist any fresh offensive.

**400 Kurds return to Iran:** A first 400 of around 30,000 Iranian Kurds who have lived in western Iraq since fleeing their homes during the Iran-Iraq war returned to Iran on Monday, the official news agency IRNA reported, reports AFP from Tehran on Tuesday.

The refugees from the 1980-1988 war had been housed in Al-Tash refugee camp, 120 kilometres (75 miles) west of Baghdad. IRAN said the first 400 Kurds crossed from the border post of Khosrawi in northwestern Iran.

The United Nations High Commissioner for refugees has said the repatriation of the 30,000 Iranian Kurds was expected to take two months. The operation follows an accord between Iran, Iraq and the UNHCR.

**Israel urged to stop settlements:** Egypt reaffirmed on Monday its call for Israel to stop building settlements in occupied land in exchange for an end to the Arab economic boycott, reports Reuter from United Nations.

Addressing the UN General Assembly Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said — "The continuation of the policy and practice of the construction of settlements on the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories has a negative effect on the prospects for peace".

Israel's persistence in building settlements in disputed territory will result in shattering the principle of land for peace, he said referring to Security Council Resolution 242 on which Arab-Israeli negotiations are supposed to be based.

**RAF to end state of alert:** For the first time since 1945, the British Royal Air Force (RAF) on Wednesday will end the permanent state of alert for planes stationed on German soil, an RAF spokesman said Monday, reports AFP from Bonn.

The RAF since the end of World War II has always maintained in a constant state of readiness a plane and crew that could be in the air in five minutes in case of emergency.

The nature of security problems in Europe has changed, the RAF spokesman explained. Wednesday a siren will sound for the last time at the Wildenrath base in the German border with the Netherlands.

**Iran to host guerillas' convention:** Iran will host an international guerillas' convention next month to discuss ways of supporting the Palestinian uprising in Israeli-occupied lands the Iranian news agency IRNA said on Monday, reports Reuter from Nicosia.

It said it was inviting 350 combatant personalities from Palestinian and Lebanese groups and Muslim countries.

The United States hopes to convene a Middle East peace conference sometime in October. Tehran and hardline guerilla groups in the region have denounced the US peace drive.

The Iranian conference from October 19 to 22, will discuss practical ways of supporting the uprising and stopping migration of Jews to Israel.

**PA to lay off 40 employees:** Britain's domestic news agency Press Association (PA), announced plans Monday to lay off 40 people out of a staff of 436 employees, reports AFP from London.

PA, a cooperative owned by British and Irish newspapers said it hoped to avoid firing people and that they would instead opt for voluntary departure.

It said the recession and made the cutbacks necessary PA is expected to lose about two million pounds (3.4 million dollars) next year.

## Sharif iterates political solution to Afghan issue

LAHORE, Pakistan, Oct 1: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has reiterated Pakistan's desire to seek a political solution to the Afghan civil war, a spokesman of the pulling Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) said here Monday, reports AFP.

The spokesman quoted Sharif as saying at a meeting of heads of IJI parties that Pakistan was making efforts for a political solution.

Sharif was "hopeful" that the political process to end the conflict in Afghanistan would succeed, the spokesman told a press briefing following a six-hour IJI meeting chaired by the Prime Minister here late Sunday.

The statement came amid reports of a major attack by Afghan guerillas on the garrison city of Gardez, a gateway to Kabul.

Pakistan, along with Saudi Arabia and Iran, backs Afghan Mujahideen fighting to overthrow President Najibullah and establish an Islamic government in Kabul.

## India takes over presidency of Security Council

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 1: India's UN Ambassador, Chinmaya Rajaninath Gharekhan, today took over the presidency of the Security Council for the month of October, reports Reuter.

The presidency rotates monthly among the council's 10 non-permanent members and five permanent members according to the English alphabet.

# 22 killed as violence rocks Assam, Punjab

NEW DELHI, Oct 1: At least 22 people died in the latest violence in Indian border states rocked by guerilla campaigns for independence the Press Trust of India said on Monday, reports Reuter.

The news agency said 20 had been killed since Sunday night in Sikh separatist violence in Punjab state, including the mother, brother and sister of a junior police man.

Two people died in the northeast state of Assam, including a captured guerilla of the Maoist United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) who the group said was shot dead by soldiers when he tried to escape on Sunday.

At least 5,000 people have died so far this year in revolts in Punjab, Assam and the border state of Kashmir.

In Punjab guerillas demand a separate Sikh homeland, ULFA wants a separate Maoist state in Assam and in Kashmir. Hindu-majority India's only Muslim-majority state, militants are fighting for independence or merger with Pakistan.

In India's interior, upper-caste students on Monday at-

tempted to revive protests against a plan to favour people low in the Hindu social hierarchy for government jobs.

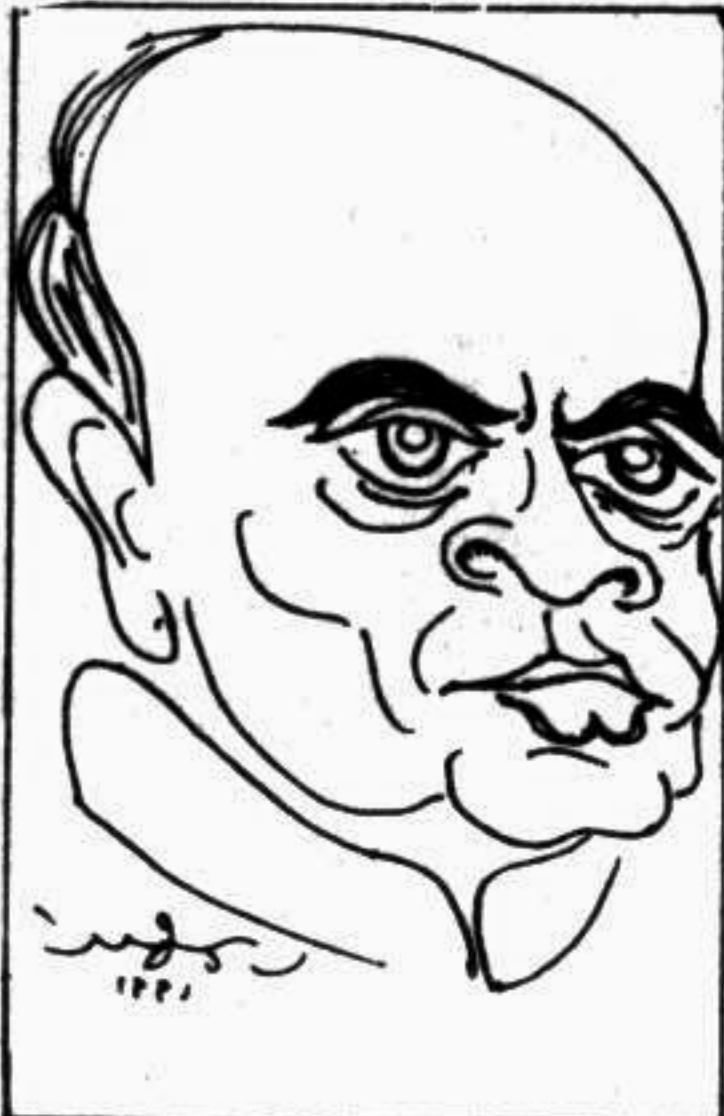
Indian news agencies said upper-caste students hurled stones and shoes-considered ritually unclean-at Sharad Yadav, a lower-caste former cabinet minister when he went to speak on "social justice" at a New Delhi University on Monday.

Students blocked traffic attacked buses and burned effigies of politicians including Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in other protests across North India and in the southern state of Karnataka. Police arrested a student as he tried to set himself ablaze in the western state of Rajasthan, the agencies said.

Protests on the issue last year, including a campaign of suicide by self-immolation, paralysed the Indian capital and helped bring down the government of Vishwanath Pratap Singh, who championed the plan as a means of breaking the appear caste hold on the powerful bureaucracy.

But political analysts said they did not expect the student protests to reach the same intensity as last year. Student leaders are discouraging another suicide campaign and Rao appears to have fended off much opposition by creating another 10 per cent jobs quota for those who are poor but upper caste.

The move brings the total of government jobs reserved for special groups to nearly 60 per cent.



Narasimha Rao shaken

# Army takes over in Haiti, president flown safely out of country

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Oct 1: Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, seized by heavily-armed soldiers after a day of gunfire in the capital, flew safely out of the country early today and a three-man junta took power, diplomats said, reports Reuter.

Soldiers began firing on Aristide's modest home early on Monday later in the day when he sought shelter at this

national palace, they stormed the domed building and took him prisoner.

Dozens of people were reported killed and at least 100 injured in shooting throughout the capital during the day.

Aristide was the first democratically-elected president of the poverty stricken nation. Many political activists spoke of fear of reprisal killing of Aristide supporters and

some went into hiding.

Diplomats said Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez had dispatched his own plane, which picked up Aristide for a flight to Venezuela at around 1 am (0500 GMT). From Venezuela he would eventually fly on to France, French diplomats said.

"The army is steering the ship of state into port," General Raoul Cedras told

Radio France Internationale.

Diplomatic sources said Cedras and two colonels were circulating a statement declaring themselves head of a new military junta.

French, US and Venezuelan diplomats desperately negotiated for Aristide's life or safe passage from the country, although some human rights sources said he was reluctant to abandon his country for a life of exile.

"They wanted to lynch him," a defence source close to Aristide said of his captors.

Aristide, 38, a Roman Catholic priest who championed Haiti's poor and down-trodden, stood for the presidency when they clamoured for him.

He took office on February 7, the fifth anniversary of the fall of the 29-year Duvalier family regime.

Dozens of supporters who took to the streets in an attempt to defy the mutineers on Monday were gunned down. Heavy machinegun fire and barrages of heavy artillery rattled across the capital on Monday night and some street violence was reported in outlying cities.

In addition to Cedras, who won praise, just a few months ago for guaranteeing voters' safety in Haiti's election, the junta members were identified as Colonel Henri Robert March Charles, a former military attaché in Washington, and Colonel Alix Silva, the commander of a military training centre that was once the heart of the elite leopards counter-insurgency unit.

Most radio stations went off the air in the first hours after the violence began with broadcasters announcing that armed men were forcing them to shut down at gunpoint. At least two stations were heavily damaged by gunfire, employees and human rights sources said.

Radio had not come back on the air as of early today, and the military statement was not read on local radio. It was read to a French radio station.

"After seven months, during which we wanted to see democracy installed, we see the country face uncertainty once more", said Cedras, adding that the Junta would hold elections at an undermined future date.

Aristide ran a foul of hard-line military elements who resented his efforts to dismantle vestiges of the Duvalier family dictatorship and a string of brutal military regimes that followed from 1986 until his own landslide victory in elections last December.

According to radio reports, diplomats, and telephone interviews with Haitian political activists, the attack began overnight at Aristide's modest private home, which he prefers to the opulent palace.

For hours on Monday, Aristide refused to leave the house north of Port-Au-Prince, despite growing danger, diplomats said.

Aristide finally decided to try to find refuge at the palace Monday afternoon, French diplomats told Reuters.

French officials helped arrange Aristide's passage to the domed white place and left him there with about 150 loyal soldiers and police.

Soon after, two armoured personnel carriers drove up carrying 30 well-armed soldiers, who overpowered a dwindling and poorly equipped loyalist force, diplomats said.

# Bangladeshi replacing Pakistani as world's tallest man

LONDON: The man the Guinness Book of Records calls the tallest in the world at 2.51 metres (eight feet three inches) has grown another three inches (to 2.59 metres) and been admitted to hospital while doctors try to retard his growth, reports AFP.

Parimal Chandra Barman, 27, originally from Bangladesh, is being treated for abnormal growth in St. Bartholomew Hospital in London. No details have been given of the treatment he is undergoing.

A Guinness Book of Records spokesman said Barman will replace Haji Mohammed Alam Channa in the 1992 edition of the book as the

world's tallest living man. Channa, 38, from Pakistan, was listed at 2.33 metres (seven feet eight inches) in the 1991 edition.

Barman, whose abnormal growth problems began at the age of nine, could also be the fourth tallest man ever known. The tallest man ever recorded was American Robert Wadlow, at 2.72 metres (eight feet 11 inches), who died in 1940 at age 22.

Two other Americans, John William Rogan (1871-1905) at 2.64 metres (eight feet eight inches) and John Carroll (1932-69) 2.63 metres (eight feet 7 1/2 inches) were also taller, but their lead is diminishing.

# Kaifu threatens to dissolve Parliament

TOKYO, Oct 1: Japan's Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu has threatened to dissolve Parliament and call a general election if Deputies scrap a package of political reform bills, Japanese news media reported on Monday, reports Reuter.

But political sources said efforts were being made to find a solution that would avoid such a step.

News reports said Kaifu made his threat at a meeting of ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leaders after a Parliamentary Committee leader told journalists it would scrap a group of reform bills in the current Parliamentary session scheduled to end this Friday.

LDP Secretary General Keizo Obuchi asked Kaifu for more time to sort but the problem.

LDP executives also agreed to negotiate with dissidents within the party and with opposition parties to carry over the bills to the next Parliamentary session political sources were quoted as saying.

The bills were designed to overhaul Japan's cash-driven electoral system tighten control on political funds provide subsidies to political parties and introduce a single seat constituency system in the Lower House.

Kaifu was quoted as saying at a meeting with party executives he has strengthened his

resolve to institute political reform.

Hikosaburo Okono, chairman of the Lower House Committee on Political Reform and an LDP member, said on Monday that the committee would not further consider the reform bills in the current session, according to the reports.

# 3 Lankan sailors killed in blast

COLOMBO, Oct 1: Three sailors were killed and five injured when Tamil guerillas set off a landmine under a convoy in eastern Sri Lanka, a military spokesman said today, reports Reuter.

A South African-made armoured car was destroyed in the blast on Monday in the Port of Trincomalee.

"It was massive explosion," the spokesman said.

He said the convoy of about 18 to 20 naval vehicles was returning to base when the blast occurred.

The spokesman blamed the attacks on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam who are fighting to set up a separate Tamil homeland in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

Military sources said 11 soldiers were killed on Monday in a clash with rebels in Eastern Ampara district. Five rebels were also killed and one soldier wounded.

# Off the Record

## Botanists find it at last

AUCKLAND (New Zealand): Botanists who had spent years searching for an orchid that was thought to be extinct sat on it during a lunch break, the New Zealand Herald reported on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

After four days following in a peat bog in search of the tiny native Corybas Carsei, the Demolished Conservation Department Botanists paused for a lunch break and found they were sitting on it.

The orchid blooms just two days a year. Despite its harsh treatment, the plant was not harmed and 14 more were found nearby. They are being kept at a secret location where the team is waiting for them to produce their red flowers.

## They learn it 20 years later

WASHINGTON: US student are learning more than their parents did 20 years ago, but the gap between what they know and what they need to know to succeed is shocking, according to a report on education released on Monday, reports Reuter.

"It is true (American) children seem to be learning a lot, but compared with what children are learning in Seoul, Tokyo and around the world it is not enough," Education Secretary Lamar Alexander said in releasing the report.

"The gap between what (students) know in 1990 and what they need to know is so large that it is almost a shocking gap," he said.

The National Education Goals Panel, composed of six governors, five members of the Bush administration and three members of Congress, issued its first report on how much work needs to be done to reach the education goals set by President George Bush for the year 2000.

"The problem does not seem to be that children know less today than they did 20 years ago. The problem seems to be that what we knew in 1970 is not nearly good enough for 1990," Alexander said.

## 40 p.c. thin girls diet constantly

LONDON: Two out of five thinner-than-average girls are dieting in the mistaken belief they are fat, according to a survey published.

Many were condemning themselves needlessly to a life-long fixation about bulging hips, flabby stomachs and wobbly thighs, the survey said.

The author, Dr Jane Wardle, a clinical psychologist with the Institute of Psychiatry at London University said that while boys believed they were the "right size" girls suffered from a "negative body image".

"In my opinion society is handling on to small children a legacy of exaggerated ideals about slenderness with the result that as adolescents they become dissatisfied about their body shape."

"For some, their weight would become a guilty secret which would dominate their lives with constant diets."

Dr. Wardle was speaking at a briefing organised by the Health Promotion Research Trust, funded by the tobacco industry.

She said that during the 18-month survey researchers spoke to 846 children, aged between 11 and 18 in five London schools.

"Up to two in five girls who are thinner than average wanted to lose weight. Almost 40 per cent of 11-year-old girls believed they were fat compared with less than 20 per cent of boys the same age."



KIEV, Soviet Union: Thousands of Ukrainian Jews, some of them with pictures of missing relatives, gather in front of a monument erected in Babi Yar near here in honour of 33,000 Jews killed by the Nazis September 29, 1941. —AFP/UNB Photo

# I shall rather resign than preside over a breakup of union: Gorbachev

MOSCOW, Oct 1: President Mikhail Gorbachev said Monday he would rather resign than preside over a breakup of the Soviet Union, Tass news agency said, reports Reuter.

As leaders of a dozen Soviet republics gathered in the Kazakstan capital Alma Ata on Monday to discuss new economic framework for the crumbling union, he spoke to journalists in Moscow.

Gorbachev nailed his colours to the proposed democratic and decentralised union of sovereign states saying the signing of its founding treaty and to start as soon as possible.

## 1,300 ROK prisoners of conscience begin hunger strike

SEOUL, Oct 1: More than 1,300 South Korean "prisoners of conscience" began an indefinite hunger strike today seeking freedom and an end to harsh security laws, supporters said, reports Reuter.

A spokesman for the Democratic Families' Association said 1,316 prisoners jailed for leading illegal anti-government protests or having unauthorised contacts with North Korea would continue the fast until their demands were met.

The prisoners of conscience went on a hunger strike from today in protest against the government and parliament which have not raised even slightly the issues of releasing political prisoners and abolishing the National Security Law," he said.

If I see that my convictions, my point of view and my position are not accepted I will resign my post at once, he said, looking strained under the television lights.

"Without integration the country faces break up and that is a fatal path. I will not be a part of such an approach."

Gorbachev who was speaking informally after a meeting with Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky earlier announced another dramatic break with the Soviet past—the separation of foreign intelligence-gathering from the KGB security police.

He appointed a close aide Yevgeny Primakov to head the new espionage agency.

Gorbachev threatened to quit over the union treaty issue earlier in September. The threat is somewhat hollow because if the union broke up completely his post as Soviet President would vanish anyway. But it gave added force to his pleading.

Gorbachev said he and Russian leader Boris Yeltsin would put forward joint proposals on the union treaty soon. The first republic could begin signing a treaty in principle in October and others

follow suit later, he said.

The prospects were clouded further when the Ukraine, the second most powerful republic, indicated it was not even ready to sign the less ambitious economic agreement to be debated in Alma Ata by around 12 republics on Tuesday.

Interim Soviet Prime Minister Ivan Silayev and radical economist Grigory Yavlinsky, author of the agreement, were also flying to Kazakstan, Tass news agency said. The Kremlin hopes to persuade at least the main republics to sign within days.

But the Ukraine's top man in the Soviet interim government said agreements on each aspect of economic relations would have to be thrashed out before any overall agreement was signed.

"The Ukraine is in no hurry to sign the treaty before concrete agreements on each problem are reached," Vladimir Fedorov told Reuter in Moscow.

## Woman Speaker in Swedish parliament

STOCKHOLM, Oct 1: The Swedish parliament on Monday elected the first Woman Speaker in its history in the person of Ingegerd Troedsson, 62, reports AFP.

Troedsson a former health minister, has been a member of parliament for 17 years and had been deputy speaker for 12 years.

She was elected by 184 votes to 180 during the first session of parliament since general elections won by the centre-right on September 15.

## Int'l pressure on India sought Uprising in Kashmir spontaneous: Pindi

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 1: Pakistan called on the international community on Monday to exert pressure on India to halt the use of force in Kashmir and allow the inhabitants to exercise their right of self-determination, reports Reuter.

In a speech to the General Assembly, Pakistani Foreign Minister Muhammad Siddique Khan Kanju said: "The uprising in Indian-occupied Kashmir is entirely indigenous and spontaneous."

He was referring to separatist violence which has rocked India's only Muslim-majority state since January last year.

"The international community must exert moral and political pressure on India to desist from the use of force and allow the people of Kashmir to

freely exercise their inalienable right to self-determination," he said.

India accuses Pakistan of training and arming the Kashmiri militants. Pakistan says its support for the Kashmiris is only political.

Kanju said more than 5,000 civilians had been killed in the past 21 months and that "dawn-to-dusk" curfews, home-to-home searches, torture, arbitrary detention and gang rape of women one daily occurrences.

Referring to UN Resolutions dating back to 1948 calling for a plebiscite, Kanju said it was only through uniform enforcement of Security Council decisions that faith in the United Nations as an instrument of international peace and security could be preserved.