## New French law to grill illegal immigrants

PARIS, Oct 16: The French National Assembly voted by 309 to 260 on first reading Tuesday a tough new law to combat illegal immigration and unlawful labour practices, reports AFP.

The right-wing opposition voted against the law, saying it backed the labour part but found the sections on illegal immigration too lax.

The new legislation is the first step of a government. project announced in July to try to bring under control France's immigration problem which has fuelled an ugly political debate over the past few weeks and appears likely to be a major campaign issue in regional elections next March.

The new law says all persons convicted of helping foreigners illegally enter, reside in and around France will face prison terms of up to five

People who hire illegal labour in addition to a possible two year jail term and a

200,000 France (34,500-dollaf) fine, can see their products confiscated, their professional activities suspended and if they are foreigners themselves, be temporarily expelled from France.

Any foreigner who tampers with his papers to avoid expulsion could be jailed for six months to three years and be barred from entering France for 10 years according to the

The legislation panes off, however, on the double punishments system of legal sanction plus expulsion for some illegal immigrants including those who have particularly close family ties with France."

It also provides for transit visas to nationals of countries that are not European Community members and seeks ways for a more efficient application of court expulsion orders of foreigners.

Official statistics show that only about 35 per cent of such expulsion orders are actually carried out.



# Sharif, Interior Minister borrow \$500m from cooperatives: Benazir

ISLAMABAD, Oct 16 Pakistani opposition demanded here Tuesday the seizure of the industrial wealth of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's family to pay back public deposits allegedly embezzled by Cooperative Credit

Societies, reports AFP. The two-month old scandal involves nearly 700 million dollars in deposits collected by scores of cooperatives in Punjab province, Sharif's power base.

Opening the debate in the national assembly, opposition leader Benazir Bhutto accused Sharif's family and the relatives of his Interior Minister Chuadhury Shujaat Hussain of having borrowed about 500 million dollars from some cooperatives.

The societies collapsed because the members of the ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) took big loans from them without collateral, Bhutto said.

WASHINGTON, Oct 16

The US Senate on Tuesday

confirmed Clarence Thomas as

a Supreme Court justice by a

52-48 vote, ending one of

Washington's most bitter polit-

with 41 Republicians to ap-

prove Thomas's nomination

despite sexual harassment

charges by former aide. Anita

Hill, which delayed the vote

tive Federal Appeals Court

Judge, replaces retired Justice

Thurgood Marshall, the only

other black to serve on the US

Thomas, 43, will serve for

life as one of nine justices who

decide whether laws passed by

Congress or the states violate

the US Constitution. The court

rules on a wide variety of is-

sues from abortion and the

death penalty to nude dancing

A report from Pin Point

WASHINGTON, Oct 16: A

British man, an Irish woman

and a Japanese man beat the

odds and got their entires to

the top of the pile of 19 mil-

lion applications in the US

immigrations lottery, the State

Department said on Tuesday.

her did not name the ap-

plicants who could win three

of the 40,000 green cards that

will permit them to live and

work legally in the United

pieces of mail that have to be

gone through, and from that

"There are 12 million

Spokesman Richard Bouc-

reports Reuter.

States.

Thomas, a black conserva-

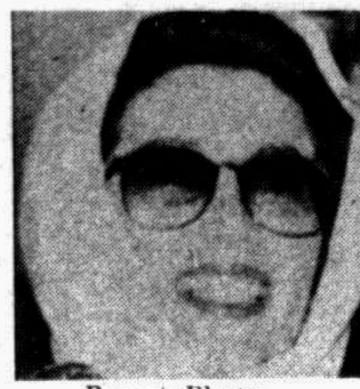
for a week.

High Court.

in night clubs.

Eleven Democrats joined

ical dramas, reports Reuter.



Benazir Bhutto Bhutto said the "richest families" received loans from the cooperatives which were meant to take from small depositors and lend to small in-

Calling the scandal "the biggest' bank robbery in Pakistan." the former Premier, who herself faced a similar crisis during her rule, said the assets of the two families should be confiscated to pay back life savings of 2.1 million of the cooperatives was a

'God got the last word'

(Georgia) adds : Clarence

Thomas's mother said "God got

the last word" when her son

won confirmation as a US

Supreme Court justice on

Tuesday and advised Anita Hill,

who accused him of sexual ha-

who charged that Thomas

bombarded her with coarse

remarks when she worked for

ctes in Washington, should ask

need God bad. That's the only

one that's going to help her . . .

. . I pray God that that woman

will get her life together. She's

hurt my child, "Williams said.

She added: "I feel someone

about 75 people, including

MRs Williams, had gathered at

the home of Abraham Fambole.

Jesus," she waved her arms in

victory and embraced jubilant

19m applications in US

for 40,000 green cards

the 50,000 will be chosen.

Boucher told reporters, These

50,000 will be notified they

are possible winners and from

them the final 40,000 will be

week that we will have begun

to notify the individuals whose

names were selected as possi-

ble winners in the pro-

nationals from 35 countries,

mostly European. Irish immi-

grants are to get 40 per cent

from aliens for immigrants

About 7 million applications

of the available Green cards.

The lottery was limited to

gramme," he said.

We expect by the end of the

Shouting. . "Thank you.

An expectant crowd of

"I'd tell her to pray. She

him in two government agen-

Leola Williams, 62, said Hill,

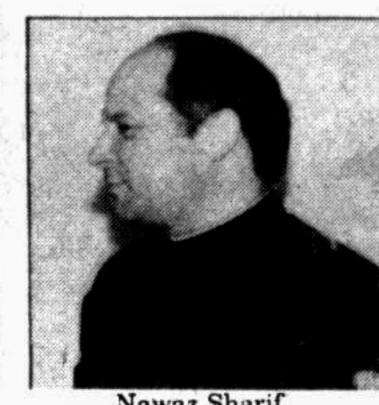
rassment, to pray.

God's forgiveness.

put her up to it."

a family friend.

selected.



Nawaz Sharif groups have badly suffered."

She demanded that a commission probe the alleged "embezzlement" to unveil those who created a crisis of "far-reaching economic consequences" that would increase sunemployment, raise inflation and discourage investment.

Minister for Food, Agriculture and Cooperates Majid Malik said the collapse

family members when the

television set in the poor

coastal Georgia hamlet of 300

flashed the news that her em-

servative jurist only the second

black Supreme Court justice in

(30 km) south of Oklahoma

city. Hill. who has been a

teacher for seven years at the

Okalahoma University Law

School, finished her last class

But the 35-year old

of the day just as the Senate

Professor who rocked the

country with her allegations

displayed no emotion as a po-

lice guard hurried her past re-

Thomas's mother said "Men and women can talk all

they want that man's going to

show them all up - that he's

the best man . . . God got the

last word. That man is going to

visas arrived too early to be

considered for a lottery pro-

gramme, the State Depar-

All applications that arrived

before 12:01 am Monday

post office in suburban Virginia

were ruled invalid. There was

no limit on the number of ap-

plications each individual

16,000 of the winners must

be Irish. Lawmakers gave

preference to the Irish on

gration legislation had favored

some other nationalities.

Under the legislation.

morning at the designated

tment said Tuesday.

could send.

show all of them."

vote on Thomas began.

In Norman, about 20 miles

US history.

porters.

The victory made the con-

battled son had narrowly won.

"national calamity" as it hurt hundreds of poor families.

He said he hoped the opposition would present positive suggestions to resolve the crisis instead of merely hurling

accusations. Erosion of the credibility of financial institutions would harm the country, said Law Minister Chudhry Abdul Ghafoor, urging the opposition to suggest ways for "speedy return" of the depositors' money.

IJI Deputy, Liaquat Baloch, said the opposition was exploiting the situation by making baseless charges as IJI leaders had paid back loans totalling some 30 million dollars to the cooperatives.

Baloch charged that top opposition leaders themselves owed more than 40 million dollars in loans from coopera-

He demanded that a highlevel judicial commission be set up to fix responsibility, lamenting that "low-income

# Off the Record

Kennedy's right to speak for women challenged

WASHINGTON: In a bitter exchange on the Senate floor, Republican Arlen Specter on Tuesday challenged Edward Kennedy's standing to speak out for women, saying "we do not need" the Massachusetts Democrat's views on what constitute shameful behavior, reports AP.

As the debate over Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas moved toward a climactic roll call, the two Judiciary Committee members went at one another.

"The women of America should not listen to the senator from Massachusetts, who is trying to arouse passions on the generalised subject of sexual harassment," Specter said following a 15-minutes floor speech by Kennedy. "When the Senator from Massachusetts seeks to terrify the women of

America that they cannot be properly treated, he is wrong." Kennedy spokesman Paul Donovan said Specter's remarks were not taken as a reference to Kennedy's personal history. But outside the Senate, conservative groups and individuals have been making the connections.

As the day-long Senate debate continued, one of the pro-Thomas demonstrators outside the Capitol carried a sign with the message: "Senator Chappaquiddick, You're All Wet," a reference to Kennedy's being in a car in which a young woman drowned in 1969.

The Conservative Victory Committee earlier aired a TV ad attacking Kennedy and other Senate Democrats saying, "How many of these liberal Democrats could themselves pass ethical scrutiny?" The ad mentioned Chappaquiddick and the

Palm Beach, Fla, case in which Kennedy's nephew, William Smith stands accused of rape.

During the Judiciary Committee's hearings over the weekend, Specter, of Pennsylvania, had drawn attention to what he characterized as Kennedy's comparative silence on sexual harassment issue.

"Are we an old boys' club insensitive at best, and perhaps something worse?" Kennedy said. "Will we strain to concoct any excuse, to impose any burden, to tolerate any unsubstantiated attack on a woman, in order to rationalize a vote for this nomination.?"

Kennedy said there was no proof that Hill had lied at any point during the hearing. "And shame on anyone who suggests that she did." Kennedy said.



YORK, England: Auction salesroom Assistant Helen Apple by displays two paintings by Adolf Hitler which are going under the hammer in Ilkley, Yorkshire. The small still life watercolours depicting clusters of flowers were painted in 1901 and 1911 before Nazi leader rose to power.

## 70 defiant Saudi women rejoin jobs

- AFP/UNB photo

MANAMA: Seventy Saudi women, arrested for driving cars, have returned to jobs they lost in a highly publicised incident that occurred during the Gulf crisis, one of the women told AFP.

Contacted by telephone from Bahrain, she said Saudi authorities in July allowed the women to return to work and return their passports, which were seized after the protest in the Saudi capital of Riyadh.

The woman requested anonymity.

The women on November 6, 1990, deciding to brave the Saudi taboo against females driving vehicles, entered 12 cars and drove them away in a protest to demand driving licences for women.

Saudi police and Mutawa, or moral guardians, stopped the motorcade a few minutes later.

The drivers were released after Saudi jurists said no civil or moral law had been broken. Their husbands were required to sign statements guaranteeing that their wives would never try to get behind the wheel again.

Saudi Arabia then passed a law to enforce the custom against women driving cars.

### At long last!

MADRID: Santiago Carrillo, legendary leader of Spain's communists for nearly 30 years, spread his age-freekled hands expressively and admitted he saw no future for Communism, reports Reuter.

The man who led the Spanish Communist Party (PCE) from 1956 to 1982 and brought it into the political mainstream after the death of dictator Francisco Franco in 1975 looks to social democracy to spearhead the struggle for a just

society: Carrillo, a stocky 76-year old with thinning white hair and thick-lensed glasses, expanded on his now mellow political philosophy at a recent dinner with foreign journalists.

"After the events of August in the Soviet Union I do not think the Communist system has any reason to continue to exist," he said, wrinkling his eyes against the smoke of his habitual cigarette.

#### Japanese husbands rely on spouses

TOKYO: Japanese husbands in their 40s depend on their spouses for simple personal needs, such as having their shoes cleaned and doors opened, according to a survey published by

a government funded institute, reports Kyodo. The study, compiled by the Leisure Development Center, affiliated with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITT), also found nearly 60 per cent of husbands are reluctant to share the burden of domestic chores, such as

shopping . bathing children, and preparing meals. The survey was conducted on 200 middle-aged couples in Tokyo and Ishikawa prefecture, on the Japan sea coast, to discover the lifestyles and sense of values of the average Japanese couple.

## Plea to set up Army Corps in Europe

BRUSSELS, Oct 16: France and Germany have proposed setting up a European Army Corps that could give the European Community a defence role for the first time in its history. Belgium said on

Tuesday, reports Reuter. Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens said that Paris and

Bon had appealed to other members of the nine-nation Western European Union (WEU) to create an army corps a proposal that is likely to fuel a flerce debate over who has responsibility for defence.

He said in a statement that the idea followed previous

#### Thomas confirmed as judge: Lanka to deploy 10,000 cops during SAARC meet

COLOMBO, Oct 16: Ten thousand police will be deployed next month when lead ers of seven South Asian countries meet in the Sri Lankan capital, state radio said today. reports Reuter.

Defence Ministry sources said security was a major concern because of the threat from Tamil separatist rebels. The rebels, fighting for a

homeland in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, have occasionally staged bomb attacks in Colombo. The meeting of the South

Asian Association for Regional Cooperation grouping Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal and the Maldives lasts from November 7 to 9.

## Curfew imposed on second city in Baluchistan

QUETTA (Pakistan), Oct 16 Pakistani authorities have imposed a curfew on a second town in the southwestern province of Baluchistan to control ethnic violence, government officials said Tuesday, reports Reuter.

They said the night curfew was ordered at Khuzdar, central Baluchistan, on Monday night after continuous attacks on shops and other property of ethnic Pashtuns.

A curfew was first imposed on the provincial capital of Quetta on Saturday after clashes between Baluch and Pashtun ethnic groups in which 12 people were killed and many injured.

The two groups are at odds over the site of an agricultural college to be built with help from the European Community.

grounds that previous immi-The majority Baluchs want the college in their region. while the Pashtuns, who dominate northern Baluchistan bordering Afghanistan, argue that they should have it.

#### Baker resumes talks with Assad

DAMASCUS, Oct 16: US Secretary of State James Baker resumed talks with Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad today on plans for an Arab-Israeli peace conference after marathon discussions that extended beyond midnight, reports Reuter.

Presidential spokesman Joubran Korieh said the talks were centering on letters of assurances presented by Washington to parties concerned with the conflict and how to facilitate the holding of the conference planned for the end of this month.

#### HARARE: Ten Commonwealth leaders pose for a group photo at the opening of an all-day meeting here Oct 15. (L-R) Indian PM Narasimha Rao, Bob Hawke of Australia, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, John Major of Britain, Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia, Michael Manley of Jamaica, Secretary General Emeka Anyaoku, Brian Mulroney of Canada, Ibrahim Babangida of Nigeria, Goh Chok Tong of Singapore and Sir Lynden Pinling of the - AFP/UNB photo Bahamas.

# Where Americans, Soviets differ

The incites into dinner tale differences between the two countries come from a new reference book published jointly on Wednesday by the U.S Census Bureau and the Soviet State Committee on

It's the first time the two nations' premier numbercrunchers have collaborated to

Byaant acknowledged the Soviet half of the handbook," USA-USSR Facts and Figres." may have been outdated by the breakup of the Soviet Union into sovereign republics. "Events are moving so fast

The side-by-side statistics dramatize just how different the two societies really are: Nearly three out of every four Americans are urban. One out of every three Soviets is

Americans attend more

than a million movies at 23,000 theaters each year. The Soviets attend more than 3 million movies at 148,000 theaters.

homes lacks running hot water. In the United States. statisticians don't bother to

sion in the late 1980s. In the Soviet Union, there are only two eglour TVs for every five families.US companies make four times as many colour TVs as the Soviets.

#### One out of three Soviets the USSR totals supplied in WASHINGTON, Oct 16: The produce a handbook of ecothis volume," Bryant said. "We nomic and social indicators. already have begun compiling

average American eats more than twice as much meat and poultry as citizens of the Soviet Union, while an average Soviet eats nearly five times as many potatoes, reports AP.

Statistics.

It's also the first time the Census Bureau has provided US data exclusively in kilometers, hectares and dekaliters rather than miles, acres and Census Director Barbara

in the USSR that it has become essential to move beyond

republics."

information on the separate Nine out of 10 American households had a colour televi-

The United States made

more than 40 computers for each one made in the Soviet Union.

corps is usually between 70,000 and 100,000. The proposal is to be formally unveiled on Wednesday by France and Germany . who have called repeatedly for a common EC defence policy as

The initiative is aimed at giving a new impulse to a common foreign and security policy which is at the heart of the future EC political union treaty." French Presidential spokesman Jean Musitelli told Reuters in Paris. Belgian national forces. " A

the 12-nation trading bloc

moves towards greater politi-

cal and economic integration.

#### which entered its final day Monday in Santiago De Cuba, 900 kimometers (600 miles) east of here, voted by secret ballot to elect the central committee's 225 members. The central committee will elect the party's political bureau, which makes policy.

USSR sets up ties with Latvia: The Soviet Union established formal diplomatic ties Tuesday with Latvia, one of three former Soviet republic that gained independence after the August 18-21 failed coup, reports AP from Moscow.

Soviet Foreign Minister and his Latvian counterpart signed documents to begin diplomatic relations at a ceremony in Moscow, Soviet Foreign Ministry officials said. The Soviet government last week established diplomatic

relations with the other two Baltic republics. Lithuania and Estonia. The Kremlin recognised the independence of all three republics on September 6. The three tiny nations were forcibly

annexed by the Soviet Union during World War II. Labour ahead of Tories: Britain's opposition Labour Party was slightly ahead of the ruling Conservative Party in an opinion poll released on Tuesday. reports Reuter from London.

Labour 43 per cent against 41 for the Conservatives. The minority Liberal Democrat Party had 12 per cent. A month ago the major parties each received 39 per cent support in the same poll. The Liberal Democrats had 17. The latest result is in line with a series of polls showing

The ICM poll for Wednesday's Guardian newspaper gave

the two parties either neck-and-neck or trading a minor lead often within the bounds of statistical error. The closeness of opinion polls, with an election due within the next nine months, has financial markets on edge.

The pound fell against the Deutch Mark on Tuesday on

early fears the Guardian poll would show a much larger Labour US proposes to hold ME talks Oct 29: The United States is proposing to hold the Middle East peace conference in the Swiss town of Lausanne from October 29,

Palestinian sources said on Tuesday, reports Reuter from Tunis. US Secretary of State James Baker is on a Middle East tour to make the final arrangements for the peace talks, which would bring together Israel, the Palestinians and all Israel's

The sources in Tunis, where the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has its headquarters, said the conference could last four to five days. The joint sponsors, the United States and the Soviet

Arab neighbours for the first time in decades of conflict.

Union, have not officially announced a date or a venue but Baker is determined the talks should open by the end of the month. Geneva, also in Switzerland, has been suggested as a venue but Israel apparently rejected it because it is the European

headquarters of the United Nations. Elections in Algeria Dec 26: Algeria's first multi-party legislative elections, postponed in June when the government declared a state of emergency, will be held December 26. President Chadli Bendjedid announced

Tuesday, reports AP. In a message on national television and radio, Bendjedid asked that calm prevail during the campaign. Bendjedid dissolved the government and ordered a crackdown on members of the Islamic Salavation Front, the

Political group that had organized the protests.

the May-June riots and face military trials on charges ranging from treason to inciting unrest. Six shot dead in Punjab: Sikh militants

The Islamic Salvation Front's top leaders were jailed after

fighting against New Delhi's rule in India's northern Punjab state on Tuesday hijacked a bus and shot dead six Hindu passengers, police said, reports Reuter from Amritsar. Police said the bus was carrying passengers, including the six Hindu men and two armed Sikhs, from Punjab's industrial

Ludhiana city to Raikot town, 45 km to its west, when the gunmen commanded it to a secluded place. "They pulled out the Hindus from the bus and shot them with automatic weapons," a police spokesman said. They last attacked a bus on September 28 when they

killed four Hindu passengers. Albanians, soldiers clash: Gunfire broke out Tuesday between soldiers and a crowd of Albanians trying to force their way aboard ships in Vlora to flee their impoverished homeland, and three people were wounded.

Albanian TV said, reports AP. It reported that two soldiers and a member of the crowd were hit. There were no other details on who fired the shots. The newscast also said would-be refugees hurled rocks at police and soldiers and broke streetlights.

south of the capital city of Tirana, ended without violence, but with four arrests on weapons charges, it said. Albania depends on massive food aid from the West to feed its three million people. The economy has been devastated by more than four decades of communist mismanagement.

Albania began a turn to a free market economy last year.

A similar attempt in Durres, 20 miles (32 kilometers)

Fidel, Raul Castro re-elected: Pidel Castro and his brother Raul were re-elected Monday to the Cuban Communist Party's central committee amid vows to defend the country's ties with other socialist nations, the state news agency AIN said, reports AFP from Havana. The some 1,760 delegates to the party's fourth Congress.

The Congress, meeting amid Cuba's most severe crisis since the 198 socialist revolution, was scheduled to conclude

later in the day with a march by 200,000 people and a speech by Castro.