

# BRIEFLY

## Bush to meet Shamir before confce:

President Bush will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in advance of the Mideast peace conference opening in Madrid in four days, officials said Saturday, reports AP. The meeting will take place either late Tuesday or early Wednesday, the day the conference opens under the auspices of the United States and Soviet Union. Bush is seeking to find out Shamir's positions on the delicate issues to be negotiated in the first comprehensive talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours, said the officials who spoke only on condition of anonymity. Relations between Bush and Shamir have been cool, and both sides want to ease tensions before the start of the delicate Arab-Israeli talks. The two men last met in Washington in December 1990.

## 36 killed in Punjab:

Thirty-six persons, including Dr Bachittar Singh, Director Health Services and 13 militants, were killed in Punjab since Friday night, police said Saturday, reports PTI. Militants shot dead one Sahib Singh and injured another at Phillaur in Jalandhar district Saturday night. The injured identified as Makhan Singh was admitted to nearby hospital.

## Soviet troops leave Poland by Nov '92:

The vast majority of Soviet combat troops will be withdrawn from Poland by November 15, 1992, the Tass news agency reported in Moscow Saturday, reports AFP. According to an agreement reached between Moscow and Warsaw Friday, 92 per cent of the troops have until that date to leave the country, while the remainder will be gone by the end of 1993, it said. The two countries, former members of the Warsaw Pact military alliance of communist countries, will conclude a protocol on the agreement by the end of the year, Tass added.

## 3 tons cocaine seized in Mexico:

Mexican law enforcement authorities seized more than three tons of pure Colombian cocaine from a Liberian freighter, the Mexican Attorney General's office said Saturday, reports AFP. Police found 3.17 tons of cocaine Friday when they searched a storage area on the Liberian-flagged Cordoba after it docked at the Pacific port of Manzanillo, the sources said. The cocaine was packed in 20-kilo (44-pound) packages and stamped with the identifying mark "Molino civitara," the Attorney General's office said. The ship's captain said he picked up two similar shipments in Buenaventura, Colombia, one of which was off-loaded in the port of Acapulco, El Salvador, the sources added. This is not the first time that Mexican law enforcement authorities in Manzanillo seized three tons of cocaine. On September 19, 3.13 tons were taken from the Cypriot-flagged Chimborazo.

## 254 bandits killed in Sind this yr:

The police chief of Pakistan's southern province of Sind said on Saturday his officers had killed 254 bandits in shoot-outs this year, part of a battle to cut the high crime rate in the region, reports Reuter from Karachi. G Moinuddin told a meeting of businessmen in Karachi 1,550 people had been murdered in the province in 1991, down from 1,831 in the same period last year. He also cited a nine per cent drop in highway robberies in Sind, where banditry and ethnic violence dominate rural areas. Gangs of bandits, known locally as dacots, roam much of interior Sind holding up cars and buses, kidnapping people for ransom and preying on villagers.

## Ijaz defends Ziaul Haq against fraud charges

ISLAMABAD, Oct 27: The son of the late military ruler Gen. Mohammed Ziaul Haq, on Saturday sought to defend his father's integrity against charges of fraud and corruption, reports AP. Ijaz ul-Haq, the Labour Minister in the conservative Islamic government, called a news conference to refute allegations by former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, the chief nemesis of Zia during his 11-year rule of Pakistan. Zia overthrew Ms. Bhutto's father, Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, in 1977 and the ousted leader was later put to death. Zia then ruled until his own death in a still-unexplained 1988 plane crash. Ms. Bhutto, who was elected prime minister three months after Zia's death, has alleged the late ruler pocketed a 40-million-rupee (1.6 million dollars) donation Dubai's crown Prince Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, made in May 1985 for charitable and religious causes. She made the charges to Congressional leaders last month during a three-week tour of the United States. Ijaz, however, claimed that his father gave the check, drawn on the Karachi branch of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, to Pakistan's Finance Ministry with instructions that the money should be used to send poor Muslims on pilgrimages to Mecca, one of Islam's holiest cities. A Hajj foundation trust was to be created, Ijaz said. The Finance Ministry deposited the money in United Bank of Pakistan, where the money remains, he said. Ijaz also accused Ms. Bhutto of misusing the money while her government was in power. "Ms. Bhutto as prime minister of Pakistan in 1988 and 1989 misused the money to fund trips of her partymen to Mecca. Because such people were ineligible, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan warned Ms. Bhutto against such misuse," he said. Ishaq Khan dismissed Ms. Bhutto's government 20 months in power, alleging it was hopelessly corrupt and incapable of changing.

## Bill Graham killed in copter crash Castro sees little hope for ties with US

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct 27: Bill Graham, who built an empire promoting concerts as rock 'n' roll turned psychedelic in the 1960s with groups including Jefferson Airplane, the Grateful Dead and Santana, died in a helicopter crash. He was 60, reports AP. Graham was killed with two other people Friday in the helicopter hit a utility tower about 25 miles (40 kms) north of San Francisco, said Jean Catino, spokeswoman for Bill Graham Presents. Graham was flying to his home after a Huey Lewis concert he promoted in Concord, said Sonoma County sheriff's Sgt. Jay Farmer. Also killed were Melissa Gold and the pilot, Steve Kahn. Catino said. There was no immediate explanation of who Gold was. "My heart's crushed," guitarist Carlos Santana said. "It was always there from the beginning." Members of the Grateful Dead were too stunned to comment, said the group's publicist, Dennis McNally. Graham, the child of Russian Jews who had moved to Germany, fled the Nazis in Europe, grew up in a foster home in New York City.

HAVANA, Oct 27: President Fidel Castro said he has little hope that Cuba's relations with the United States will improve soon, adding that the burden to ease tensions lies on Washington, the Communist Party newspaper Granma reported on Saturday, reports Reuter. An unequivocal signal of Washington's good intentions would be an unconditional lifting of the 30-year economic embargo against Cuba, the return of the territory occupied by the US naval base at Guantanamo, and a halt to threats, aggression and hostility against Cuba, Castro said. Castro made the remarks to reporters on October 23 during a visit of Cozumel, Mexico for talks with the leaders of Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia. "The possibilities I see at this moment of an improvement in relations are very few because the US government now considers itself the owner of the world, the leader of a unipolar world, Castro said. "It believes the Cuban Revolution has no future, given all that has occurred in the socialist camp and it has not even the slightest interest in doing anything to improve relations between Cuba and the United States, he said.



JERUSALEM: An Israeli border policeman stands guard during a patrol in East Jerusalem's Arab neighbourhood. —AFP/UNB photo

## 'All ME states will have secure borders'

# US, Soviet Union agree on land-for-peace settlement

NICOSIA, Oct 27: The United States and the Soviet Union, which are sponsoring the Middle East peace conference, have stated that the negotiations between Israel and Arab leaders must be based on the terms of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, reports AFP. The resolutions stipulate a land-for-peace settlement in the Middle East and the right of all countries, in the region to live within secure borders. Israel says it has complied with Resolution 242 and returned the Sinai to Egypt in 1982. Thus preferring the English text of Resolution 242 which unlike the French text has dropped the definite article "the" in front of the words "occupied territories". Resolution 242 was approved November 22, 1967, five months after the six-day Arab-Israeli war. Resolution 338 was endorsed October 22, 1973, amid another Arab-Israeli war.

## Israelis demonstrate for peace

TEL AVIV, Oct 27: About 30,000 Israelis demonstrated for peace and territorial compromise in Tel Aviv on Saturday night, urging Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to take an olive branch with him to the Middle East, conference in Madrid, reports Reuter. One of his staunchest opponents wished Shamir success at the Arab-Israeli talks, sponsored by Washington and Moscow, that are scheduled to open on Wednesday. "Take olive branch and outstretch a hand to peace with a recognition of your fellow man's right of freedom and security," said Shulamit Aloni, leader of the Opposition Citizens Rights Movement Party in parliament.

## UN investigator fails to meet Suu Kyi

BANGKOK, Oct 27: A UN expert sent to probe reports of human rights abuses in Burma ended his six-day visit Saturday without seeing detained Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, Burmese officials said, reports AP. Special Investigator Yozo Yokota and Jacob Moller, a senior official of the UN Human Rights Centre, met earlier in the day with other leaders of Mrs. Suu Kyi's opposition party, the National League for Democracy, the government officials said. The two investigators also held separate talks at the state guest house with members of the government's National Unity Party and the Leftist Democratic Front for National Reconstruction. Details of their discussions were not immediately available. On Friday, the two toured Insein Prison, where many political prisoners are believed held and where the human rights group Amnesty International says torture is common. "The human rights investigators asked permission to visit the prison to see conditions (there) ..... and privileges of the prisoners," one official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. He added he did not know if they talked with any prisoners. Yokota's visit follows one last November by another UN human rights investigator, Sadako Ogaia of Japan. She was not allowed to visit Insein Prison or see Mrs. Suu Kyi, who has been under strict house arrest in the capital since July 1989. Last week, Mrs. Suu Kyi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her opposition to the military government, which has since denied several ambassadors to Burma permission to see her.



## Uttar Pradesh CM rushes to Delhi for consultations

# Women, children of Muslim families leave Ayodhya as tension mounts

AYODHYA, Oct 27: All the women and children of some 150 Muslim families prepared Saturday to evacuate this northern Indian Township as tension over a holy site claimed by Hindus and Muslims continued to grip the area, witnesses said, report agencies. Meanwhile, Kalyan Singh, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh state by which Ayodhya is administered, rushed to New Delhi for consultations with colleagues in his pro-Hindu opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and for talks with Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's government. Police and Para military forces guarded the disputed Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid Complex while the VHP went ahead with its plans for observing October 30 as the 'Shaurya Divas'. Four companies of the CRPF guarded the inner two gates of the complex while five companies of the PAC and police were deployed to keep a vigil in the temple town, according to the district administration officials at Fatehabad. Although to VHP leaders are away from Ayodhya, the normal schedule for conducting the 40-day-long 'Bajrang Rudra Mahayagna' was maintained on its ninth day Sunday, and VHP volunteers tightened security at Karswakpuram, the venue of the yagna. The VHP central organising secretary, Inkar Bhawe, said that the 'Shaurya Divas' to mark the completion of a year of undertaking 'Kar Seva' at the complex would be observed in a disciplined manner. The VHP would attempt to keep alive memories of last year's event at Ayodhya, he said. Muslim residents and independent witnesses said all the non-male members of some 150 Muslim families living here planning to leave out of fear and that a number of them had already departed. The controversy arose from a revivalist Hindu claim that the holy site is birthplace of their god Rama and that Rama temple was razed to make way for the ancient mosque now there. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), a revivalist organisation spearheading the Hindu campaign, has announced that it is determined to build a new temple on the site and will destroy the mosque if necessary. The Babri Masjid Movement Action Committee (BMMAC) and Babri Masjid Action Committee, two specially set up Muslim bodies, reject the Hindu claim, maintaining that no such temple existed on the site when the mosque was built by Mughal Emperor Babar in the 16th century. The Muslim groups say they are determined to protect the mosque.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani President Ishaq Khan (R) accompanies his Chinese counterpart Yang Shangkun on his arrival at Islamabad airport Saturday. —AFP/UNB photo

## Greek Minister sacked

ATHENS, Oct 27: Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis sacked his top minister Miltiades Evert on Saturday after a bitter dispute over who promotes foreign policy abroad, government officials said, reports Reuter. The officials said Evert, who held the position of Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, disagreed with Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras over who should release information to the media concerning foreign policy. The government came under fire recently after confidential correspondence between Mitsotakis and US President George Bush over the divided island of Cyprus was made public by the socialist opposition and the media.

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# Off the Record

## We'll all be finished, says Kohl

MANAUS, (Brazil): German Chancellor Helmut Kohl visited the heart of the world's largest rain forest on Saturday and said if it falls to developers "we'll all be finished," reports AP. Kohl, midway into a week-long visit, traveled by motorboat up the Rio Negro, a tributary of the Amazon River, past monkeys climbing in dense, low-hanging foliage. The German leader later had a chilly exchange with Amazonas State Governor, Gilberto Mestrinho, an opponent of ecologists and supporter of powerful ranchers and developers interested in clearing the rain forest. The two were discussing a grant to Brazil to finance ecological preservation when Mestrinho said he saw outside efforts to preserve the Amazon as a bid to wrest control of the 2 million-square-mile wilderness from Brazil. "If the rain forest disappears, we'll all be finished," Kohl shot back. "Besides, the grant is not for you, but for the federal government."



## Crack house baby makes Carter cry

ATLANTA: A tiny baby born in a crack house to a cocaine smoker astonished former President Jimmy Carter to tears, and to action. The plight of the baby whom nurses at Grady Memorial Hospital call Pumpkin prompted Carter to create a task force to fight poverty-related problems like cocaine babies. "I never knew about it before," Carter said of Pumpkin and children like her. "I should have. I've been governor of this state, I've been president of the United States. I didn't even know about things like this." Friday was the debut of Carter's Atlanta Project to coordinate public and private efforts addressing homelessness, drugs, teen-age pregnancy and other social ills. When Pumpkin was born Sept 23 she was only a pound. Her mother, who told doctors she smoked cocaine and drank alcohol while pregnant, vanished. Now her baby clings to life. "It brought tears to our eyes," he recalled. "It still doesn't have a home; it still doesn't have a mama. I think we ought to do something."



LONDON: Flight attendants Michael Cooper (L) and Nicola Love who met in Iraq during the Gulf War, tie the knot on Saturday at St. Andrew's church in Wrasburg. —AFP/UNB photo

## Harry learns the ropes of trade

NIAGARA FALLS: Prince Harry, the seven-year-old who's third in line for the British throne, learned the ropes of his trade Saturday, shaking hands with delighted fans at Niagara Falls, reports AP. "He had a little boy's handshake. It was natural — just what you would expect," said a thrilled Nicole Marsden, 30. The Burlington, Ont., resident described the little prince's demeanor as "shy and mischievous." Diana, Princess of Wales, beamed as her youngest son took to the crowd as she, Harry and nine-year-old Prince William made their first public appearance together in Canada since the family arrived for an official visit Wednesday. Donning royal blue rain slicker, they viewed the falls from the famous Maid of the Mist tour boat. Diana was to meet later with husband Prince Charles for a ball at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto. Charles spent Saturday with Ontario business leaders.

## Paul Newman finds himself in paper

NEW YORK: Actor Paul Newman found himself in the paper toilet paper when he dressed as a clown for a benefit performance of the Big Apple Circus, reports AP. Newman, 66 wore clown paint and a big red nose Friday as he entertained 1,400 people at a special show to benefit the Scott Newman Center, an educational centre for drug abuse prevention. The facility is named for Newman's son, who died of a drug overdose. The star of "The Verdict" and "The Colour of Money" opened the show with a five-minute stunt where several rolls of toilet paper were blown into the air around Newman and suspended there by an industrial blower. "It went over very well," said Daniel Zilber, who works in the management office for the circus, which runs through Jan. 5. "I don't know if people knew it was him or not. It was a great gag." The performance ended with Newman standing there as the toilet paper fluttered down and covered him, Zilber said.

## Y'slav army opens fire on ships with relief

BELGRADE, Oct 27: The Yugoslav army opened fire on a ferry bringing relief supplies to the besieged Adriatic Port of Dubrovnik but a ceasefire with Croatian rebels was holding despite the incident, reports Reuter. Tracers fired from a machinegun wounded one crewman as the ferry Slavija entered the port with medical supplies and food on Saturday evening. The Croatian Interior Ministry said. Two mortar rounds landed in the water near the ship but the incident appeared to be an isolated violation of the ceasefire which went into effect on Friday, officials on both sides said. The army and navy have laid siege to the medieval port for more than three weeks to pry out rebel forces inside, cutting off some 50,000 men, women and children as well. The siege and the shelling of Dubrovnik's historic old town on Wednesday brought sharp criticism from the United States, Britain, France and Italy. A European Community observer team visited Dubrovnik's old town on Saturday, and reported only "slight and isolated" damage to its medieval walls and 16th-century Renaissance palaces and colonnades. While the guns around Dubrovnik fell silent for the first time in a week, battles raged between army units and Croatian forces in the north-eastern Slavonija region. Heavy fighting was reported across the region where Roman Catholic Croats and Christian Orthodox Serbs live in a tangle of rival villages. It lies about halfway between the Croatian capital, Zagreb, and Belgrade. Five people were killed and 15 wounded in the Danube river town of Vukovar, under an army siege for more than two months, Croatian radio said. It said the army fired multiple-rocket launchers, heavy artillery and mortars in Tovukovar, where 15,000 Croats are holding out. It then launched an infantry assault.