Bartholomew to press, Delhi to agree on N-arms free South Asia

India withdraws nuclear

reactor sale offer to Iran

BRIFFIY

Bush's visit rescheduled: President George Bush will visit Australia, Singapore, South Korea and Japan between December 31 and January 10, the White House announced on Wednesday, rescheduling a trip he had originally planned to begin in November, reports Reuter from Washington.

Bush had cancelled a trip to the same countries planned for late November and early December as public criticism mountained in the United States that he was spending too much time travelling abroad and not enough on domestic problems.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Bush would leave on December 30 and be in Australia, visiting Sydney and Canberra, from December 31 to January 3.

He will be in South Korea on January 5-7, visiting Seoul, and in Japan on January 7-10, visiting Kyoto and Tokyo.

Officials have said the focus of the tour would be on international trade and increasing American competitiveness through improved education.

3 Venezuelan demonstrators killed: Three people, including a high school student, were killed during a demonstration against the government on Wednesday amid unrest in Venezuela, reports Reuter from Caracas, Venezuela.

Radio reports blamed the deaths on police attempting to quell the disturbance, but police and Venpress, the government news agency, said the three were killed by shots from unknown gunmen.

Students have been protesting for weeks over an increase in bus fares that followed a government decision last May to raise petrol prices.

Students were tear-gassed by police on Tuesday near local government buildings and the congress. Newspapers said four policemen and five students were hurt in the demonstration.

Demirel forms cabinet: Former Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, toppled by the army 11 years from Ankara.

Democrat Populist Party led by former nuclear physics Professor Erdal Inonu, hold 266 seats in the 450-member parliament.

40 killed in Mexico train mishap: Rescuers have pulled almost 40 bodies from wreckage caused by a freight train that left the rails and flattened cars and a

bus after its crew abandoned it when they realised the breakes had failed, reports Reuter from Tehuacan, Mexico. Voicing anger at the behaviour of the crew, Bruno Cortez Ramirez, Secretary to the Mayor of Tehuacan, said on Wednesday they failed to warn rail officials that the brakes

20 killed in Soviet copter crash: mission to halt fighting between Armenians and Azeris in the southern Soviet Union ended in tragedy on Wednesday when

from Moscow. Tass news agency said the dead included senior government officials from the Soviet republics of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, two generals and deputies from the Russian republican parliament.

a helicopter crashed in fog killing 20 people, Reuter reports

Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent a message of condolence to Kazakhstan, which like Russia is trying to mediate in the Armenian- Azeri conflict, and to Azerbaijan.

Nepal to renew trade treaties with India

Indian counterpart PV

Narashimha Rao would discuss

several road projects, includ-

ing the construction of a med-

ical college in Koirala's native

town of Sunsari, 298 kilome-

"Besides the trade and

transit and bilateral economic

ecoperation, we will be dis-

cussing India's cooperation for

the development of Nepal's

Asked on the Bhutanese

government's allegation that

Nepal had meddled in the in-

ternal affairs of Bhutan, Koirala

said: "We don't want to middle

in any country's internal af-

fairs, but we will definitely

raise our voices when the peo-

ple's democratic and human

rights are thwarted in any part

Freed US hostage

wants to start

teaching in Beirut

WIESBADEN (Germany),

Nov 21: Freed American

hostage Thomas Sutherland

says that even after six years of

captivity in Beirut he "wouldn't

mind" going back to the city to

resume his teaching there, re-

the United States on Thursday

along with his wife Jean and

two daughters. But the home-

coming in Ames, lowa will be

died just before the former

hostage's release, and he plans

to attend the funeral with his

After the trip to Ames,

Sutherland plans to go to

California to visit one of his

daughters, who is about to give

gave a news conference in

which he revealed chilling de-

tails of his captivity at the

hands of Shitte Muslim radi-

in his captivity, kept in under-

ground cells with other

hostages, and suffered from

confidence that long-time

hostage Terry A. Anderson

Sutherland also expressed

depression and loneliness.

would soon be freed.

He said he was beaten early

On Tuesday, Sutherland

family on Friday.

Sutherland's father-in-law

one of both sorrow and joy.

Sutherland, 60, flies back to

of the world."

vast water resources," he said.

ters southeast of Kathmandu.

KATHMANDU, Nov 21 Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Kotrala said here today that India and Nepal would conclude next month expired bilateral trade treaties which have kept the two neighbours at odds, reports AFP.

had failed.

The trade and transit treaties would be signed when Kotrala makes a four-day offictal visit to India starting on December 5, he said.

"The bilateral treaties are being signed without any strings attached to the country's security," Kotrala said. India effected a defacto

economic blockade of landlocked Nepal in 1989 when the treaties expired. The expiration followed Nepal's purchase of Chinese weapons, an act which upset New Delhi. Kotrala said he and his

Yeltsin forms new cabinet

MOSCOW, Nov 21: Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced Wednesday that he had formed a new government whose members he did not name and explained his reform programme at length on Soviet

Television, reports AFP. "We will carry it through, I believe we'll succeed, otherwise we will all depart, myself included," Yeltsin said, adding "it's our last chance, we must make Russia and all the republics work."

There were sufficient supplies of flour, Yeltsin told the television, and "there will not be a famine." But as far as other food products were concerned, he warned that "the situation may be difficult" and "strikes won't change anything, we simply don't have the resources."

On Economic reforms. Yeltsin said social welfare remained a priority.

Essential products such as bread, milk, salt, children's food and Vodka would be slightly more expensive but will remain under state control, as will fuel.

"The new government has simple structures and less bureaucracy," Yeltsin said, adding that the unnamed team ranged in age from 35 to 50 and included heads of enterprises.

said on Wednesday, reports Reuter. A decision has been taken at the highest level not to sell the reactor to Iran a senior official in the Ministry of

NEW DELIII, Nov 21 : India

has withdrawn an offer to sell a

nuclear research reactor to

Iran after stiff criticism in the

United States, a senior official

External Affairs told Reuters. He asked not to be identified. Earlier a Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed that preliminary discussions had been held with Iran over the proposed sale of a 10-

megawatt nuclear reactor. But, he added there has been no deal.

The US State Department on Friday expressed concern over the proposed deal.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian had raised the matter with Indian Ambassador Abid Hussain.

The United States has urged all nuclear supplier countries, including India to avoid any form of nuclear cooperation with Iran even un-

der safeguards Boucher said there is not adequate evidence that Iran is genuinely committed to the exclusively peaceful uses of nuclear energy, he said.

The Indian official's denial of an Iranian deal was made as New Delhi prepared for talks with a visiting State Department official on a range of disarmament issues.

Diplomats said US Undersecretary of State Reginald Bartholomew's talks on Friday would focus on New Delhi's reluctance to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and a Pakistani proposal for a South Asian nuclear-free zone.

They said said Bartholomew was expected to press India to take a "positive approach" towards the proposal by Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to make South Asia a nuclear arms-free zone.

They said Bartholomew was expected to press India to take ing Congress (I) Party raised a "positive approach" towards the proposal by Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to make South Asia a nuclear arms-tree zone.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said talks with

Bartholomew would be held with in an open and receptive mind."

Bartholomew has held disarmament talks with China and Pakistan during a current Asian tour.

Islamabad has sought an agreement between India, Pakistan and China, with the involvement of the United States and the Soviet Union to set up a nuclear free zone in South Asia.

The United States and China support the move but Indian officials say nuclear disarmament is a global that does not lend itself to regional solutions.

Indian MPs urged the govern-

ment today to resist US pres-

Meanwhile, AFP adds :

sure and go ahead with the controversial sale of a nuclear research reactor to Iran. Suresh Kalmadi of the rulthe issue in parliament's upper house, saying exports of nuclear reactors should not be

the industrialised world "In no case should the gov-

allowed to be a monopoly of

ernment buckle under US

pressure," Kalmadi said in a brief statement supported by colleagues and MPs from the opposition Janata Dal.

Kalmade said it was "strange" that Washington was trying to dissuade India from exporting the reactor after having sold one to Tehran itself.

The matter came up in parliament on the opening day of its month-long winter session.

India's top nuclear scientists, PK lyengar, told the Hindustan Times in remarks published Tuesday that the proposed sale was in no way a secret deal and would be under international safeguards.

"Perhaps the western countries do not want us to get into high technology exports - the Americans had already supplied a five megawatt reactor to Iran which is still working," lyngar, Chairman of India's Atomic Energy Commission, said.

The Indian Express reported today that Iran was also keen to import a 220megawatt pressurised heavy water reactor used in power generation which India has made locally.

Taylor's husband charged with drunken driving

Off the Record

CORONA, California, Nov 21: Actress Elizabeth Taylor's new husband, Larry Fortensky, was ordered by a judge on Wednesday to stand trial on drunken driving charges stemming from an arrest four years ago, reports Reuter.

Fortensky, 39, is charged with driving under the influence of alocohol, drink with a blood alcohol level in excess of the legal limit and having an open alcohol container in his car. His lawyer, Richard Moore, said he would try to have the

charges reduced by plea bargain to a single count of reckless driving before the jury trial starts on December 11. Fortensky, who married Taylor in a blaze of publicity at Pop singer Michael Jacksons's ranch near Santa Barbara, California, on October 7, has entered pleas of innocent to all

the charges. Fortensky, a building worker, met Taylor, 20 years his senior, while they were undergoing drug and alcohol abuse treatment at the Betty Ford Clinic.

Moore said Fortensky "slipped through the cracks" of the legal system after he was arrested in October 1987. He was held in jail for three days before being freed on bail. After he failed to appear to answer the charges in Corona Municipal Court, a warrant was issued for his arrest.

The warrant was never issued to police agencies, his lawyer said, and Fortensky was never arrested.

That was not Fortensky's first drunken driving charge. He pleaded guilty to driving under the influence of alcohol in July 1988 and he was jailed for 10 days and placed on probation. Moore said if he was unable to make a plea bargain he

would move to have the charges dismissed on the grounds that Fortensky was stopped illegally and that he was denied a speedy trial.

He said Fortensky volunteered to return to court after the case was uncarthed by journalists researching his background prior to his marriage to Taylor.

Dutch teens penetrate into US defence sites

WASHINGTON. Dutch teenagers were able to gain access to sensitive information on US military computers during the Gulf War because of lax security, a congressional investigator said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

"Between April 1990 and May 1991, computer "hackers" from the Netherlands penetrated 34 defence department sites," Jack Brock of the General Accounting Office (GAO), the congressional investigating agency, told a Senate hearing.

Hackers are computer users who gain access to unauthorised information for fun. Brock said the information the Hackers got on military personnel, logistics and weapons systems development data

was unclassified but considered sensitive. "Information from at least one system, which was successfully penetrated at several sites, directly supported operation Desert Storm/ Shield," he said in his testimony.

Senator Herbert Khol, a Wisconsin Democrat and chairman of the government information subcommittee hearing, said it appeared no US troops were jeopardised by the hackers, but

that their success raised serious security concerns. "If Dutch teenagers can get into our military computers,

suspect that our enemics can do it as well". Khol said. Brock said the hackers used various security weaknesses to gain access to the defence computers. Many of the systems

had easily guessed, well-known or no passwords, he said. "Once the hackers had access to a computer at a given site, access to other computers at that site was relatively easy because the computers were often configured to trust one another," Brock said.

He said the security problems continue because of poor management and training and the failure to maintain records of system activities.

Hubby cooks wife dead

LONDON: A British husband was so obsessively tidy that he packed away the dismembered and cooked remains of his murdered wife, a doctor said at his trial Wednesday, reports

Pathologist Donald Wayte said "the flesh had been carefully diced as if someone had been preparing a stew."

Aircraft fitter John Peryry, 52, denies murdering his 27year-old Filipino wife Armind at their home in Wales. Wayte said that when he visited the house in February the kitchen had the smell of roast beet. He found two plastic bags

on the kitchen floor, one containing a large amount of diced All of it had been cooked, the bag was full and it had a

large amount of tissue in it," he said he also found a bag containing portions of skull. Whoever had done it had been almost obsessionally a very

tidy person, the pathologist said.

Shevardnadze opposes

Yugoslav crisis, reports AFP.

I do not believe in sanctions, I do not think that all the possibilities for negotiations are exhausted, he told

abolish apartheid, the Foreign Minister said. The European Community

nounced his intention to create a centre to study interethic conflicts bringing together researchers also with Soviet and foreign politicians. Asked on his possible nomination as Secretary General of

the United Nations. Shevardnadze said only that the central problem for the world community is the stability of our country. If one can do something

useful today, it is necessary to do it here in Moscow and in the republics, he said. After his resignation as

December. Shevardnadze's name came up among possible candidates to replace retiring Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Son Sann in Phnom Penh, blasts govt

PHNOM PENH, Nov 21: The leader of a guerilla group which battled Cambodia's Vietnam-backed rulers for almost 13 years returned from extle today to join a reconciliation council but immediately

Secretary of State James Baker.

ports Reuter. "We are deeply moved to be

port his joy was tempered by

for and observance of human rights."

December 1978 to drive out the Khmer Rouge, who caused the deaths of a million

BELGRADE, Nov 21: Scores

of human corpses littered the

demolished Croatian town of

Vukovar, where the Yugoslav

army is investigating reports of

an alleged massacre of 41

Cambodians during their 1775-1979 "killing fields" rule.

Son Sann has been fighting the Vietnamese-installed government since 1979 when he founded the American-backed anti-communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF).

three guerilla factions, but ac-

Son Sann served as a Minister 10 times and as Premier under the government in exile headed by Prince Norodom Sthanouk. He paid tribute to those who killed fighting Vietnamese troops in Cambodia.

homage and my respect to all my Cambodian compatriots who have sacrificed their lives.

BEIJING: Dissident Chinese journalist Dai Qing, 50, recounts her abduction to reporters at her home after being freed Wednesday. She was prevented from meeting US - AFP photo The curfew in the east was

"I would like to pay my

The government has been freeing political prisoners since signing a peace treaty in Paris on October 23 with the knowledges some are still

curfew in eastern Lanka COLOMBO, Nov 21 to prevent LTTE guerrillas Security forces today imposed escaping from Polonnaruwa district to their hideouts located in thick jungles in Batticaloa, which is dominated

Search for Tamil Tigers:

an indefinite curiew in parts of eastern Sri Lanka as they continued a sweep for Tamil guerrillas who wiped out 29 soldiers in the northeast, officials said, reports AFP. The joint operations command (JOC), which co-ordi-

nates security forces operations against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eclam(LTTE) said the curfew was imposed in parts of coastal Batticaloa district. Military officials said the

curlew, effective from 6.00 am (0300 GMT) today was clamped in parts of Batticaloa to assist troops hunting for LTTE guerrillas who massacred 20 soldiers in neighbouring Polonnaruwa on Wednesday.

Security forces also continued a separate search in northern Pooneryn where rebels ambushed and killed nine soldiers and injured six others on the same day, officials said.

State radio reported that two soldiers were missing after Wednesday's attack in Sinhapura village in Polonnaruwa, which is mainly inhabited by Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese ethnic group and a frequent target of the Tigers.

by minority Tamils, officials

Twenty soldiers engaged in route-clearing operations and their civilian driver were killed and four soldiers wounded in the surprise attack fn Sinhapura by about 300 tiger combatants, officials said.

A statement Wednesday from the revived JOC said army reinforcements rushed to the village had shot dead five fleeing rebels and that the Tigers suffered "many more" casualties.

The joint operations com mand was revived on Monday after being disbanded for 34 months

early as the first week of

over the venue for direct

Israel's leaders have expressed

about the peace talks with its

too soon for Israel to accept

without reservation that the

Arab countries had decided "it

'racy in the Middle East,'

"Israel is the only democ

shun the military option."

But he suggested that it was

Shamir has said differences

Shamir favours Cyprus as peace talks venue

BOSTON, Nov 21 : Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Israel was willing to hold peace talks outside the Middle East but disliked the idea of straying too far from the region, the Boston Herald reported on Wednesday, says

visit to the United States, said at a private luncheon sponsored by the newspaper that he would suggest to President George Bush at their meeting on Friday that Cyprus could be acceptable but Washington may be too distant a venue for the

"We are ready to propose..... that we made it near there (the Middle East). Places like Cyprus or similar places are better for us," Shamir was

Shamir said he disliked Washington because it would leave negotiations too far from

Israeli leaders.

peace talks with Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, delayed after a first session in Madrid three weeks ago, could be resolved. In a Boston University speech on Wednesday Shamir reiterated the cautious hope

"It's very difficult to do it

Croatian resistance to the

presumbly regrouping forces.

Croatian Health Minister Andrija Hebrang said more than 2,000 deaths had been registered in Croatia since the beginning of the war in June, when the republics of Croatia and neighbouring Slovenia declared independence from

Serbian minority, which won backing from the Serb-led Federal army as the war pro-

Hundreds of thousands of Serbs were massacred by the Nazi Quisling state of Croatia in World War II, and many Serbs fear that history might repeat itself. The army evacuated from

Vukovar more than 5,000 civilians who had hidden for months in cellars of the town. now completely destroyed Some were placed in refugee camps around Vukovar and

some were sent to relatives in other parts of the country. Belgrade Television said Croatian authorities had turned

It said Croatian forces opened fire on refugee buses in the village of Nustar. The buses then turned back and headed for the town of Sremska Mitrovica on the

tion into claims that its forces slaughtered children and Serbs in a village near Vukovar. "As we have no access to the area we do not have infor-

mation about this but it is usual for Serbian propaganda to at tribute crimes to the Croat side," Information Minister Branko Salaj said. "The Croatian government demands and international in

European Community and other groups to determine what really happened there and in all of Vukovar," he said.

attacked the government, re-

back after so many years," said 80-year-old Son Sann, who fled in May 1974. But the frail-looking Son Sann told reporters at the air-

conditions in his homeland. "I cannot totally be happy," he said, "when there are still political prisoners locked up in jails without trial, some for many years, when there is no peace, nor freedom, not enough food, no full respect

Vietnam invaded in

ians in Vukovar and it is there for everyone to see, so there is no need to invest new ones

children, reports Reuter. Photographer Goran Mikic said soldiers in Borovo Naselije, a village outside Vukovar, had told him the children, aged from five to seven, were found with their throats cut in the cellar of a school after Croatian forces

withdrew at the weekend. Mikic showed on television pictures of piles of corpses and entire families slaughtered in Vukovar. He said the army did not allow him to take pictures of the massacred children. An army spokesman said he doubted Mikic's allegations.

"Nothing is to be excluded,

the army would prevent anyone from photographing such scenes," Colonel Mile Susnjar told Reuter. "We are investigating this report, but at this moment we can neither confirm it nor

but I can see no reason why

deny it," he said. "Croatian forces have committed a massacre of civilunless it can be proven beyond In another reported mas sacre, a Serbian volunteer in

the army told journalists he

saw comrades kill upto 80

Croatian fighters after

Vukovar's capture. The volunteer, who refused to be identified said they included men trying to give themselves up . Describing events in Borovo Naselije, Mikie said soldiers

who sealed off the village told

him that fleeing Croatian na-

tional guardsmen were re-

sponsible for killing the chil-

A Reuter reporter saw 33 dead bodies in one building alone in Vukovar on Tuesday. Most were civilians, but some were camouflage uniforms used both by Croats and Serbian fighters. Many corpscs were strewn in the streets.

lying there for several days, perhaps a week. After the fall of Vukovar, which had become a symbol of

They seemed to have been

Federal army and Serbian volunteers, it was relatively quite on the Croatian battle front on Wednesday, with both sides back 1,000 refugees on

Yugoslavia. Croatia's secession prompted a rebellion by the republic's 600,000-strong

gressed.

December.

Arab adversaries.

Shamir said.

by remote control," Shamir said. "It will not be efficient. It will prolong the negotiations, no doubt about it. We are not very pleased with this idea." The Boston Herald quoted a source close to Shamir as saying the talks could begin as

Shamir, who is on a 10-day

quoted as saying.

Demolished Vukovar littered with corpses

Wednesday who had been seeking shelter on the Croatian side of the front.

Croatia called on Wednesday for an international investiga-

Serbian side.

vestigation by the Red Cross.

sanctions against Yslavia MOSCOW, Nov 21: New the Scrbian led Yugoslav army. Shevardnadze also an-Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze declared Wednesday he was against the use of sanctions to solve the

Russian Television. Shevardnadze said that sanctions imposed on South Africa had not led to anything. They decided on their own to

imposed economic sanctions on Yugoslavia in an effort to force Serbia to accept its peace plan to resolve the four month long conflict, which has pitted independence seeking Croatia against minority Serbs in the republic supported by

Soviet Foreign Minister in

ago, returned to power on Wednesday as the head of Turkey's first coalition government since the 1970s, reports Reuter "All right, it has been accepted," Demirel told reporters after securing the approval of his political rival, President Turgut Ozal, for his 32-member cabinet list. Demirel, 67, took office exactly a month after an election in which his True Path Party (DYP) emerged as the biggest party in parliament, ending eight years of Motherland Party The centre-right DYP and its coalition partner, the Social