

Weizsaecker shows solidarity with asylum-seekers

BOCHUM (Germany), Oct 5: President Richard von Weizsaecker yesterday visited a hostel for asylum-seekers, making a show of solidarity in which he appealed to young right-wing Germans to cease their attacks on foreigners, reports AFP.

Chairman of Indian Express dead

NEW DELHI, Oct 5: Rammath Goenka, the son of a cloth merchant who went on to become the head of a powerful newspaper group and doyen of Indian journalism, died early today following prolonged illness, his family said. Goenka, 87, Chairman of the Indian Express group of newspapers, died at 3:00 A.M. (2:30 GMT Friday) at his penthouse in the western metropolis of Bombay, a family spokesman said. He had been in and out of hospital after suffering two strokes in April 1989 and January 1991, and last moved back to his residence July 22. Goenka developed congestion in the chest two days ago and complained of problems Friday evening. He woke up after midnight, and died shortly thereafter. A former associate of Mahatma Gandhi, Goenka became widely known after he pursued a relentless fight against then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi after she imposed a state of emergency in June 1975.

All-out Y'slav war on Croatia: 1,000 killed so far

BELGRADE, Oct 5: The Yugoslav army pounded Croatia by land, sea, and air, and together with Serbian leaders ordered a partial mobilisation to fill its ranks despite a European Community (EC) peace accord, reports Reuter. Friday's attacks on the breakaway republic stretched from Dubrovnik, the southern Adriatic coast to Osijek in the fertile Danubian plains in the east. The offensive could gain new impetus after Serbian leaders and the army ordered a partial mobilisation at a meeting of the Yugoslav presidency on Friday boycotted by non-Serb members including President Stipe Mesić a Croat. The order came shortly after leaders of Serbia, Croatia and the Serb-led federal army agreed with the EC in the Hague to an immediate halt in hostilities and to talks that could lead to the recognition of republics that want independence. Croatia agreed to lift the blockade of federal army bases on its territory and the army said it would relocate and re-group its units in Croatia with the assistance of EC monitors. Croatian President Franjo Tudjman said after returning to Zagreb that he was happy with the agreement and told a news conference it was a big step forward on the political front. The participants have agreed to a ceasefire and we can expect it to take effect, he said. This is what I believed

from the very beginning. Even if the invader continue with his aggression Croatia will be free and independent. But federal power was shattered in the country after the four pro-Serbian members staged a virtual coup by adopting special powers to take decisions for the eight-man presidency even if their four rivals, led by Croatia, did not appear. The power grab by Serbia and Montenegro earned a swift rebuke from the United States on Friday. He warned that in such circumstances, the United States does not accept that this rump group legitimately speaks for Yugoslavia. More than 1,000 people are reported to have been killed so far in the fighting, which began in earnest after Croatia declared independence last June. Yugoslavia is now close to all-out civil war. The heaviest fighting on Friday was around Dubrovnik where troops have overrun Cilipi airport and left the historic walled city without water electricity or telephone links. Radio reports said that about 20 people were killed but no official death toll has been released for this week's fighting. In eastern Croatia key cities such as Osijek, Vukovar and Vinkovci came under fierce bombardment from navy gunboats in random shelling that are a daily occurrence in the region.



PERM (Soviet Union): Lithuanian Foreign Minister (L) Yanis Jurcas signs with his Russian counterpart Andrei Kozyrev the documents regarding the opening of diplomatic relations between Lithuania and Russia, in the former offices of the central committee of the Soviet Communist Party. — AFP/UNB photo

Burmese junta won't transfer power soon

NEW YORK (United Nations), Oct 5: Burmese Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaaw Friday defended his military regime's timetable for transferring power to elected civilians, reports AFP. He told the UN General Assembly that in accordance with Burma's election law, some candidates had contrasted the results of the May 1990 polls. The military regime in Rangoon has refused to hand over power to elected representatives in the wake of the 1990 elections which the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) won by a landslide. Outlining the military regime's post-election programme Ohn Gyaaw said once the election commission had submitted its final report, the military regime would meet with the elected representatives to discuss the holding of a national convention. The role of the convention will be to draw up a new constitution. He said that once this political process was completed, the military regime will transfer the reins of the state to a strong and stable government formed in accordance with the new constitution. Thursday Burmese dissident appealed to the United Nations to impose economic or military sanctions against what they called the illegal "military regime in Rangoon." Sein Win, Premier of the rival provisional National Coalition Government of the Union Burma (NCGUB), challenged the legitimacy of the Rangoon delegation sitting in Burma's UN seat. In his speech, Ohn Gyaaw said that while human rights norms had "an internationally binding character," maximum caution needs to be exercised lest the defence of human rights becomes a platform for encroaching on the essential domestic jurisdiction of states and eroding their sovereignty. He also highlighted his country's narcotics control efforts and its cooperation with neighbouring countries such as Thailand, China and Laos. He said that between 1975 and 1990, over 200,000 acres (80,000 hectares) of poppy fields, with the potential annual yield of 940 tonnes of opium, were destroyed in Burma.

val provisional National Coalition Government of the Union Burma (NCGUB), challenged the legitimacy of the Rangoon delegation sitting in Burma's UN seat. In his speech, Ohn Gyaaw said that while human rights norms had "an internationally binding character," maximum caution needs to be exercised lest the defence of human rights becomes a platform for encroaching on the essential domestic jurisdiction of states and eroding their sovereignty. He also highlighted his country's narcotics control efforts and its cooperation with neighbouring countries such as Thailand, China and Laos. He said that between 1975 and 1990, over 200,000 acres (80,000 hectares) of poppy fields, with the potential annual yield of 940 tonnes of opium, were destroyed in Burma.

Iranian staff accused of complicity with Shi'ites in Fazle Haq's murder

PESHAWAR (Pakistan), Oct 5: The son of assassinated former Governor Fazle Haq has lodged a formal complaint with police accusing staff at the Iranian consulate here of complicity with local Shi'ites in the murder, reports AFP. Pakistani police have already stepped up security around the consulate ahead of the general's funeral here late yesterday. Thousands of people gathered outside Haq's residence and the graveyard where he was to be buried. The mourners included many Afghan refugees who considered him a champion of their cause. Lieutenant-General Haq, 63, who served as Governor of the North West Frontier Province for a record seven years until 1985, was shot dead Thursday by unknown assailants in Peshawar's defence colony district. Haq, who provided shelter in his province to more than two million Afghans, claimed he was co-author of the Afghan Jihad (Holy War) against the pro-Moscow regime in Afghanistan. He had an Afghan bodyguard who was seriously wounded along with his chauffeur in the ambush. The snipers, armed with automatic weapons escaped in a car. Dr Adnan Khan, the youngest of his three sons, lodged his complaint against officials at the consulate late Thursday, press reports said. Iranian Ambassador Javad Mansuri immediately denied any Iranian involvement in the killing which investigators said was the act of well-trained terrorists. The murder sent shockwaves across Pakistan, and police were put on alert to guard Shi'ite centres and mosques. The Tehreek Nifaz Fiqah Jaferia (TNFJ), political party of the Sajid Naqvi minority Shi'ite sect, which blamed Haq for the 1988 murder of its leader Arif Hussain Al-Hussaini, also denied any involvement. Police have not ruled out the possibility that Haq's murder was linked to a sectarian vendetta or family feud.

Gen Hoar, Aziz hold talks on Gulf situation. RIYADH, Oct 5: The head of the United States Central Command, General Joseph Hoar, held talks Thursday with Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister, Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, on the situation in the Gulf, officials here said yesterday, reports ISS. The two men also discussed means of bolstering military cooperation between the United States and Saudi Arabia, informed Saudi sources said. Hoar's visit comes about 10 days after the deployment in the kingdom of anti-missile Patriot missile batteries following Iraq's refusal to cooperate with United Nations weapons experts investigating the Baghdad government's nuclear and non-nuclear arms capabilities. Hoar replaced General Norman Schwarzkopf who led "Operation Desert Storm." During the Gulf war to oust Iraq from Kuwait, charges, and Eleanor Friede, Carter's editor at Delacorte Press, stood by him. Several months later, Delacorte published "Little Tree." It did not sell well, and eventually went out of print. Forrest Carter died in 1979 in Abilene, Texas, where he lived. In the mid-1980s, Friede sent the book to the University of New Mexico Press, which re-issued it after submitting it to two historians for review. It received little advance publicity, but enthusiastic readers spread the word. The book has been No 1 on the New York Times non-fiction

BRRIEFLY

Russia, Latvia establish ties: The Russian federation and the newly-independent Baltic state of Latvia established diplomatic relations Friday at the ambassador level, the official Tass news agency reported, says AFP from Moscow.

No date set for ME talks: President George Bush said on Friday that no date had been set for a Middle East peace conference and diplomatic efforts in the next few weeks would determine if one could be held this month, reports Reuter from Washington.

Anti-smoking drive in US: The US government on Friday launched its biggest anti-smoking programme a seven-year effort with a goal of saving 1.2 million Americans from early tobacco-related deaths, reports Reuter from Washington.

France, Belgium withdraw troops from Zaire: France and Belgium announced the withdrawal of about 300 soldiers from Zaire on Friday, and officials said the remaining troops would not be used to prop up President Mobutu Sese Seko, reports AP from Kinshasa.

Malaysia to launch satellite: Malaysia will launch its first communications satellite worth 120 million dollars by 1995 to keep up with developments in telecommunications, a minister said, reports Reuter from Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia to launch satellite: Malaysia will launch its first communications satellite worth 120 million dollars by 1995 to keep up with developments in telecommunications, a minister said, reports Reuter from Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia to launch satellite: Malaysia will launch its first communications satellite worth 120 million dollars by 1995 to keep up with developments in telecommunications, a minister said, reports Reuter from Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia to launch satellite: Malaysia will launch its first communications satellite worth 120 million dollars by 1995 to keep up with developments in telecommunications, a minister said, reports Reuter from Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia to launch satellite: Malaysia will launch its first communications satellite worth 120 million dollars by 1995 to keep up with developments in telecommunications, a minister said, reports Reuter from Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia to launch satellite: Malaysia will launch its first communications satellite worth 120 million dollars by 1995 to keep up with developments in telecommunications, a minister said, reports Reuter from Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia to launch satellite: Malaysia will launch its first communications satellite worth 120 million dollars by 1995 to keep up with developments in telecommunications, a minister said, reports Reuter from Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia to launch satellite: Malaysia will launch its first communications satellite worth 120 million dollars by 1995 to keep up with developments in telecommunications, a minister said, reports Reuter from Kuala Lumpur.

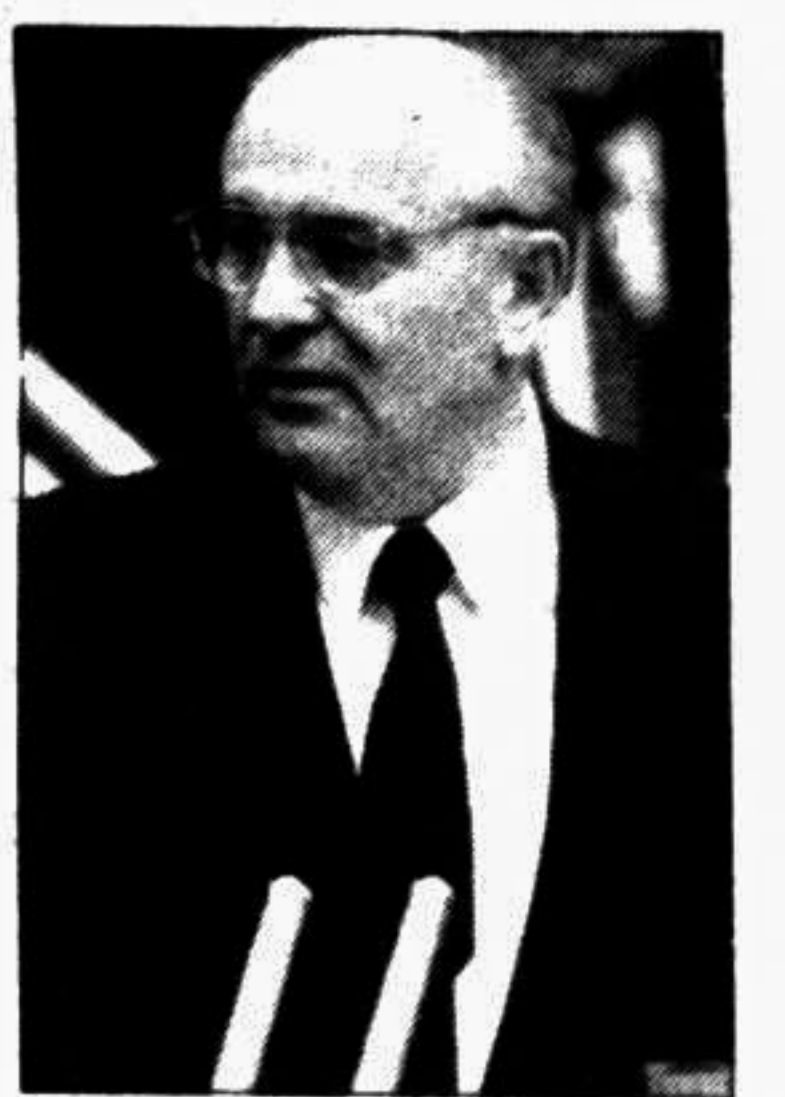
Malaysia to launch satellite: Malaysia will launch its first communications satellite worth 120 million dollars by 1995 to keep up with developments in telecommunications, a minister said, reports Reuter from Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia to launch satellite: Malaysia will launch its first communications satellite worth 120 million dollars by 1995 to keep up with developments in telecommunications, a minister said, reports Reuter from Kuala Lumpur.

Off the Record

Gorbachev earns \$5 lakh

NEW YORK: President Mikhail Gorbachev has sold his 74-page account of the failed August coup in the Soviet Union for a reported 500,000 dollars to the HarperCollins Publishing Company, the New York Times said on Friday, reports Reuter. The translation of Gorbachev's manuscript is expected to be in stores before the end of October, HarperCollins said. A HarperCollins executive would not comment on what the Times called widespread industry reports on the size of Gorbachev's advance. It said its Chief Executive Officer in Britain, Eddie Bell, brought back the book after a recent visit to Moscow. "In the book Gorbachev speaks frankly of his own mistakes and oversights, and of the differences and conflicts in the democratic movements, which the conspirators also sought to exploit," HarperCollins said. One chapter deals with the three days Gorbachev and his family were held in isolation at their holiday villa in the Crimea. But many Soviet officials and leading cultural figures say they expect few revelations in the book and view it as Gorbachev's attempt to stamp his interpretation on the events, the New York Times said.



Direct descendant of Columbus in Washington WASHINGTON, Cristobal Colon, the 20th direct descendant of Christopher Columbus, is back in the New World for a visit that will include a hallowed native ritual, the Washington cocktail party, reports AP. Colon, a Spanish naval officer and yachting enthusiast, landed this week to attend Columbus Day festivities and help launch a year-long celebration of the 500th anniversary of his ancestor's arrival in America. His commercial flight from Madrid took less than eight hours. It took Columbus 33 days to sail from Spain to America on the Santa Maria. A trim, diffident man with an easy smile, Colon was celebrating his 42nd birthday Friday with the National Geographic Society, a meeting with the Daughters of the American Revolution and a cocktail reception at the Spanish Embassy. Colon has visited America nearly a dozen times since 1972, when he first saw Los Angeles as a young midshipman on a round-the-world cruise aboard the Spanish navy's sailing ship. He says he has a special feeling every time. "Of course, I feel very proud when I visit America and think it's more or less the evolution what happened because of my ancestor," Colon said in an interview Thursday after a visit to FBI headquarters. The invited guests include a group of American Indians, who historically view Columbus with bitter resentment as a symbol of Spanish conquest.

Who's Madonna?

NEW YORK: So who's that girl Madonna? If you thought you knew everything, think again, reports AP. Two unauthorised biographies of the Material Girl came out this week, promising scandalous details of her tragic childhood, her greatest fears and her string of lost loves, as one news release puts it. The dueling bios, with some material that doesn't overlap, are creating competition among publishers and confusion among readers. Intrigued by a claim that Madonna cruised Manhattan's Lower East Side and picked up young Latino men for flings in her limousine? Consult "Madonna Unauthorised," by Christopher Andersen. Want to read that she used to eat out of garbage cans and lived in a roach-infested apartment? Pick up "Madonna Revealed," by Douglas Thompson. "She may be Our Lady of Perpetual Promotion, but she does have her secrets," said Ben Petrone, a spokesman for Carol Publishing, which put out "Madonna Revealed." Madonna's publicist Warner Bros in New York declined to comment about the books.



Poetic justice

SANTA ANA (California): It was poetic justice on Friday when a judge sentenced a man — in verse — to life in prison, reports Reuter. David Lee Schoenecker, 50, killed his wife after writing in verse what he planned to do to 54 people he believed had wronged him. Sentencing a downcast Schoenecker for shooting his wife Gail while she slept in her bed, superior court judge Robert Fitzgerald recalled that Schoenecker had threatened in his poem to: "Come in the night/ Come in the day / And kill each person in their own special way." The judge's response: "You won't kill in the night/ You won't kill in the day/ All on your list, can go their merry way." And Fitzgerald added: "You've killed your sweet wife who loved you so dear/ For that, you're being punished, let me make that fact clear/ The sentence I've chosen to you might seem cold/ You'll pay and you'll pay while you grow old. "One day you will die/ A funeral your warden will hold / For you will serve your entire natural life and not be paroled." Schoenecker had pleaded not guilty to murdering his wife by reason of insanity, saying his vision of meting out justice to the 54 people on his list had controlled him so much that he could not think rationally.

Best-selling hoax in America

NEW YORK, Oct 5: Years before he wrote "The Education of Little Tree," the sensitive, best-selling autobiography of a Cherokee orphan, the same author wrote these words for Alabama Gov George Wallace: "Segregation now! Segregation tomorrow! Segregation forever!" reports AP. Forrest Carter, the author, was really Asa "Ace" Carter, an ardent white segregationist, according to Carter's brother, his friends, and historians who have checked into his background. "There's no question who this guy really was," Professor Dan T. Carter of Emory University said Friday in a telephone interview from Atlanta. "The New Age guru

was a gun-toting racist, and this book is a hoax." Doug Carter, Asa's brother, told the Birmingham, Ala Post-Herald that Asa used a pen name because, "He was trying to separate the political writer from the creative novel writing." Asa Carter was a leading advocate of segregation in Alabama in the 1950s. He formed a parliamentary unit of about 100 men known as the Original Ku Klux Klan of the Confederacy. He was arrested in 1957 in connection with a Klan shooting, but charges were dropped. Carter also wrote speeches for Wallace, but later ran for governor of Alabama against him, saying Wallace had become too liberal. "The Education of Little Tree" has sold about 500,000 paperback copies, and this year the American Booksellers Association voted it the book they most enjoyed selling. Reports that Forrest Carter was Asa Carter are at least 15 years old. In 1976, The New York Times printed a story that quoted several people who knew Asa as saying he was Forrest. But Forrest denied the

charges, and Eleanor Friede, Carter's editor at Delacorte Press, stood by him. Several months later, Delacorte published "Little Tree." It did not sell well, and eventually went out of print. Forrest Carter died in 1979 in Abilene, Texas, where he lived. In the mid-1980s, Friede sent the book to the University of New Mexico Press, which re-issued it after submitting it to two historians for review. It received little advance publicity, but enthusiastic readers spread the word. The book has been No 1 on the New York Times non-fiction paperback best seller list for the past three weeks. The book purports to be Carter's memoir of his days as the orphan Little Tree, who went to live with his Cherokee grandparents in Tennessee in the 1930s and learned to love the mountains and Indian ways. "I think the book has strong literary values, and my guess is there's quite a bit of truth in it," she said. "I don't know it's fiction. I don't know what it is." "I do not know his past personal history," she admitted. "I can only speak for the time I knew him, and if such a transformation of Carter did occur, it would be a miracle." Carter's widow, India, could not be reached for comment. Friede said Mrs Carter "doesn't feel comfortable using the telephone," but had faxed her a message saying she would not respond to "these diabolical charges." Professor Carter, who said he may be cousin of Asa Carter, plans to present evidence that Forrest was Asa in an upcoming book on the matter. "Carter created a fictitious life for himself and lived it," Clayton said. "In years here, he became Little Tree. I think he just turned his back on his earlier life."