

BRIEFLY

Palestinians to be banned for 48 hrs:

Palestinians from the occupied territories will be banned from Jerusalem for 48 hours starting Monday amid a huge government effort to prevent violence on the first anniversary of the shooting of 18 Arabs, police said, reports AFP from Jerusalem.

Hundreds of policemen and border guards backed by helicopters began Sunday evening to patrol Arab east Jerusalem, including the approaches to the temple mount in the old city.

Police said Palestinians from the territories would be banned from Jerusalem for 48 hours from 4:00 a.m. (0200 GMT) Monday.

Israel urged not to miss peace chance:

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Sunday urged Israel "not to miss the historic opportunity of peace," warning that this chance will never come again, reports AFP from Cairo.

"I tell the Israeli people: nothing has the value of peace, a just peace which recognises other people's rights," Mubarak said in a speech marking the 18th anniversary of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

"Do not miss the historic opportunity of peace which will not be repeated," the Egyptian President said.

Iraqi forces bomb Kurdish city:

Iraqi forces bombarded the city of Kalar following a clash in nearby Kifri between troops and Kurdish rebels, a spokesman for the rebels said on Sunday, reports Reuters from London.

A spokesman for the Kurdistan Democratic Party in London said "the city of Kalar has been bombed since last night by the Iraqi Army with artillery."

"The city has been evacuated by the people and this afternoon the road to Kifri has been bombed by helicopters and heavy artillery."

"The casualties known so far are 30 wounded and killed."

Canadian newsman killed in Zagreb:

A Canadian news photographer was killed Sunday during fighting near the city of Karlovac, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, officials said, reports AP from Zagreb.

Croatian Information Ministry officials identified the slain photographer as Peter Brysky of Toronto.

A second photographer, Antoin Gyor, also a Canadian citizen, escaped unhurt, the officials said.

Information Ministry officials said they did not have Brysky's age.

Brysky had sold two free-lance photos to The Associated Press in recent days. The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug identified Brysky as an Associated Press photographer.

Croatia to ask Europe for military aid:

Croatian Foreign Minister Zvonimir Separovic will ask for military aid by Western countries in upcoming visits to Germany, Belgium and the United States, HINA news agency reported Sunday, reports AFP from Zagreb.

Separovic left Sunday for talks in Bonn, Brussels, New York and Washington focusing on the civil war with Serbian and federal army troops in his home republic.

He will also urge Germany, the European Community, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the United Nations to recognize Croatia after the expiry on Monday at midnight of a moratorium suspending its June 25 declaration of independence.

Belgium King refuses to exit govt:

King Baudouin on Sunday refused the resignation of the center-left government, telling the Prime Minister to prepare for a revision of the constitution to grant more regional autonomy, reports AP from Brussels.

The monarch met with government leaders throughout the weekend in an attempt to douse linguistic passions between the Francophone and Dutch-speaking parties of the coalition.

"The King has refused the resignation of the government and has charged it to defend before parliament a draft for a constitutional revision," a statement from the royal palace said.

18 Mujahideen rockets rained on Kabul:

Eighteen Mujahideen rockets rained on Kabul on Sunday in one of the heaviest days of rebel missile on the Afghan capital, officials said, reports AFP from Kabul.

One person was killed and 18 were injured when the rockets hit. Four residential districts were said to have been targeted, the officials said.

A civil aviation source said one rocket hit the tarmac of Kabul airport, but reported no casualties or damage.

Mali, Libyan joint meeting proposed:

Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi has said he will no longer offer refuge to opposition leaders from African countries, notably those from Mali, according to a Malian envoy who has returned Bamako from a visit to Tripoli, reports AFP from Bamako.

Lieutenant-Colonel Amadou Tall said Gaddafi had promised to proceed with the preparations for a special conference on problems arising from a Touareg rebellion in northern Mali scheduled for November 15 in Timbuktu.

Several African states have accused Libya of providing money and arms to the Touareg dissidents.

Last-minute wrangling over Cambodian peace

PHNOM PENH, Oct 7: Only a final date needs to be agreed on before a peace accord officially ending Cambodia's 13-year civil war is signed in Paris later this month, reports Reuters.

"From our perspective the agreement is agreed upon and is ready to sign," a senior Cambodian government spokesman said on Sunday.

Last-minute wrangling over a date for the signing has arisen because the United States wants a Middle East peace conference to be held

on October 28 to 31, he said. The spokesman said either of the dates had been agreed by all four of Cambodia's factions.

The United States is one of five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council under whose auspices the peace process developed.

Under the agreement the government army and the three guerrilla factions opposing it will disarm and a UN peace-keeping force will move in until internationally-supervised elections are held.

LOS OLIVOS (California), Oct 7: A tearful Elizabeth Taylor married husband number seven, construction worker Larry Fortensky, Sunday in a flower-strewn million-dollar wedding ceremony in a place called Neverland Valley, reports Reuters.

Violinists escorted the actress, in a 30,000-dollar gown of three shades of yellow, along a path outlined by white roses and miles of white ribbons to a gazebo, beside a lake of swans, for the brief non-denominational ceremony.

The burly Fortensky, 39, comforted the 59-year-old Taylor as she said "I do" for the eighth time. She had tears in her eyes but was beaming as she was pronounced the third Mrs Fortensky.

Eighty security guards, mounted police and secret service agents, at the wedding

to protect former President Gerald Ford, kept unwanted guests from Neverland Valley, a 1,700-acre (688-hectare) estate owned by rock star Michael Jackson.

Red and white balloons were flown 500 feet (150-metres) over the five acres (two hectares) of flowers brought in for the ceremony to keep news helicopters from taking videotaped close shots. Only one helicopter interrupted the wedding but there was a brief moment of panic when one of the balloons burst.

The 200 guests, among them Ford and his wife, Betty,



WASHINGTON—US President George Bush meets with ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in the oval office of White House. Pdt. Bush said he is committed to the restoration of Pdt. Aristide's government to power in Haiti but turned aside questions on whether military force might be involved.

50 racist raids reported : 25 arrests made

Right-wing gangs step up attacks on asylum-seekers in Germany

BONN, Oct 7: Right wing gangs stepped up racist attacks in Germany at the weekend, beating foreigners and attacking refugee centres as politicians quarrelled over how to cut a stream of asylum seekers to stem the wave of violence, reports Reuters.

Police reported about 50 racist attacks on refugee homes and foreigners in the street, twice as many as a week ago, German Radio said on Sunday.

Police reported some 25 arrests but few injuries in the attacks on closely-guarded refugee centres.

In what appeared to be a symbolic attack on German democracy, neo-Nazis also sprayed swastikas and symbols of the Hitler era on the grave-stone of Konrad Adenauer, West Germany's first Chancellor in the Rhineland village of Rhodendorf.

In one street attack four skinheads beat up a woman and three men from Nigeria at a Saturday night festival in Bruehl near Mannheim.

One Nigerian man was hit in the head with a beer bottle and taken to hospital, two skinheads were arrested, police said.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Saturday denounced the continued violence as a disgrace.

No exception for his daughter's wedding

JAKARTA, Oct 7: An Indonesian villager who lives in the nude made no exception for his daughter's wedding, reports Reuters.

But no one objected when 46-year-old Sahabun arrived undressed for the wedding, the Jakarta Post Newspaper said on Monday.

"It's not clothes, but the heart that counts," says Sahabun, who lives in a village in east Java.

His fellow villagers have accepted his nakedness.

for Germany. But he said liberal laws must be tightened to curb the influx of asylum seekers, expected at a record 200,000 this year.

We know that there is no solution without a constitutional amendment, Kohl told reporters after a policy meeting of his Christian Democrats (CDU).

The CDU wants to alter the 1949 Constitution, which gives foreigners a blanket right to claim asylum in Germany, to ensure refugee only for people facing genuine persecution at home.

Kohl's Liberal Free

Democrat (FDP) coalition partners and the opposition social democrats (SPD) insist, however, that an article in the Constitution guaranteeing asylum must not be tampered with.

While ready to speed up the handling of asylum applications, they have vowed to block the two-thirds majority in parliament needed for Kohl's CDU to push through an amendment of the Constitution.

Kohl said he believed pressure from the grassroots would force the SPD leadership to agree to a Constitutional change, possibly at all-party

talks on the issue scheduled for Thursday.

The SPD lost heavily as voters turned to the CDU and a small ultra-rightist party in elections last Sunday in the western city-state of Bremen.

Commentators were watching Sunday's municipal elections in the western state of Lower Saxony, scene of neo-Nazi attacks at the weekend, to see if the right-wing rise at the polls would continue. Final returns were expected on Monday morning.

SPD parliamentary floor leader Hans-Jochen Vogel on Sunday implied in a radio interview CDU leaders were partly to blame for the attacks on refugee homes "because they have not acted, only talked constantly about changing the Constitution."

Economics Minister Juergen Moellmann of the FDP said he feared "that this eternal debate when nothing is done will further."

Racist violence marred unity day celebrations last Thursday.

Extremists have terrorised foreigners almost daily since a fire blamed on arsonists killed a Ghanaian refugee in a hostel in the western town of Saarbrücken on September 19.

Iran executes 17 Afghans, 8 Iranians

NICOSIA, Oct 7: Iran has executed 17 Afghans and eight Iranians involved in an international drug trafficking ring, the officials news agency (IRNA) reported today (Monday), reports Reuters.

It said the 25 were executed on Saturday in the northeastern city of Mashhad where 41 members of the same gang also received the same fate last month.

The 25 were found guilty on several charges including buying and selling 222 kgs (489 lb) of heroin 200 kgs (441 lb) of opium, 22 kgs (48.5 lb) of hashish and for unauthorized possession of firearms, said Iran monitored in Cyprus.

Tajikistan President to resign

MOSCOW, Oct 7: The pro-Moscow president of the Soviet Central Asian Republic of Tajikistan, bowing to mounting opposition protests, said he was resigning, reports Reuters.

Moscow radio reported from the capital Dushanbe that Rakhmon Nabiyev had asked to be relieved of his post to allow all candidates for popular presidential elections scheduled for later this year to fight on an equal footing.

Fortensky was Taylor's constant hospital visitor when she almost died of viral pneumonia 18 months ago. Fortensky, who makes 20 dollars an hour driving tractors on building sites, has been at her side since at her seven million-dollar mansion in the exclusive Bel Air section of Los Angeles.

complainting of dizziness. Fortensky met Taylor when he went to the Betty Ford centre for drug and alcoholic treatment on the outskirts of Palm Springs, California, three years ago after being convicted of drunken driving.

An ambulance was kept waiting at the gates in case of a last-minute emergency. Taylor has a long history of illness and had to break off a tour to promote her new perfume, white diamonds, two weeks ago after

A small crowd of onlookers

Off the Record

Journalists worry Raisa

MOSCOW: President Mikhail Gorbachev's wife Raisa said in a television interview broadcast on Sunday that she was worried some Soviet journalists were distorting what had happened during August's failed coup, reports Reuters.

Mrs Gorbachev, who with her husband and family was held in a Crimean dacha for 73 hours before the coup collapsed, also said she was gradually recovering from the hypertension attack and speech disordered she suffered during the ordeal.

Some journalists question the official version that a hard-line clique tried to overthrow Gorbachev, strongly hinting the Soviet leader played a major part in it. Some even suggest he staged it himself.

A lot of things have been said and different kinds of things published about those three momentous days, Mrs Gorbachev, looking grey and haggard, told the television interviewer.

But I'm worried that some authors are trying to turn a momentous tragedy into a farce, she said her voice often reaching breaking point.

Raisa Gorbachev told the Daily Trust newspaper last month that she had feared death tasted the bitterness of betrayal and was now tormented by the memory of incarceration.

She told the television interviewer that her life together with Mikhail Gorbachev had changed.

You can probably say it is being played in a more minor key, she said.

Britons like him

LONDON: Just 10 months after taking office as the youngest and probably least-known British Prime Minister this century, John Major ranks among the most popular, reports AP.

As he looks ahead to the annual conference of the Conservative Party this week, his first as Prime Minister, he has reason for satisfaction.

In less than a year he has escaped from the shadow of his predecessor Margaret Thatcher. The "John Who?" jokes no sound thin. Economic forecasts are looking up.

If voters dislike government policies, they still tend to blame Mrs. Thatcher.

Major "seems to be getting all of the positives while none of the negatives stick to him," said pollster Robert Worcester, an American who heads Market Opinion and Research International.

But the mild-mannered former banker is also highly vulnerable.

Like the opposition Labour Party's convention last week, the four-day Tory meeting that starts Tuesday in the north England resort of Blackpool shapes up as a rally.

Major has decided to call an election this year. In an interview published in The Mail on Sunday newspaper, he said he might wait until the government's five-year term ends in July.

So far, much has gone his way. Much that hasn't - such as the lingering recession and rising unemployment - is still blamed on Mrs. Thatcher.

International events have favoured Major.

Archaeologists stumble

CAIRO: German archaeologists have stumbled upon a previously undiscovered pyramid at the ancient southern Egyptian city of Luxor, the Al-Ahram newspaper said Monday, reports Reuters.

The pyramid, the first to be found in Luxor, dates back to about 1400 BC. It was built to house the tomb of a high priest of the ancient Egyptian god Amon and contains brightly-coloured wall friezes and inscriptions.

Now partly submerged beneath ground level, it originally had a base of 100 square metres (yards) and stood eight to nine metres high, antiquities official Ali Hassan told the newspaper.

The archaeologists uncovered the pyramid in the Dara Abu Naga area, west of existing sites at Luxor, and about 500 km (330 miles) south of Cairo and the Giza pyramids.

Parts of its facing have collapsed but much of the interior is in good condition, Hassan said.

Warring factions, Zahir to meet

KABUL, Oct 7: Representatives of warring Afghan sides and deposed King Zahir Shah will meet in about a month's time, signalling a major breakthrough in efforts to settle the 13-year-old Afghan conflict, Prime Minister Fazel Haq Khalik Yar said Sunday, reports AFP.

Khalik Yar told the British Broadcasting Corp (BBC) in an interview here that United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar would chair the meeting, which will most probably take place in Geneva.

Khalik Yar, who returned Saturday, in an interview here said that United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar would chair the meeting, which will most probably take place in Geneva.

Khalik Yar, who returned Saturday from a 17-day trip which took him to the United Nations in New York, as well as Geneva, Bonn, Moscow and Tashkent, said the low-level meeting would focus on a prospective interim government to steer Afghanistan to peace.

He said representatives of the Afghan government, moderate resistance factions and Zahir Shah, who lives in exile in Rome, would attend the meeting.

In the interview, a summary of which was made available to journalists here, there was no mention of a role in the meeting for President Najibullah's ruling Watan (Homeland) Party.

Khalik Yar is not a member of the Watan, previously known as People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), which took power in a bloody 1978 coup d'etat called the April Revolution.

Khalik Yar told the BBC that the United Nations was still working out details of the proposed meeting, which he

expected would be held either at the end of October or early November.

He said he hoped headline resistance factions, which stress a military solution, would attend as well.

Khalik Yar also said there should be no power vacuum in Kabul before an interim government was installed, indicating that Najibullah would continue to rule until an agreement was reached on the transitional mechanism.

The meeting would mark the start of an inter-Afghan dialogue for the first time since the conflict began.

Resistance factions based in Pakistan and Iran have previously rejected all offers of talks by the Kabul government, calling it an illegitimate regime and a symbol of the former Soviet military occupation of Afghanistan.

Malaysia, Indonesia begin talks on disputed islands

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 7: Malaysian and Indonesian senior officials opened talks here today on their rival claims to two islands off the southeastern coast of Borneo, officials said, reports AFP.

Ahmad Kamil Jaafar, Secretary-General of the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that the conflicting claims over the Sipadan and Ligitan islands were one of the urgent matters that would dominate the inaugural meeting of the Malaysia-Indonesia Joint Commission.

Kamil, who is leading a 30-member delegation to the five-day meeting, said the talks would also draw up recommendations for the repatriation of some 200 people who had fled to Malaysia from the trouble Amnatran province of Aceh.