

## Ishaq, Fahd talk Soviet plans on Afghan issue

JEDDAH, Oct 9: Afghanistan figured prominently in talks between King Fahd and President Qulam Ishaq Khan of Pakistan on Tuesday, reports AP.

Pakistani officials accompanying Ishaq Khan, speaking on condition they not be named, said the two leaders discussed the numerous initiatives made recently by the Soviet Union, the United States and the United Nations to bring about a peaceful solution to the 13-year-old Afghan crisis.

The officials said the two leaders also discussed the problem with India over Kashmir, bilateral ties and other issues of common concern. Views of the two leaders were described as "identical."

Earlier, Pakistani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddiq Kanju told in news conference, "I am hopeful that the Afghan issue will be resolved peacefully."

The minister affirmed that former Afghan King Zahir Shah would attend the talks to be held in New York shortly between the Afghan Muslim insurgents, or Mujahedeen, and the Kabul government.

But when asked if the ex-king would be reinstated, he replied "I do not think so."

Their role is vital in helping end the bloodshed in Afghanistan after the United States and the Soviet Union

pledged a halt to arms supplies to the feuding parties. "A war between Pakistan and India over Kashmir is completely ruled out," he said. "There is no possibility of armed confrontation between the two countries."

Kanju said he met in New York recently at the UN General Assembly with Indian officials to discuss Kashmir and the issue would be taken up when the prime ministers of Pakistan and India meet in Harare during the Commonwealth summit.

The Pakistani president and his delegation, which also includes the oil minister, flew into the Saudi summer capital of Jeddah on Monday

## Introduction of multi-party democracy demanded 19 Bhutanese on hunger strike near SAARC Secretariat

KATHIMANDU, Oct 9: Nineteen Bhutanese of Nepalese origin began a 27-hour hunger strike here Tuesday to protest alleged atrocities and ethnic discrimination in their Himalayan homeland, reports AFP.

The group which includes five members of the Bhutan National Assembly who fled to Nepal began the fast outside the Secretariat of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) of which both Nepal and the neighbouring Buddhist

Kingdom of Bhutan are members. In a joint statement the protesters condemned what they called gross violations of human rights and state sanctioned atrocities being perpetrated by the government security forces in Bhutan.

They demanded the immediate introduction of multi-party democracy in Bhutan.

The group is also protesting the opening of the 70th session of the National Assembly in Bhutan, the first in 18 months, an Bhutanese refugee spokesman said in a press

statement. A statement addressed to SAARC leaders alleged the opinion of the Bhutanese people can never be expressed in the National Assembly which has a glaringly biased composition and is used as a rubber stamp to give legitimacy to an absolute monarch's decisions.

Of the 14 elected representatives of the Nepalese descent in the assembly, seven remain in Bhutan after five members fled to Kathmandu one died and another was imprisoned.

More than 15,000 Bhutanese of Nepalese origin have

fled to Nepal since September last year following measures introduced by King Jigme Singye Wangchuk to enforce Drupka or indigenous Bhutanese, customs on the whole country.

The assembly members taking part in the fast said Sunday that the revolt in Bhutan had been enforced by the King because of bar on Nepalese language in schools

the enforcement of the wearing of Drupak dress and restrictions on the Hindu religion.

## Romanian envoy kidnapped in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Oct 9: Unidentified gunmen today kidnapped Romanian Charge d'Affaires to India Liviu Radu while he was driving to his office here, a Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman said, reports AFP.

The spokesman gave no further details, but said a massive police search for the mission diplomat was underway.

Earlier reports from eyewitnesses said two gunmen wielding automatic rifles stopped and seized the car carrying Radu to work from his home in the south Delhi suburb of Jorbagh.

The witnesses said the two gunmen sprang from their vehicle as the black diplomatic car slowed at an intersection, entered it and sped off with their own car following.

Delhi police were tight-lipped about the incident, but confirmed that a high security red alert had been sounded, and that police pickets throughout the Indian capital had been put on alert in search of a black car driven by an Indian, and a second car.

A spokesman from the Romanian embassy also declined comment, saying only: "We can say nothing now. We might be able to say something later."

He declined to say if anyone from the embassy was missing.



HAITI: Judge Joseph Nerette takes the oath as Haiti's new President at the National Parliament. Nerette replaces Jean-Bertrand Aristide who was removed by a military coup.

## Sind Assembly Member injured by gun shot

KARACHI, Oct 9: Unidentified gunmen shot and seriously injured a provincial legislator in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi, government officials said, reports Reuter.

Assana Qadri, a member of the Sind Provincial Assembly belonging to the ethnic Mohajir National Movement (MQM), was shot on Monday night at his home. He and his guard were seriously injured, an official statement said.

Karachi has been hit by a spate of violence since last weekend when four bombs exploded simultaneously outside government offices, killing three people and injuring 34.

The MQM and the religious Jamaat-i-Islami party are at loggerheads in Karachi, although both are political allies of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's 11-month-old government.

## Khmer Rouge detains refugee leaders

BANGKOK, Oct 9: Khmer Rouge guerrillas have detained the civilian leaders of a rebel-controlled Cambodian refugee camp in Thailand, spreading fear among the camp's 44,000 residents, UN officials said Tuesday, reports AP.

The officials said the detention of the 16 administrators from the Site 8 camp could be a prelude to an attempt to force the refugees to move back into portions of Cambodia under Khmer Rouge control.

The Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia from 1975 until they were ousted in 1978 by Vietnamese troops. More than 1 million of the country's 8 million inhabitants died during the Khmer Rouge's radical attempt to restructure Cambodian society.

More than 500,000 refugees fled the civil war that erupted between the Vietnamese-installed government and anti-government factions. The warring factions have agreed to sign a peace treaty this month in Paris.

## BRIEFLY

### US warns Iraq against attack on Kurds:

The United States Tuesday warned Iraq against attacks on civilians in Kurdistan and demanded that Kurdish refugees be allowed to return to their homes, reports AFP from Washington.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said officials were concerned by reports of "indiscriminate Iraqi artillery fire on civilian areas."

"In the past, we have specifically cautioned Iraq about actions in northern Iraq and those warnings still stand," she said.

The United States has banned Iraqi aircraft from flying north of the 36th parallel and has deployed air force units in Turkey to deal with violations. The United Nations also has 441 security troops in the region, Tutwiler noted.

### Iraq destroys 'supergun':

Iraq on Tuesday completed the destruction of its first 'supergun' under Nations supervision, the head of a UN inspection team announced in Baghdad, reports AFP.

Douglas England told reporters the procedure had been carried out by Iraqi technicians over the past three days at the Jubayl Hamayn Military Base 180 kilometres (115 miles) north of Baghdad.

The tubes (gun barrels) are cut into pieces and we verify the final disassembly of the gun," he said.

The supergun had a diameter of 350-millimetres and a barrel measuring 52 metres (170 feet), according to England, who added that Iraq had been able to assemble enough components to manufacture four more giant canons.

### US for trade embargo against Haiti:

The United States, Canada and Latin America support a trade embargo against Haiti to force coup leaders to restore ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power, diplomatic sources said Tuesday, reports AFP from Washington.

The measure being considered by the Organisation of American States (OAS) behind close doors is aimed at economically forcing the coup leaders to capitulate to OAS demands for Aristide's return.

Aristide, in exile in Caracas issued an urgent call to the 34 member OAS to send a civilian mission to support constitutional democracy in Haiti. According to an OAS resolution draft, the organisation appears ready to send such a mission.

The draft resolution would impose an embargo freeze Haitian assets in foreign countries halt petroleum supplies from oil producing countries and suspend air and boat transportation into Haiti.

### US high official leaves Moscow:

US Assistant Secretary of State Reginald Bartholomew left Moscow on Tuesday after three days of talks with Soviet as well as with republican representatives on recent disarmament initiatives put forward by the Soviet Union and Washington, reports AFP.

His departure a day earlier than planned was on account of the success of his mission, which "satisfied both sides," the officials Tass news agency reported.

Bartholomew arrived Saturday, a few hours before president Mikhail Gorbachev's televised presentation of a package of radical cuts to the country's nuclear arsenal.

The Soviet announcement came in response to President George Bush's own initiative eight days earlier which set the ball rolling on superpower cuts by proposing to unilaterally scrap US ground and sea-launched short-range nuclear weapons and proposing the elimination, along with Moscow, of multiple-warhead ballistic missiles.

### France plans to reduce N-tests:

France is planning to reduce next year the number of nuclear tests it carries out annually from the current six to four or five, informed sources said Tuesday, reports AFP from Paris.

The proposal is part of a bill on military planning that must first be submitted for approval to the defence council expected to meet under President Francois Mitterrand sometime during the next few weeks, the sources said.

They said however, that France did not intend for the moment to scrap the tests altogether.

French nuclear tests are conducted underground in French Polynesia mostly in the south Pacific atoll of Mururoa, and have been constantly criticised by Pacific governments and international environmental groups.

### Israel violates Iraqi airspace:

Iraq, in a letter to the United Nations made public Tuesday, complained that four Israeli warplanes violated its airspace for 30 minutes on Friday, reports AFP from New York.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Al-Khadair requested that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar intervene "immediately to take all necessary measures to put an end to these violations."

Such violations "call into question... the credibility of the United Nations and the role incumbent upon it of protecting the independence and territorial integrity of its member states," the letter said.

The Iraq letter, dated October 6, prompted the United States to warn Israel that its actions could endanger UN inspection teams in Iraq, said anonymous diplomatic sources in Washington.

According to Hussein's letter, four Israeli F-15 fighter aircraft on October 4 entered northwestern Iraqi airspace from Syria, flew at low altitude over the western region of Al Kutim and Al Wald, and left 30 minutes later through Saudi Arabia.

## Non-English speaking immigrants discriminated in Australia

SYDNEY, Oct 9: Non-English speaking immigrants find it harder to get jobs and earn less than Australians despite better education, according to a report released yesterday, reports AFP.

Bureau of Immigration Research analysts said they had discovered "a marked level of disadvantage" in most aspects of labour force activity for migrants of non-English speaking background.

Lebanese, Polish and Vietnamese migrants were worst affected while recent migrants from Hong Kong were relatively better off, a spokeswoman told AFP.

The Bureau said it was impossible to conclude the relative disadvantage was attributable to discrimination or to other factors such as age, linguistic disability or unfamiliarity with the Australian economy and society.

But there is continuing and systematic evidence of discrimination at the general workplace level involving in particular immigrants from non-English speaking countries.

This was despite the existence of significant legislation outlawing discrimination and the introduction of racial vilification legislation in some states, the report said.

The "continuing, even if isolated incidents of discrimination" were connected with non-recognition of overseas qualifications, inadequate representation by trade unions.

The study said the non-English speakers has a higher level of participation in the secondary and tertiary education systems than Australians

or migrants from countries such as Britain or New Zealand.

Nevertheless, "they consistently experienced lower labour force participation rates, higher unemployment rates and lower mean weekly earnings than the other two groups," the study said.

The report also predicted they would be disadvantaged by the economic restructuring occurring in Australia because of their low participation rate in workplace training programmes.

Two factors could be contributing to this mismatch," the report said.

Non-English speakers appeared to leave the education system later than the Australian born and therefore could be disadvantaged in competing for jobs and graduates.

## Bush's nominee for HC seeks time to explain sexual misconduct

WASHINGTON, Oct 9: US Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas asked for a two-day delay in his Senate confirmation vote on Tuesday to clear his name of sexual misconduct charges by a former assistant, reports Reuter.

"Clarence Thomas said to me on the phone, I have to clear my name. I have to appear before the appropriate forum and clear my name," Senator John Danforth, a Missouri Republican and Thomas's chief supporter, said in a Senate speech two hours before the scheduled vote.

Danforth said Thomas

waited a delay until Thursday afternoon. "With great pain and great anger I ask for a delay," Danforth said.

Thomas, President George Bush's choice for the High Court, was facing a confirmation vote that has been suddenly clouded by the sexual harassment charge. He has denied the allegation. The charges came from Anita Hill, who worked with Thomas at the education department and the equal employment opportunity commission a decade ago.

Now a law professor at the university of Oklahoma, Hill, 35, said on Sunday that

Thomas pressured her to date him and discussed sex with her, including acts he had seen in pornographic films.

Thomas, 43, is a conservative black appeals court judge who has been named to replace retiring liberal Thurgood Marshall, the only black to have served on the Supreme Court.

The court is a powerful branch of US government, having the power to rule laws unconstitutional. The nine-member court opened its fall session on Monday with Marshall's seat vacant.

Earlier, Thomas issued a dramatic affidavit denying

charges of sexual misconduct as Senate leaders considered demands to delay the vote.

It would take unanimous agreement from all 100 Senators to agree to the delay. Several Senators who were supporting Thomas have said they want a delay to investigate the charges.

"As I told the FBI on September 28, 1991, I totally and unequivocally deny Anita Hill's allegations of misconduct of anykind toward her, sexual or otherwise. These allegations are untrue," Thomas said in a notarised affidavit rejecting sexual harassment charges leveled by his former aide.

## Off the Record

### Turkish politicians now smile more for votes

ANKARA: Turkish politicians are donning T-shirts and smiling more in a bid to woo voters in the October 20 general election, reports Reuter.

Advertising professionals have been called in to help politicians shed their traditional image as said figures in black suits — long seized on in newspaper caricatures.

Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz now smiles out from thousands of posters in a pose which Turkey's press says makes him look like Sean Connery in an old James Bond film.

"People vote for personalities not for ideologies," said French publicist Jacques Seguela, who chose the poster for the ruling Motherland Party.

Yilmaz has also been filmed in T-shirts and photographed at the family breakfast table.

At 43, he is the youngest of the party leaders. Motherland, trailing in third place in opinion polls while prices rise by an annual 67 per cent, hopes this will be a major asset.

Other leaders, photographed in their shirt sleeves among jostling crowds, are also being presented to Turkey's 28 million voters with new images.

Former Prime Minister Sulcyman Demirel, 67, of the opposition Centrist True Path Party has swapped his conservative suits for trendy tweeds.

### Apartheid dying, proclaims Elizabeth

WINDHOEK: In a rare departure, Queen Elizabeth II on Tuesday voiced her opinion in Windhoek on a political matter, saying "apartheid is dying" in South Africa, reports AFP.

The queen told guests at a state banquet in honour of her first visit to Namibia, South Africa's northern neighbour, that "far too many African countries the past few decades have been unhappy ones."

"Drought, disease and war have exacted a heavy toll, and apartheid has sown bitterness and confrontation throughout the continent."

"But now, at last, there is real hope of change, apartheid is dying and South Africa is starting to plan future in which all its citizens will be equal partners," she added.

The queen and her husband, Prince Phillip, arrived in Namibia Tuesday afternoon on a three-day state visit.

### Gods stir up row

WELLINGTON: Plans to erect statues of two ancient Egyptian gods in a public garden have stirred up a religious row in Hamilton, north of here, the Waikato Times reported, says AFP.

Sobek and Horus, gods of water and life, are to be installed at Hamilton gardens soon as a feature display, but local Mayor Margaret Evans said the plan had led to protests from some Christian Church groups.

City officials and a selection of worried churches plan to meet this Friday to discuss the churches' concerns, with Anglican Bishop Roger Herft as an independent mediator.

New Life Centre Leear Pastgr Grahamman Ferry said the churches concerned were at the "charismatic end of the scale," and believed strongly in the biblical commandment against worshipping of other gods and the erection of "graven images."

The complaints, co-ordinated by the New Life Centre, have come from the Assembly of God, Baptist, Methodist, Salvation Army, Apostolic and other churches and organisations.



UNITED NATIONS: Former US President Jimmy Carter (C) holds four-year old Daniella Stelluto while UNICEF Ambassador Audrey Hepburn (R) administrators on oral polio vaccine to promote global immunisation.

### Good news for convicts with life imprisonment

PARIS: French jurists, a decade after the abolition of the death sentence, are deep in debate over whether or not life imprisonment should go the way of the guillotine, reports AFP.

The reason, experts say, is that ever since the capital punishment was abandoned on October 9, 1981, courts have been handing down more and more life sentences.

Their number increased by nearly 56 per cent between 1981 and 1988, according to Justice Ministry figures, compared to an increase of just over seven per cent for the previous seven-year period.

## Croatian Parliament votes to cut all ties with Yugoslavia

ZAGREB (Yugoslavia), Oct 9: The Croatian parliament voted unanimously on Tuesday to cut all ties with Yugoslavia, confirming the republic's declaration of independence, reports Reuter.

Along with neighbouring Slovenia, Croatia originally proclaimed independence on June 25, triggering fighting that has left more than 1,000 people dead and taken the Yugoslav federation to the brink of disintegration.

The parliament confirmed the proclamation after a three-month moratorium on steps towards secession, inspired by the European Community and agreed by both republics, expired on Monday night.

Deputies met in a hotel in

Zagreb, the Croatian capital, after a rocket attack on Monday made the parliament building unusable.

Zagreb radio said they ratified the decision to sever all state and legal ties with Yugoslavia and followed this "historic moment" by singing the Croatian National Anthem.

While guerrillas from Croatia's 600,000-strong Serbian minority, backed by the Ser-led Yugoslav federal army, have battled Croatian forces for more than three months, Slovenia's drive for independence has been accepted by most Yugoslavs because it involves few non-Slovenes.

Slovenia, in north-western Yugoslavia bordering Austria,

quietly carried out practical steps on Tuesday to carve out a separate state.

It established a new Slovenian currency, the tolar, and set up eight of 34 planned border posts with Croatia, Slovenian radio reported.

Another report from Washington says: Two Yugoslav consular officials of Croatian background resigned their posts in New York and Chicago on Tuesday to protest against Yugoslav military attacks in Croatia, reports Reuter from Washington.

Zdravko Stojanovic, Consul in Chicago, and Ivo Segedin, Deputy Consul General in New York, announced their resignations at a news conference in Washington.



JERUSALEM: Masked Palestinian youths wave a Palestinian flag during a march commemorating the first anniversary of the killing of 18 Palestinians by the Israeli police during a riot on the mosque compound.