

# 10,000 flee Iraq to escape napalm

TEHRAN, Oct 13: Some 10,000 people fled parts of northern Iraq early Saturday to escape napalm bombs that Iraqi fighter jets and helicopters dropped following clashes with Kurdish guerrillas, news reports here said, reports AFP.

Residents of the town of Koral and surrounding villages crowded roads leading to the northern provincial capital of Sulaymaniyah, an Iraqi opposition group quoted by the Iranian news agency, IRNA, reported.

"Iraqi fighters and helicopters used napalm bombs in their attacks following skirmishes between Kurds and government troops," the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) said.

In southern Iraq, meanwhile, it said the situation is "tense" in the towns of Major and Maymun in Missan province.

Agents for the ruling Baath Party are harassing people during the day and hiding behind fortifications as dusk approaches for fear of retaliation from the local population, Sairi was reported to have said.

There were no details on the nature of the harassment.



ISLAMABAD: Benazir Bhutto shows a government advertisement published in the International Herald Tribune, as part of a four month campaign in major publications at an alleged cost of 15 million Rupees (\$ 6 lakh) with a map where Kashmir is part of India. Bhutto accused the government of leaving Pakistan "vulnerable" while India is massing troops on the border. —AFP/UNB photo

# Romania seeks Pak help to release kidnapped envoy

NEW DELHI, Oct 13: The Romanian authorities have asked Pakistan to exert pressure on Punjab militant outfits for the safe release of their kidnapped Charge D' Affaires, L. Radu, official sources said today, reports PTI.

These militant groups allegedly had "close links" with an intelligence organisation across the border which was giving directions to the ultras, according to sources.

Some people who were arrested from the disturbed areas of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab had disclosed during their interrogation that they had instructions to step up kidnappings and attack "soft targets," in India, the sources said.

Even literature and documents were found from some arrested persons indicating the methods of operation of militants and ways to give publicity to acts of abduction and violence.

The militants, sources said, wanted to give publicity to their act especially kidnappings and in turn put pressure of authorities.

# Interim govt in Pakistan demanded Ishaq's in-laws thrive on corruption: 60 fighters grounded, says Benazir

ISLAMABAD, Oct 13: Former Premier Benazir Bhutto demanded here Saturday the formation of an interim government of national consensus, claiming the present government had led Pakistan into a dismal state, reports AFP.

Making sweeping charges of mismanagement, corruption and mishandling of external relations, the opposition leader said Pakistan "stands on the threshold of imminent disaster brought about by a co-terre of power-hungry and unrepresentative people."

Addressing a press conference, she said the interim government should hold fresh elections to "restore power to the people."

She blamed President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for the "dismal" situation. Bhutto's 20-month premiership ended in August 1990 with her dismissal by Khan.

The former Premier said the present government had grounded most of the 60 F-16 fighter-bombers Pakistan had secured from the United States during her rule.

Naval ships were docked in the harbour and a tank project was also in danger amid reports that Germany had declined to supply spare parts, she said.

This left Pakistan vulnerable at a time when Indian troops were "on our borders as the uprising in Kashmir escalates," she added.

She said the Rupee had been devalued from 21.4 to the dollar during her government to its current 29 to the dollar.

She also claimed that prices of food, fertilizer, military spare parts and debt-rescheduling would increase rapidly, heralding "economic chaos and collapse."

"The President's in-laws are flourishing while the nation is wasting away," Bhutto said, adding that because of the patronage these in-laws received from the Sharif government, Khan was "deaf, dumb and blind about corruption, lawlessness, violence and abuse of power."

Bhutto alleged that licence granted during her government to British communications firm Paktel and the US Swedish-Pakistan Instaphone joint venture were revoked by the present government, which revised the contracts to benefit one of the President's son-in-laws.

She said terrorists were in control in her home province of Sindh.

Earlier Saturday, Bhutto appeared in the Supreme Court for a hearing of her petition seeking transfer of corruption cases against her from a special tribunal in Lahore, Punjab, to the southern city of Karachi.

The petition alleged that the judge at the Lahore tribunal, Rashid Aziz Khan, was "motivated in the proceedings against her by bias."

A full bench of the Supreme Court will resume the sitting in nearby Rawalpindi today.

Armed police contingents were posted around the Supreme Court building for the hearing, with entry restricted to holders of special admission cards.

# BRIEFLY

**Iraq protests bombing on Kurds:** Iraq on Saturday issued a "forceful" protest to Turkey, a day after Turkish planes bombed a Kurdish village on its territory, and accused the Turkish forces of using Napalm in the attack, the official INA news agency said, quoting the foreign ministry in Baghdad, reports AFP.

The attack, which Turkey said was aimed at flushing out Turkish Kurds who it believes are holding seven Turkish soldiers in the region, left at least three people dead and 35 wounded, according to eyewitness reports from northern Iraq.

The Iraqi statement made no mention of a reported ground incursion into northern Iraq by some 3,000 Turkish troops on Saturday.

But it said Friday's raid was "a flagrant violation of Iraq's territorial integrity," and would "cause serious damage to good neighbour relations between the Iraqi and Turkish peoples."

**USSR to renew ties with Israel:** The Soviet Union will renew diplomatic relations with Israel next week during a visit by Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin to the region, Israel television said on Saturday, reports Reuter from Jerusalem.

The television's Moscow correspondent said the announcement would come after US Secretary of State James Baker announces that all obstacles to the convening of a Middle East peace conference have been lifted.

Baker is due in the region Sunday for his eighth round of talks with Arab and Israeli leaders.

The television report said on invitation to the conference signed by US President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had already been sent to Israel's foreign ministry.

The Soviet Union severed ties with Israel after the 1967 Middle East war.

**80 pc turnout in Kirghiz polls:** Over 80 per cent of voters had taken part in Presidential elections in the central Asian Soviet Republic of Kirghizstan Saturday at 1800 (1200 GMT), the Electoral Commission said, reports AFP from Soviet Union.

The republic with a population of 4.3 million inhabitants has 2.3 million voters.

The current parliamentary President, Askar Akayev, is the only candidate.

**17 killed in Mujahideen attack:** The Afghan government said on Saturday that guerrillas besieging the eastern city of Jalalabad killed 17 people and injured dozens more with heavy artillery and rocket fire, reports Reuter from Kabul.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the attack on the capital of Nangarhar province was the guerrilla response for failures in their attack on another city Gardiz.

Afghan Mujahideen fighters said in Pakistan on Saturday they had launched a big artillery attack on Jalalabad in preparation for a ground offensive.

"They told us that from all sides there is heavy artillery firing on the positions of the regime," a spokesman for the Hezb-i-Islami guerrilla group said. "So far the infantry attack has not started yet."

**Syrian President leaves Cairo:** Syrian President Hafez El-Assad left Cairo Saturday after a six-hour visit to Egypt which was devoted to talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on a Middle East peace conference, reports AFP.

Assad's visit came before U S Secretary of State James Baker was due to arrive in Egypt on the first stop in a new tour of the region.

Mubarak and Assad met for two hours alone and were joined by delegations from both countries, Egyptian Information Minister Safwat El-Sherif said.

He said both Assad and Mubarak stressed the need to adhere to UN Security Council resolutions 224 and 338 which call for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict based on an exchange of Israeli-occupied Arab territory for peace.

**Bishwanath Mukherjee dead:** Veteran Communist leader Bishwanath Mukherjee died after a massive heart attack at the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in New Delhi Saturday, reports PTI.

The 77-year old leader, husband of CPI MP Geeta Mukherjee, was hospitalised on September 12, after he suffered an attack of Asthma, family sources said.

During treatment, his kidneys also malfunctioned, the sources said, adding that the end came at about 0800 hours after he suffered a heart attack.

Mukherjee's body would be taken to Calcutta by an Indian airlines flight this evening, where the last rites would be performed.

**Reagan arrives in Rabat:** Former U S President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy arrived in Rabat late on Saturday for a four-day private visit to Morocco at the invitation of King Hassan II, reports AFP.

The Reagans were due to meet the Moroccan monarch this evening, when King Hassan will be hosting a dinner for them at his palace.

They are due to see the sights of the country, with visits to the cities of Fez and Marrakesh, before leaving for London on Wednesday.

# Nepali communists disheartened!

KATHMANDU, Oct 13: A group of 3,205 activists of the Nepal Communist Party said Saturday they had joined the ruling Nepal Congress Party because of Communist failure in the Soviet Union, reports AFP.

Many of the 3,205 activists of the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist NCP (UML) were from the central committee of the party, an NCP (UML) source said.

The activists in a press release urged all Nepalese to help the ruling Nepal Congress in "strengthening democracy."

They cited the failure of seven decades of Communism in the Soviet Union and said "the event (in the Soviet Union) testifies that Communist bolsters dictatorial tendencies."

Those who abandoned the party included Kathmandu district committee members, Nepal Congress sources said.

Former Assistant Minister Karna Bahadur Singh a member of the National Democratic Party, has also dissociated himself from his party and joined the Nepal Congress, pledging his unconditional support for the ruling party, sources said.

# Hindu temples attacked in Fiji, holy books burnt

SUVA, Oct 13: Attacks on Hindu temples and a priest by suspected Christian fundamentalists here have reopened old wounds and memories of Fiji's worst religious violence two years ago, reports AFP.

The racially motivated desecrations, which follow a recent spate of arson on sacred Hindu shrines and holy books over the last three weeks, sparked strong condemnation from political and religious groups today.

Friday's attack on a priest and suspected Hindu fundamentalists here have reopened old wounds and memories of Fiji's worst religious violence two years ago, reports AFP.

The influential Fiji Youth and Students League, which has spearheaded recent ethnic Indian moves to change Fiji's new racist constitution, blamed the attack on the government's "preachings about the dominance of one religion."

It claimed that unless the government omits itself to "treating all religions equally, such violence is bound to grow."

Arsonists set fire to a popular Hindu temple here last Friday, destroyed a holy book, Ramayana, while another group terrorised the priest.

Ethnic Indian religious groups condemned the attacks and have linked them to terrorist assaults on temples belonging to Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims in 1989, recorded as the worst religious violence since ethnic Indians settled here 112 years ago.

Fourth Christian youths were charged for their role in the violence but were later acquitted after appeal from the Methodist church.

The main Indian political group, the National Federation Party, questioned police pressure groups today.

# Neo-Nazi attack on foreigners protested

BONN, Oct 13: Thousands of demonstrators marched through several German cities on Saturday to protest against a wave of Neo-Nazi attacks on foreigners, reports Reuter.

Police said around 3,000 people attended the largest march in Saarbruecken under the slogan "yesterday the synagogues burned — today it's the refugee homes."

This was a reference to Nazi attacks on Jews which culminated in their mass extermination during World War Two.

Smaller demonstrations were held in the states of Hamburg, Schleswig-Holstein and north Rhine-Westphalia.

Neo-Nazi gangs have carried out a series of attacks on immigrants and asylum-seekers in Germany in the last month.



KIEV: A worker maneuvers near the summit of the Lenin monument in Kiev's Independence Square. The head was lifted off the monument shortly after and taken to Kiev's History Museum. —AFP/UNB photo

# Cong-I nominates Satish Sharma for Amethi seat

NEW DELHI, Oct 13: Captain Satish Sharma, a close associate of late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, is likely to contest the Amethi Lok Sabha by-election following Mrs Sonia Gandhi's decision not to enter the electoral fray, reports PTI.

The Congress-I parliamentary board at a late night meeting here finalised the candidature of Captain Sharma, a member of the Rajya Sabha, for the Amethi Constituency, party sources said.

The board also cleared the candidature of the Defence Minister, Shard Pawar, for the Baramatti Lok Sabha Constituency in Maharashtra, the sources said.

The board will meet again tomorrow to finalise nominees for the New Delhi and 13 other Lok Sabha seats.

# Off the Record

**New-look Pepsi by year end**

NEW YORK: Pepsi-Cola is changing its familiar red, white and blue logo, the company announced Sunday, reports AP.

The new-look cans and bottles of Pepsi and Diet Pepsi should start turning up in stores nationwide by the end of the year and in global markets throughout 1991, Pepsi officials said.

But is the swirl logo featuring a wide red horizontal bar topped by a red and blue circular design with the word "Pepsi" in blue in the middle.

It is a much narrower red bar topped by a smaller version of the old logo, minus the brand name in the middle. On cans, the word "Pepsi" is written sideways and vertically in Italian capital typeface.

The new design for Diet Pepsi closely resembles the new design for Pepsi, but with more white and less red. The change is meant to more closely link the sister products, Weatherup said.

It's the first permanent change in Pepsi's logo since 1973 and the eighth this century.

Industry analyst Jesse Myers, publisher of the magazine Beverage Digest, called the new Pepsi logo "very contemporary."

# They too protest

LONDON: Queen Elizabeth, who heads Britain's Armed Forces, and her son, Prince Charles, have privately protested to the government over its decision to disband a certain number of Battalions, the Sunday Times reported here, reports AFP.

Prince Charles, who is Colonel in Chief of three of the regiments to be disbanded, has written to Prime Minister John Major to ask him to consider "the implications of rushing into such drastic reductions," the paper said.

The Queen, for her part, has privately told senior Tories that she is unhappy with the way the defence review has been conducted, the Sunday Times added.

The Army Chief of Staff, General Sir John Chapple, has also written to the Defence Secretary, Tom King, to express concern over the proposed reductions.

Last June, King announced that the army would be cut by about 25 per cent, from 155,000 to 116,000 men, with a reduction in the number of battalions from 55 to 38.

Both the Ministry of Defence and Buckingham Palace refused to confirm or deny the newspaper's reports.

# 40 m AIDS cases by 2000

BANGKOK: Unless checked now, 40 million people could have the virus that causes AIDS by the year 2000, a World Health Organization expert said Saturday, reports AP.

The seriousness of AIDS remains hidden because infected people do not become ill for eight to 10 years. M.H Merson told a World Bank seminar on the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. The seminar was part of a series of meetings and forums preceding the Bank's annual meeting here next week.

"Worldwide, WHO projects that by the year 2000, a total of 30 (million) to 40 million men, women and children will have been infected with HIV since the start of the pandemic," Merson said.

"This will represent a tripling or quadrupling of the present total in just over eight years' time."

HIV is the human immunodeficiency virus.

There is no evidence any racial or ethnic group is more susceptible or more resistant to the virus, he said. But Asia has 55 per cent of the world's population.

People in developed countries usually live one to two years after being diagnosed as having AIDS, while those in developing countries often survive less than a year, he said.

# Wedding role wish comes true

LONDON: A young girl's wish to be a bridesmaid was fulfilled, thanks to an appeal in the personal columns of The Times.

Lydia Waine, aged eight, dressed in lavender-blue silk, took her place alongside two other bridesmaids and a page boy at the wedding in a Northamptonshire village of Janice Bromwich and Angus Hudson, who sent the much desired invitation after reading Lydia's appeal earlier this year.

"She has been running about like a cat on a hot tin roof for the last week," said Lydia's father, Stephen Waine, who placed the notice on her behalf. "I could think of no other way of achieving it. She's been desperate to be a bridesmaid for years, but we had no family about to tie the knot." Lydia has also received the promise of an invitation to be bridesmaid for an English woman who lives in France.

# Fire shuts Chernobyl N-power plant

MOSCOW, Oct 13: The worst accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant since the 1986 disaster has intensified calls to shut it down, but the plant's director says it will stay open while repairs are made, reports AP.

The blaze Friday night destroyed part of the plant's roof but did not cause a radiation leak or injuries, the government said Saturday.

But the accident was certain to have political repercussions.

Whether to close the plant quickly, or wait for a replacement to be built, already is a major campaign issue in the Ukraine's first popular presidential election Dec. 1.

"We cannot sit on this powder keg any longer," Vladimir Yavorivsky, head of a Ukrainian parliamentary commission on Chernobyl, told reporters in Kiev, 80 miles (130 kilometers) south of Chernobyl.

The plant's director, Mikhail Umanets, told reporters he saw no reason to shut down the station, which produces 30,000 kilowatts of electricity a day. He said it would take 30-45 days to repair the damage.

Three of the power plant's four reactors have continued operating since then.

Yevgeny Ignatenko, a spokesman for the Ministry of the Atomic Power Industry in Moscow, said Friday's fire broke out as a turbine driven by the plant's No. 2 reactor was being idled for repairs.

The 1986 disaster involved the No. 4 reactor, now permanently out of commission.

Ignatenko said that in the midst of the planned shutdown, "an automatic switch turned the reactor on again," producing a surge of current that ignited the insulating material on some electric cables.

His statement, carried by Tass, said the initial fire was extinguished within a minute. However, some hydrogen leaked into the turbine room and burst into flames, setting the roof ablaze and destroying a truss, the statement said.