

**Independent army idea splits NATO**

TAORMINA, Sicily, Oct 18 : NATO announcing the biggest nuclear arms cuts in its history, has put the nightmare of atomic war behind it and ended years of wrangling within the alliance about how to deal with doomsday weapons, reports Reuter.

But alliance defence ministers who agreed the cuts on Thursday in the latest move in a new disarmament race, must now tackle another issue that has split NATO whether to set up an independence European army.

The ministers spent much of the first day of their two-day meeting discussing a Franco-German plan to form such a force and give the European community a defence role for the first time.

Britain, worried that the plan would undermine the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation by creating a rival structure for the defence of the West, attacked it.

**UN set to protect small states from external threats**

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 18 : United Nations Special Political Committee yesterday unanimously adopted a resolution on the protection and security of small states, reports BSS.

The resolution, sponsored by the Maldives and co-sponsored by 64 other states including Bangladesh, will now go to the General Assembly. Recognising that small states may be particularly vulnerable to external threats and acts of interference in their internal affairs, it stressed the vital importance for all states to show unconditional respect to all the principles of the UN charter, and appealed to the relevant regional and international organisations to provide assistance when requested by small states for strengthening of their security in accordance with charter principles.

Barrister Aminul Huq, State

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and Bangladesh delegate in a statement at the meeting hoped that the United Nations would play a leading role in promoting and protecting the interests of small states.

He said protection and security of small states required collective attention of the international community. He said it was recognised that small states may be particularly vulnerable to external threats and acts of interference in their internal affairs.

Barrister Huq said that as were approached the term of the century, there had been profound change in the international relations. We had seen how Kuwait a small country, became a victim of Iraqi aggression and collective action of the United Nations restored its independence and sovereignty, he said.

He said that while the international community had a major role in the protection and security of small states, there was need for the UN to take lead in creating a much-needed protective environment for small states, primarily by building upon the arrangement that had already existed under the international collective security system envisaged in the charter of the United Nations.

Reuter adds : The UN General Assembly on Wednesday elected Cape Verde, Hungary, Japan, Morocco and Venezuela to two-year terms on the Security Council beginning on January 1.

They replace Ivory Coast, Romania, Yemen, Zaire and Cuba, whose terms on the 15-nation council expire at the end of this year. The five other non-permanent council mem-

bers, whose two-year stints expire at the end of 1992, are Austria, Belgium, Ecuador, India and Zimbabwe.

The five permanent members, with veto power, are the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, China and France.

The new members were the only candidates of their regional groups, but the assembly went through the formality of a secret ballot in which Cape Verde and Japan each received 158 votes, Venezuela obtained 154, Hungary 149 and Morocco 148.

In scattered support for countries that were not official candidates, Nigeria obtained two votes while Argentina, Honduras, Tunisia and Yugoslavia each received one vote.

Cape Verde has not previously served on the council.

**Thai police hunt for AIDS carrier teenagers**

BANGKOK, Oct 18 : Thai police are hunting for a group of teenagers suspected to be AIDS carriers who have attacked people at shopping complexes here with needles tainted with their blood, a Public Health Ministry official said today, reports AFP.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said many shoppers, mostly girl students, had been stabbed by the unknown group of male teenagers with hypodermic syringes after they had used the needles to draw blood from themselves at department stores here.

Most of the incidents, which began in June, took place at Mah Boonkrong shopping center, one of the major department stores in central Bangkok, and the attackers would leave a note saying : "Welcome to AIDS Carriers Association" after stabbing the victim's arm and running away, the official said.

The latest similar incident occurred Wednesday at the same shopping center and the victim was a young woman bringing to four the number of reported cases, the official said, adding that the exact number of victims was still unknown because they were afraid of reporting to police.

Of the three other reported cases so far, all young women, all the victims have been found to be infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) which in most cases leads to AIDS, the official said, adding there was no indication they had been infected prior to the attacks.

**22 killed in Punjab**

CHANDIGARH, Oct 18 : In their continued offensive against security personnel, militants shot dead two policemen and six of their family members in Punjab, where fourteen others including 12 militants have been killed since last night, police said here, reports PTI.

Militants raided the house of head constable Surinder Singh in village Kot Razada and shot dead his five relatives. Militants entered the residence of head constable Sardool Singh, posted at Ajala and shot dead his brother Jaspal Singh and injured his two other brothers.

In another attack on security personnel militants shot dead head constable Satwinder Singh, who was posted at police post Kum Kalan, in village Barsal in Ludhiana district.

Militants shot dead a CRPF Jawan near village Begowal in Kapurthala district while he was on duty at the Ram Lila grounds.

**Ter-Petrosyan elected Armenian President**

YEREVAN, Soviet Union, Oct 18 : A former political prisoner who says he will lead Armenia to full independence from Moscow has won the republic's first Presidential election by a landslide, reports Reuter.

Levon Ter-Petrosyan won 83.05 per cent of the vote in Wednesday's poll, according to preliminary results from 63 out of 66 regions, election officials said late on Thursday.

"Ter-Petrosyan means stable politics and dynamic firm movement towards independence," Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyian said in an interview.

Syrian-born Ter-Petrosyan, a calm, scholarly man who speaks 10 languages, was jailed for six months in 1988-89 for propagating Armenian nationalism.

He became chairman of parliament last year after nationalists defeated Armenia's communists in elections.

**Off the Record**

**Saddam didn't want Arabs to think him as greedy**

BAGHDAD : Saddam Hussein's son says his father decided to release thousands of foreign hostages during the Gulf crisis "so we would not be called a bunch of monsters", reports Reuter.

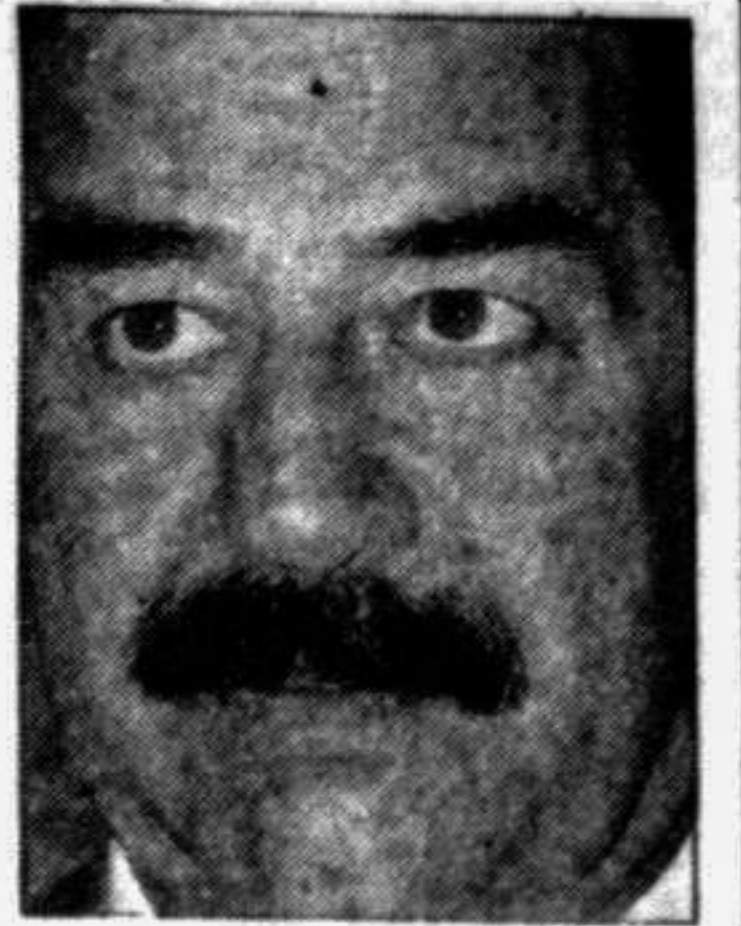
In a rare insight into his father's thinking in the early days of the crisis, Uday Saddam Hussein said Saddam held back from invading Saudi Arabia after his conquest of Kuwait because he hid not want the Arab world to think him "greedy".

Uday's recollections, of the early days of the crisis were published in his newspaper "Babil" on Thursday, providing Iraqis with some answers to questions they had often put to themselves.

Uday was reminiscing to Arab journalists covering a weekend conference of the popular Arab forces movement, a loose grouping of trade unionists and organisations sympathetic to Saddam and opposed to UN trade sanctions against Iraq.

Why did Iraq not simply keep the thousands of Westerners and other nationals it held as "guests" when its invasion of Kuwait in August last year prompted Saudi Arabia to summon thousands of US troops to its aid?

"We did not treat them badly because we did not want to be called by history a bunch of monsters who do not have any manners", Uday quoted his father as saying. They were released in batches as Washington marshalled its forces in Saudi Arabia.



**Fake nun meets Pope**

RIO DE JANEIRO, (Brazil) : Brazil's most famous fake nun is grabbing headlines again, this time for slipping in to greet Pope John Paul II during a meeting with President Fernando Collor de Mello, reports AP.

Three years after posing as a nun to negotiate an end to a hostage incident, the woman donned a nun's habit and talked her way into a receiving line of Cabinet ministers and congressmen when the Pope visited the presidential palace in Brasilia on Tuesday.

When John Paul passed by, she fell to the floor with a look of religious rapture and grasped the Pope around the waist as Collor looked on. The Pope smiled and patted the kneeling woman on the head.

The woman, who later identified herself to reporters as "Sister Sallette," then rose and posed for pictures embracing the president and his wife.

When the photos appeared in the nation's newspapers Wednesday, she was recognized as Sallette Maria Vieira, better known as "Sister Leticia," who became an overnight celebrity during a dramatic 1988 robbery and kidnapping in southern Brazil.

In that incident, the country watched live television broadcasts as police sharpshooters surrounded a bank where robbers held hostages. A shootout seemed inevitable, when suddenly a smiling nun appeared and offered to talk to the bandits.

"Sister Leticia" negotiated a deal that allowed the robbers to flee in an airplane, taking her as a hostage. She was released unhurt with a tenth of the stolen money, about 9,000 Dollars, as a reward from the thieves.

**Farmer sets night club on fire**

SEOUL : A South Korean farmer angered by insults from waiters at a nightclub poured petrol on the dance floor and ignited it, killing 16 people, police said Friday, reports Reuter.

A police spokesman said more than 20 people were injured in the blaze on Thursday night at the Kosngwan nightclub in Taegu, South Korea's third largest city.

"The place quickly caught fire and people began to panic," said a witness who escaped.

Thirty-year-old suspect Kim Jung-Soo was caught by police as he tried to flee.

According to the police spokesman, Kim said : "I asked for drinks, and the waiters called me a 'country boy'. I then got angry."

After being denied service, Kim returned with a container of petrol, police said. He entered the nightclub through a back exit, doused the dance floor with gasoline and set it on fire.

**Young love's new obstacle**

BEIJING : Young love has met a new obstacle at Beijing University as campus police energetically enforce a new rule against hugging and kissing in public, reports AP.

Students and teachers said more than 100 violators have been caught since the rule took effect October 5. They said police reprimand and record the names of first-time offenders, but repeat offenders may be fined an undetermined amount or given school demerits. Everybody thinks it's really ridiculous," said a male student.

Chinese abhorrence of public displays of affection has relaxed considerably in recent years, now here more so than on college campuses. In warm weather, cuddling couples can be found on the benches around Beijing University Lake.

The school's new rule, which has been posted prominently and read on the campus loudspeaker system, says public hugging and kissing are an "outrage against decency."

"In order to improve the educational environment and build a good school spirit beneficial to students we must resolutely stop uncivilized behavior on campus," said a poster announcing the kissing ban and other new rules order students to wear "clean, neat, simple and tasteful clothes," ban men from walking about bare-chested, forbid whistling and shouting after 11 pm and ban bottle-breaking.

Students at the university and other colleges sometimes have smashed bottles as a form of political protest because the word for "little bottle," xiao ping, sounds like the name of China's top leader, Deng Xiaoping.

Political education at it and other schools has been stepped up since the movement was crushed, and Beijing University freshmen now must spend a year at a military academy before beginning regular classes.

**BRIEFLY**

**Presidential poll in Kazakhstan Dec 1 :** The Parliament in the Soviet central Asian republic of Kazakhstan has voted to hold the first presidential elections by popular vote, with voting set for December 1, the unofficial news agency Interfax said Thursday, AFP reports from Moscow.

According to the vote, which took place on Wednesday, candidate who wish to run against the existing President, Nursultan Nazarbayev, have to collect 100,000 signatures in their support to do so.

Nazarbayev has already said he will be a candidate.

**BJP to go ahead with temple plan :** Hours after suspected Sikh militants attacked Hindus celebrating their most important festival, the right-wing Hindu party governing India's most populous state announced it would go ahead with plans which could further escalate religious tensions, reports Reuter.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said in Lucknow Thursday that a plan to start building a temple on the site of a mosque in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh would proceed as scheduled.

The statement was issued a day after bombs believed to have been planted by Sikh militants killed at least 55 people in the village of Bajpur near the town of Rudrapur in Uttar Pradesh.

**USSR needs \$10b food aid :** The Soviet Union will require 10 billion to 11 billion dollars in aid from all sources this year to meet its needs for food and livestock feed, US Agriculture Secretary Edward Madigan said in Minneapolis Thursday, reports Reuter.

Madigan, who returned last week from a fact-finding mission to the Soviet Union, said, "there is going to be a problem in all republics of the Soviet Union particularly with regard to food grains."

"There are going to be spot shortages of certain food items for human consumption", he said.

However, he said he does not believe there will be out-and-out famine.

Despite the shortages, Madigan said the food supply situation is highly variable from republic to republic and even within republics.

**PLO okays 7 Palestinians for talks :** PLO leaders on Thursday approved seven Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to attend delegation with Jordan, Palestinian sources in Tunis said, reports AP.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the decision was made at a closed-door session of the Palestine Liberation Organization's 90-member Central Council.

The issue of Palestinian participation had been one of the major unanswered questions as US Secretary of States James A. Baker III and other diplomats sought agreement on an Oct 29 opening date for the first-ever direct talks between Israel and all its Arab neighbors.

A senior member of the council, Yasser Rabbo, later confirmed in an interview with Radio France International that the council had approved the Palestinian portion of a joint delegation. He did not identify the delegates.

**'Iraq's N-know-how sophisticated' :** Iraq's nuclear know-how is so sophisticated that it could resume its shattered atomic weapons programme unless blocked by constant foreign inspections, a Senior UN inspector told senators Thursday, reports AP from Washington.

If the allied bombings had not interrupted its ambitious programme during the Gulf War, he testified, Iraq would have manufactured sufficient fuel for a nuclear bomb within 12 to 18 months.

The assessment was furnished by David Kay, the American deputy leader of the international inspection team that is searching out and destroying the Iraqi nuclear programme.

Kay, who works for the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency based in Vienna, Austria, reported to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee about his team's seven missions to Iraq in the past four months.

He said intelligence information provided by the United States and its allies has been invaluable to the United Nations' project.

**Drug barons set up shop in Brazil :** Cocaine barons have set up shop in the western jungles of Brazil, drawing the vast nations into Latin American's spreading drug industry, AP from Rio-de Janeiro reports.

Traffickers use portable laboratories to turn coca paste into cocaine for shipment to the voracious US and European markets. Cocaine seizures in Brazil have tripled in three years.

Nearly every corner of society seems to be touched. Brazilians of all classes are taking more drugs and starting younger. Lawmakers and businessmen are under investigation for involvement in the trade.

Many slum dwellers regard drug dealers as heroes because they sponsor neighborhood dances and parties, provide protection from petty criminals and give food and clothing to the needy.

In 1988, police caught Melo-Kilo (Half-Kilo), a trafficker who operated in Rio's notorious Jacarezinho slum. Half-Kilo was killed in October 1988 when he fell from a helicopter during an attempt prison break. Residents chipped in to erect a copper bust of him in Jacarezinho's main square.

"Brazil is no longer on the fringe of the Latin drug trade; it is coming to be the center of it," said Paulo Magalhães, director of the federal police narcotics division.

**Croats join mass exodus :** Thousands of Croat soldiers and civilians Thursday joined a mass exodus from Dubrovnik and another besieged Croatian stronghold as the army launched an all-out onslaught on parts of the breakaway republic, AP reports.

The outskirts of the medieval port of Dubrovnik came under fire from the air, sea and land in the afternoon, with warplanes bombing the Marina at Rijeka Dubrovačka on the northern outskirts of the one-time tourist Mecca, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said.



RUDRAPUR, India : Parents cradle their injured son at Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital after suspected Sikh militants exploded 2 powerful bombs Wednesday night during a crowded Hindu religious festival and afterwards just outside the Nehru medical facility, killing atleast 55 people and injuring more than 125.

**Islamabad behind Uttar Pradesh blasts : Indian daily**

NEW DELHI, Oct 18 : A leading Indian newspaper accused Pakistan today of trying to dismember India and called on the government to get tough with Islamabad, reports Reuter.

In its angriest anti-Pakistani editorial in months, the Times of India accused Islamabad of being behind bomb blasts that killed at least 42 people at a Hindu festival on Wednesday night and the kidnap of Romanian diplomat Liviu Radu.

The bombs exploded in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, bordering Punjab where Sikh militants are fighting for independence. Police blamed them for the bombs.

Radu was kidnapped by Sikhs on October 9 as he drove to his embassy in New Delhi.

These were definite indications that Islamabad is hell-bent on spreading subversion beyond Punjab and Kashmir," said the newspaper, which frequently reflects official thinking.

"There is ruthless clarity in their new design — terrorism. In the Hindi heartland is expected to create panic, provoke a backlash and add to Hindu-Sikh discord."

"It must be demonstrated to Pakistan that any master plan for the vivisection of India is an elusive pipedream. Rather than responding in an ad-hoc way to provocation and internal subversion, India must take the offensive," it added.

"Besides evolving a domestic consensus for a ruthless crackdown on subversion, the government would be well advised to consider unorthodox ways of taking on the terrorists. Squeamishness has no place in the battle for national survival."

The Times of India made no specific suggestion on what "unorthodox ways" might be.

Almost all Indian officials believe Islamabad directs the uprisings in Punjab and in Kashmir, where Muslims are battling Indian rule, Islamabad denies such charges.

Tensions between the two countries, which have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947, have been high for the past two years, since the uprising

began in disputed Kashmir.

Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao of India and Pakistan's Nawaz Sharif met for the first time in Harare on Thursday during the Commonwealth summit, in what they called a "get acquainted" session.

"From now on it will be much easier for us to interact on several issues. We will redouble our efforts to find solutions to these problems," Rao told reporters afterwards.



YEREVAN, Armenia : Levon Ter-Petrosyan (L) helps his wife Ludmia vote in Armenia's Presidential elections on Oct 16. Ter-Petrosyan holds the lead with over 70% of the electorate voting for him at the latest count. —AFP/UNB photo

**De Gennes Newton of our time, Ernst Pope of NMR**

PARIS, Oct 18 : Pierre-Gilles de Gennes received the news of his 1991 Nobel Physics Prize with the same brilliant simplicity which is the hallmark of his work, reports Reuter.

"Above all one shouldn't get big-headed. The crowning of our lives is not at all the reward. It is above all our children," the College de France professor, a father of seven, said.

Dubbed "the Isaac Newton of our time," de Gennes, 59, is an expert at explaining complex scientific principles simply and turning fundamental research into rapidly usable ideas.

He is currently trying to explain how glue works, a field with huge potential industrial uses.

DeGennes did key basic research into liquid crystals, now used in a wide range of every-

day into liquid crystals, now used in a wide range of everyday appliances from digital watches to pocket calculators and portable computers.

He has also done pioneering work on the structure of tex-

tiles, useful for developing sophisticated modern fabrics and washing powders.

Asked by a radio interviewer to describe his achievements, de Gennes said, "Firstly, a fairly old one was liquid crystals, which are used to display the time on watches."

"A more recent example is the science of polymers ... of textile fibres, how to make fibres that are spun by a machine at high speed at 6,000 metres (6,600 yards) a minute. We had some ideas on how very long chains of molecules work, they are intertwined a bit like spaghetti in a soup," he said.

De Gennes said his latest work involved explaining the principles of adhesion.

"You know now-a-days they are starting to make planes that are glued together in-

stead of riveted. It is fantastic in practice. But in terms of understanding what happens ... we are still stumbling," he said.

He will use the proceeds of the prize to develop the higher



Pierre-Gilles de Gennes

school of physics and chemistry which he heads in Paris.

AFP adds from Stockholm : The 1991 Nobel Prize for Chemistry was awarded Swiss Professor Richard Ernst for his work on nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (NMR), an instrumental measuring technique.

Ernst, dubbed by his colleagues "The Pope of NMR," is to receive six million Swedish Crowns, equivalent to 904,630 dollars, as a result of his Nobel Prize.

The Academy said NMR is "used within practically all branches of chemistry" and is "important in relates sciences, such as physics, biology and medicine."

Its most important applications are "as a tool for the determination of molecular structure in solution," the Academy said.

Ernst, 58, born in the



Richard Ernst

northern Swiss town of Winterthur, has been a Professor of Chemistry at the Zurich Polytechnic University, Eidgenossische Technische Hochschule Zurich, since 1976.

Before that, he worked as a research scientist at Varian Associates, in Palo Alto, California between 1963 and 1968.

He had received many awards in the past, notably the Wolf Prize in chemistry, which he shared with an American scientist, Alex Pines, earlier this year. He had also been made a member of the National Academy of Science in the United States this year.

Another application, to which Ernst made important methodological contributions, is in obtaining magnetic resonance images (MRI). MRI instruments are used widely in hospitals, the Academy said.

Ernst, 58, born in the