

BRIEFLY

Major-Kohl meet postponed : A meeting scheduled Friday between British Prime Minister John Major and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has been postponed because of a car accident involving Kohl's son Peter, a Downing Street spokesman said late Thursday, reports AFP from London.

The Chancellor's son was said to be in critical condition in hospital in northern Italy after his car went off the road, Kohl's wife Hannelore left Germany Thursday to be with him, a German Embassy spokesman said.

The British statement said Major had expressed his sympathy and concern to Chancellor Kohl. It would be left "until a later date" to decide on any rearrangements of the meeting.

At their meeting the British and German leaders were to have discussed plans for the forthcoming European Community summit in Maastricht, in the Netherlands.

37 killed in Peru violence : At least 37 people have been killed in the past five days as the result of the latest guerrilla offensive in Peru, the military said Thursday, reports AP from Peru.

The most bloodshed reported was in the Tambo jungle where hundred Maoist Shining Path rebels stormed the village of Poynt, 250 miles (410 kms) east of Lima on Sunday, killing 25 villagers, including men, women and children, an army spokesman said.

The spokesman, who declined to be identified, said a peasant leader reported the attack to a delegation from the Organisation of American States in the Andean Capital of Huancayo, 120 miles (190 kms) east of Lima.

The seven-man delegation is in Peru on a week-long visit to examine the government's human rights record.

6 Afghans get life term in Pakistan : An anti-terrorist court has sentenced six Afghan nationals to life imprisonment for a bomb blast in nearby Rawalpindi, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported Thursday, says AFP from Islamabad.

The six, who were held responsible for planting the device at a crowded vegetable market in June 1987, were awarded a total of 60 years hard labour in jails, it said.

At least seven people were injured in the blast which was officially blamed on agents from the Afghan secret service, Khad, allegedly infiltrated into Pakistan by the regime in Kabul, to punish Islamabad for its support of the 13-year-old Mujahid resistance in Afghanistan.

Several hundred people were killed in Pakistan during bombing raids by Kabul jets and attacks by "saboteurs" during the nine-year Soviet military occupation of Afghanistan. The Soviet troops withdrew in 1989.

Rabuka elected Jjian Party chief : Former coup leader Sitiveni Rabuka, was elected president of the Jjian Political Party on Thursday, boosting his chances of becoming Prime Minister in general elections due next year, reports Reuter from Fiji.

The former army Colonel, who toppled the Pacific island nation's first Indian-dominated government in a 1987 military coup, defeated Adil Lala Mara, a paramount chief who is wife of Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Josefa Kamikamica did not contest the ballot, surprising observers who had expected him to be a candidate.

Mara earlier told a crowd of supporters in Suva at the party's first convention since its formation last year that native Fijians must remain united by voting for one party.

In elections to be held early in 1992, a majority of parliamentary seats will be reserved for native Fijians, with the rest divided among Indians and other racial groups.

27 European states to penalise airlines for carrying migrants

BERLIN, Nov 1 : Interior and Justice Ministers from 27 European countries on Thursday pledged to stem the tide of clandestine immigration from the former communist bloc with stricter border controls and a crackdown on illegal manpower recruiters, reports AFP.

German Interior Minister Wolfgang Schauble, speaking at a press conference here at the close of the two-day Ministerial meeting, stressed the need to target what he called "labour traffickers" and modern slave traders responsible for much of the clandestine movement from Eastern Europe to the richer West.

In their final declaration, the Ministers who met in the Reichstag here, also vowed to

hold airlines financially responsible for transporting passengers who were not in possession of legal travel documents.

Participating countries also promised to take back any of their nationals who had illegally entered another state.

It was the first time an international conference on immigration had been held in which representatives of both receiver countries and the Eastern European nations participated.

But Schauble said the decision to move against illegal immigration was in no way an attempt to "rebuild a wall" separating West from East.

MOSCOW, Nov 1 : Raisa Gorbachev, in an interview said the attempt to overthrow her husband sent her blood pressure soaring and temporarily impeded her speech, reports AP.

Mrs Gorbachev said she was feeling better, but feared a surge of ethnic violence in the aftermath of the hard-line putsch. "Again and again I'm reliving what happened. And I'm very frightened of a split in society," she told the trade union daily, Trud. The newspaper did not say why the interview took place. Mrs Gorbachev has not been seen in public since returning from President Gorbachev's dacha at the seaside resort of Foros in the Crimea early on 22 August.

"After three sleepless nights, when all these events started to wind up with particular speed, [my health] became worse," she said in the Trud interview. "I had developed an acute hypertensive crisis that was accompanied by a speech disorder.... Now I'm better, and must be treated just a little more. For now, I'm not leaving home."

"Acute hypertensive crisis" usually refers to a sharp rise in blood pressure, most often in people already suffering from hypertension, said Dr Henry Black of the Yale School of Medicine in the United States. A presidential spokesman said no further information on Mrs Gorbachev's condition was available.

Raisa also gave an insight into her private life and recalled her romantic days with Gorbachev. Excerpts :

Raisa's memories of a Moscow courtship

"Our first meeting was at a dance in the students' club in the Stromynka. Mikhail Sergeyevich came along with his friends Volodya Liberman and Yuri Topilin.

In those days, Georgi Vladimirovich, we did not study our horoscopes. To tell the truth we didn't know horoscopes existed. They are now all the rage. But we really didn't know the meaning of Capricorn, one of the signs of the Zodiac, under which I was born. We didn't know if our relationship would be lasting according to the signs or not. Whether our marriage would be harmonious. We didn't even think about it. It didn't worry us. Financial consideration didn't concern us: legacies, family connections, somebody's position, protectionism. No. There were no legacies and no family connections. All we had was ourselves. All we had was with us. Omnia mea mecum porto — "Everything I have I carry with me".

But I thought that was an English saying.

No, it's Latin. Like that other maxim: Dum spiro, spero — "So long as I breathe I hope."

In her speech, always correct, an occasional Latin word slips in, revealing maybe what once attracted her to study at the university.

We were friends for a long time before we got married. I shall never forget the long walks we took around Moscow — from the University and the Mokhovaya to Sokolniki and the Stromynka. Just imagine

what walking that involved! Strolls along Gorky Street, the Petrovka and the Neglinnaya. I mention the routes we were fond of. From the Lenin Library to the Arbat, Kropotkinskaya and the Volkhonka. From the Preobrazhensky Square (which was also on our favourite route to Sokolniki) to the old building of the Moscow theatre. All that was our romantic lesson in Muscovite geography.

Not to be forgotten are our joint excursions to visit exhibitions, the cinema and theatre. Then there were concerts by Lemeshev, Kozlovsky,

Aleksandrovich, Zvezdina, Ognitsev. Plays with the actors Mordvinov and Maretskaya. Performances by Nabatov.

Also not to be forgotten was our beloved Sokolniki park with its deer pond (I don't know if it is there now, but it was then), and its winter skating-rink. Have you ever been on a Moscow rink? Which one?

Ten years ago I took the children to Sokolniki. You know, in our day they played just one and the same record at the skating-rink. I am trying to remember what it

was. For some reason I haven't come across it anywhere. "White snowflakes are falling. Catch me up, catch me up." Yes, they played it only at the rink. I too remember the repeated "Catch me up".

I have never heard that tune again. I can't recall it. But it was certainly at the Sokolniki ice-rink that it was played. I can not forget either how we welcomed the New Year — 1954 — in the Hall of Columns. The fir-tree and the music. Young faces all around, and we were there. I remember that people seemed to notice us.

You were a good-looking couple, no doubt. They were sort of drawn towards us. And it gave rise to a reciprocal feeling of warmth and friendliness. Perhaps it was a general holiday — of youth, of the happiness of youth? The New Year celebration in the Hall of Columns in 1954. But perhaps it was also connected with the fact that it was the year 1954 — that old life had been left somewhere behind us in 1953.

We got married in the autumn of 1953. Our marriage took place in the Sokolniki registry office, on the other bank of the Yauza. But when we returned to Moscow later and went to look for it we could no longer find the office. They had transferred it to the Wedding Palace. There is now some kind of municipal services agency. But in the past the registry office was immaculately opposite our hostel.

All very logical — the student hostel and the marriage office opposite.

The building has been preserved. It's a large building. On the other bank, in the Preobrazhenka, there are very large buildings. The registry office was on the ground floor.

We celebrated our wedding in the Stromynka. It was a student affair, very jolly, with singing, drinking and dancing. Mikhail Sergeyevich earned the money needed for the wedding, for a new suit for himself and a wedding dress for me (not a proper wedding dress — we'll put the word in inverted commas — they didn't make special dresses to measure in those days. And there was no wedding-ring. But the dress was new).

To tell the truth, our parents knew nothing of our intentions. We let them know at the last moment. That shows how little young people care for their parents' opinion — both then and now.

So there you are — we're having a wedding, we don't need any money, we've got some. And that's the only ether. But we lived with a constant feeling of responsibility to them. For example, I tried all my life not to overburden my mother and father in any way, not to ask for more than they could manage, and not to take much from them. After all, I was the eldest, and they had two other children and they didn't find life easy.



SOUSTONS, France : President Francois Mitterrand with his Soviet counterpart Gorbachev addresses the press that called for the creation of new institutions for a "new Europe" after a 12-hour summit Wednesday at Mitterrand's forest retreat in nearby Latche. — AFP/UNB photo

Foreign workers get priority in filing claims against Iraq

GENEVA, Nov 1 : As many as two million people are expected to make initial small claims against Iraq for damage and injury caused by its invasion and occupation of Kuwait, according to the Chairman of the Governing Council of the UN Commission examining claims against Iraq, reports USIS.

"My guess is that we could face a situation where we would see something between 1.5 and two million claims coming from individuals" United Nations in Geneva, told a news conference October 29.

Berg said, however, that he could not tell yet when the claims would be coming in. Also, there is "no indication" when the small individual claims, defined as a mounts between dollar 2,500 and 100,000, would be paid since Iraq was not yet exporting oil and therefore not generating revenue for the Special Compensation Fund set up to finance the claims.

The Security Council has already approved an initial sale by Iraq of dollar 1,600 million in oil to pay for humanitarian supplies and initial compensation for damage and loss due to the invasion of Kuwait, but Iraq has yet to start exporting this oil.

Following the rout of Iraq's Army last February, the UN Security Council decided to create a fund to pay compensation for claims against Iraq, and to establish a commission to administer the fund. The governing council is charged with deciding how to administer the fund, establish the claims criteria and get the claims process underway, and make arrangements for ensuring payments to the fund.

According to Security Council Resolution 687, Iraq is liable under international law for any direct loss or damage — including environmental damage and the depletion of natural resources — or injury

to foreign governments or corporations as a result of its actions against Kuwait.

The governing council, which is composed of the current 15 Security Council members, held a third session October 14-18.

Berg said the third session completed the final details of the small claims procedure, such as definitions of the various criteria for small claims, including business losses, serious injury, mental pain and anguish. At its first session in August, the council decided to give priority to expediting small claims by individuals so as to give relief to the most need notably the hundreds of thousands of foreign workers and their families who fled Iraq and Kuwait in the wake of the Iraq invasion, leaving their possessions and jobs behind, and who suffered in other ways.

A total of 12,000 Bangladeshis left Iraq in the wake of Gulf War.

4 parties file no-confidence motion against Premadasa

COLOMBO, Nov 1 : President Ranasinghe Premadasa's government came under attack again when four opposition parties presented a second no-confidence motion against the Parliament Speaker, reports AP.

Thursday's no-confidence motion alleges that Speaker Mohamed Hanifa Mohamed conducted the business of the legislature in an "improper and illegal manner" on October 23.

Amid nonstop heckling by opposition parties, Parliament rushed through 58 government motions and supplementary estimates in less than 30 minutes on that day before Mohamed adjourned the house.

Reuter adds: A one-man commission today dismissed allegations that Israel helped the Sri Lankan government cheat the World Bank out of millions of dollars to pay for arms to fight Tamil separatist rebels.

The allegations were made by an ex-Israeli intelligence officer Victor Ostrovsky in his book "By Way of Deception." Ostrovsky wrote that World Bank funds allocated for

the accelerated Mahaweli Project, an irrigation scheme to divert Sri Lanka's main river, were used by Colombo to buy arms from Israel to fight the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

"No funds obtained for the accelerated Mahaweli Project were utilised by Mossad or by

anyone else to pay for any arms purchased by Sri Lanka from Israel," said the Commissioner, retired judge S. W. B. Wadugodapitaya.

The commission also dismissed Ostrovsky's allegations that Mossad trained Sri Lankan military personnel and Tamil rebels in Israel at the same time.

"No Sri Lanka terrorist was trained in Israel by Mossad. No members of the Sri Lanka security forces were trained by Mossad in Israel, during the relevant period, the commission said.

Presidential adviser on International Affairs Bradman Weerakoon told reporters today "on the basis of the evidence, the charges cannot be substantiated."

He said the commission's report will be presented to parliament.

Set up by the government in September last year, soon after the book was released in New York, the commission called several witnesses from the military and government and also travelled to Canada to interview Ostrovsky.

Gorbachev, Mitterrand call for 'new Europe'

SOUSTONS (France), Nov 1 : French President Francois Mitterrand and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev called here today for the creation of new institutions for a "new Europe," reports AFP.

Speaking at a joint news conference in this village in southwest France after a 12-hour summit at Mitterrand's forest retreat, the French and Soviet leaders also stressed the need to maintain some form of central authority in the Soviet Union.

They also spoke of the need for food aid for the Soviet Union with the approach of winter.

"A European confederation would allow all the countries of Europe, those of the European Community and others, to cooperate and work together ahead of the creation of more binding structures," Mitterrand said. "All of this assumes a transition to democracy in these countries."

"We must build a new Europe," said Gorbachev. "We must build new institutions."

Lanka to revive special military organisation

COLOMBO, Nov 1 : The Sri Lankan government is to revive special military organisation combining the army, navy, air force and police to tackle separatist Tamil rebels, officials here said Friday, reports AFP.

Outgoing army commander Lieutenant General Hamilton Wanasinghe is expected to be appointed Chief of the Joint Operations Command (JOC), which will coordinate anti-guerrilla operations, officials said.

The JOC, which was originally established under tough emergency regulations, was disbanded soon after President Ranasinghe Premadasa assumed office in January 1989 and lifted the extra ordinary laws for about six months.

Wanasinghe, who retires from the army towards the middle of this month, will be replaced by his deputy, Major General Cecil Waidyaratne, a key figure in the government's drive against Sinhalese militants in 1989.

Having enough to eat principal human right

BEIJING, Nov 1 : Having enough to eat is the principal human right, the Chinese said today in a lengthy "white paper" on the question of human rights, reports AFP.

The 45,000-word document, carried by the official Xinhua news agency, argued that economic rights, particularly the right for a nation to feed itself, take priority over political rights.

Despite its international aspects, the issue of human rights, falls by and large within the sovereignty of each country, it added.

The document contended that China's harsh suppression of a student-led democracy movement in 1989 — had achieved remarkable results in the area of human rights.

Off the Record

Nancy's White House
SIMI VALLEY (Calif) : Former first lady Nancy Reagan kicked off presidential library predication festivities by unveiling a 60-foot-long (18-meter-long) miniature White House, reports AP.

Youngsters from a nearby elementary school witnessed Wednesday's event, the first in a series leading to Monday's historic gathering of five US presidents for the library dedication.

President Bush and former presidents Reagan, Carter, Ford and Nixon are expected in Ventura County, 50 miles (80 kilometers) northwest of Los Angeles, for the opening of the \$60 million Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Center for Public Affairs.

The model White House includes, in miniature, the first public display of the upstairs private areas as they looked during the Reagan years, said the creator, John Zweifel.

The model, hand-carved and decorated by Zweifel and his wife, Jan, took more than 500,000 hours to create and cost nearly \$1 million.

The model will be on display at the Reagan library through December. It will then be taken to Washington, D.C., for display at the Smithsonian Institution.

Beast outbeasted
GEORGETOWN (Guyana) : A man forced his two malnourished children to stand on a nest of red ants as a punishment after they woke him from a nap pleading for something to eat, police said, reports AP.

Orin Mohamed, an unemployed laborer, is to appear in magistrate's court Friday on a charge of "cruel punishment," which carries a maximum three-year jail term.

His 5-year-old son and 7-year-old daughter were treated Thursday at Georgetown Hospital for malnourishment and skin rash caused by ant bites, authorities said.

Police said Mohamed became enraged Monday when his children woke him to plead for food.

Elizabeth embarrassed
LONDON : A new road bridge over the River Thames at Dartford east of London designed to relieve one of Britain's worst traffic bottlenecks was opened by Queen Elizabeth II on Wednesday, reports AP.

But within hours, a half-mile (8 kilometers) line of evening rush hour traffic built up waiting to cross the \$6 million pounds (dhs 149 million) cable-stay toll bridge 15 miles (24 kilometers) east of the City, London's historic heartland in the east of the capital. The Queen might have been embarrassed.

Kay Masien, a spokeswoman for the Royal Automobile club, one of the country's main organizations for drivers, blamed the delay on people driving slower because of the unfamiliar new road system and because they wanted to look at the bridge.

Named the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge, it has a 492 yards (450 meters) central span soaring 200 feet (60 meters) above the river.

Built by Dartford River Crossing Ltd., a consortium headed by the Trafalgar House construction company, it is the first road bridge built downstream of the City since the opening of Tower Bridge in 1894.



Delhi, Pindi agree to ban chemical arms

ISLAMABAD, Nov 1 : Arch enemies India and Pakistan said on Thursday after two days of high-level talks that they wanted to negotiate an agreement banning the production and use of chemical weapons, reports Reuter.

A joint statement said they agreed to consider issuing a joint declaration on chemical weapons.

They also agreed to convene a meeting of experts of the two sides at mutually convenient dates to exchange views on a bilateral agreement to ban the development, production, deployment and use of chemical weapons, it said.

The talks between Foreign Secretaries Muchkund Dubey of India and Shahrar

Mohammad Khan of Pakistan were aimed at easing tensions between the two nation which have fought each other in three wars since independence from Britain in 1947.

Two of the wars were fought over the disputed Himalayan state of Jammu and Kashmir which remains the main cause of present tensions but the statement made no specific mention of the issue.

It said India and Pakistan agreed to exchange lists of their nuclear sites before January 1 under their 1988 agreement not to attack each other's nuclear installations.

They accuse each other of developing nuclear arms programmes and refuse to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.



Making a point



American exhibition in Moscow: breaking inaugurating ice.