

## Australian general to head UN troops in Cambodia

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 9: Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Friday appointed an Australian general to lead the main contingent of UN troops destined for Cambodia with a French general as his deputy, according to letters sent to the Security Council, reports Reuters.

The appointments, which were held up because of a dispute between the United States and France, are subject to consent of Council members, whose approval is expected to be routine.

Major General John

Sanderson will lead the military troops, about 1,000 of whom are expected to be Australian, in the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). His deputy will be Brigadier General Michel Lordon of France.

Under a landmark agreement signed in Paris on October 23, UNTAC military units will help disarm a quarter of a million combatants, verify a ceasefire and patrol borders for arms shipments. Civilians will help administer the country and organise free elections.

## Pakistan, Lanka seek to review rules for SAARC meeting

COLOMBO, Nov 9: Pakistan and Sri Lanka agreed that the charter of a seven-nation South Asian grouping should be reviewed after an aborted summit here, the Colombo Foreign Ministry announced Saturday, reports AFP.

Pakistan Premier Nawaz Sharif and President Ranasinghe Premadasa, during bilateral talks Friday, discussed the "developments" in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Ministry said.

"The two leaders agreed that rules relating to SAARC meetings needed to be reviewed," a statement said in an apparent reference to the collapse of the summit Thursday following the last minute withdrawal of Bhutan's King Jigme Singye Wangchuck.

New Delhi had maintained that the summit could not proceed without the King, a founding member of SAARC.

Sharif, however, arrived her Thursday, turning his summit visit into a good will mission, and is expected to leave here later Saturday.

Bangladesh Premier Khaleda Zia and Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gaoum left Friday after similar visits. Indian Premier Narasimha Rao and his Nepali counterpart Girja Prasad Koirala stayed away.

Gayoom, who is also the current chairman, said he would consider the possibility of holding a "one-day businesslike" meeting of SAARC leaders in the Sri Lanka capital Colombo as soon as possible. The Foreign Ministry said

Sharif briefed Premadasa on the situation in Kashmir and "movement towards the settlement of the Afghanistan question." Both men also called for closer bilateral trade.

Lanka's opposition on Friday blamed the postponement of this week's South Asian summit on "the inconsistent and weak" foreign policy of President Ranasinghe Premadasa's government, reports Reuters.

Acting opposition leader Anura Bandaranaike said opposition parties would demand a special debate in parliament to discuss the scrapping of the conference, which had been due to begin in Colombo on Thursday.

"It is the most serious setback for Sri Lanka in the international sphere,"

Bandaranaike told reporters, speaking on behalf of five opposition parties.

The meeting of leaders of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka was scrapped on Wednesday because Bhutan's King Jigme Wangchuk said he was unable to attend due to domestic problems.

India had argued at a preparatory meeting of foreign ministers on Wednesday that the summit could not be held unless attended by the head of state or government of each of the seven countries.

India rejected a Sri Lankan proposal that the Bhutanese King could be asked to nominate a representative.

State-run newspapers in Sri Lanka accused India of sabotaging the summit.

## Talks in Washington Nov 22

## Arabs to reject separate peace accord with Israel

CAIRO, Nov 9: Arabs in the Middle East peace process have agreed to reject any separate peace accords with Israel even if their one on one talks with Israel move at different paces, an Egyptian delegate to

the Madrid conference said Friday, reports AFP.

Egyptian delegate Lotfi Al-Kholi told AFP that although the Arabs held different views on procedural issues, they agreed on three basic ques-

tions — no Arab party will sign a deal with Israel before the end of negotiations between Israel and the other parties.

Any settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict must include a solution to the east Jerusalem issues a halt to settlements in the Israeli occupied territories and Israel's withdrawal from Arab land occupied since 1967.

The multilateral negotiations on regional problems such as arms control and economic development will depend on progress at the bilateral talks between Israel and Lebanon, Israel and Syria and Israel and Jordan and Israel and the Palestinians.

AFP from Amman adds: The Middle East peace conference talks will resume in Washington on November 22, a reliable source said here Friday.

These bilateral talks, which began Sunday in Madrid, had been suspended because of differences between Israel and Arab delegations over the venue for the next round of negotiations.

Israel called for the bilateral talks to be held in various Middle East capitals, while Arab negotiators sought a neutral site outside of the region.

The Middle East peace conference, co-sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union, opened on October 30 in the Spanish capital.

The first round of face-to-face talks were then held Sunday, involving separate meetings between Israel and delegations from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and a joint Palestinian-Jordanian team.



HONG KONG: A Vietnamese woman is taken on to a naval vessel as the first series of mandatory repatriations of Vietnamese boat people since Hanoi and London recently signed a new agreement. The group of 59 is being taken to Hanoi by a chartered aircraft.

— AFP/UNB photo

## Yeltsin proclaims emergency in rebel territory, clamps curfew

MOSCOW, Nov 9: Russian President Boris Yeltsin cleared a state of emergency and imposed a curfew in the small republic of Checheno-Ingushetia on Friday to cut short a rebellion by local Muslims who want independence from Russia, reports Reuters.

His decree followed the failure of efforts to find a compromise with insurgent Chechen groups who seized control of the northern Caucasus region, part of the giant Russian federation in September and elected their own president.

Djokhar Dudayev was due to be installed Saturday as President of the republic after an election declared illegal by Yeltsin's Russian republic.

Dudayev's supporters took over public buildings in the republic's capital Grozny in September in the name of the national congress of the Chechen people.

Yeltsin ordered a state of emergency to start Friday morning and last for a month. He appointed a temporary administrator to run the republic.

Akhmed Arsanov, Yeltsin's representative conducted un-

successful talks to defuse the tense situation in Checheno-Ingushetia.

The area, conquered by Russia in 1959 is among the most neglected in the Soviet Union. The Chechens who are Sunni Muslims, were deported to central Asia by Josef Stalin during World War Two.

Yeltsin's decree said all meetings and demonstrations would be banned, as would strikes weapons would be confiscated and tight controls placed on entry to and exit from the republic.

## Baker starts trip to Asia

WASHINGTON, Nov 9: Secretary of State James A. Baker III sets out Saturday on a trip to Asia aimed at strengthening U.S. ties with Japan and South Korea and at coming to grips with a whole range of problems with China, reports AP.

Baker's visit to Japan takes on new importance with cancellation of Bush's planned Asian trip later this month.

But China is by far the most controversial leg of the week-long journey because some members of Congress oppose high-level contacts with Beijing because of China's human rights record.

Baker said in a magazine article released Friday night that U.S. problems with China over human rights and other issues can be resolved only if the two countries maintain a dialogue at a senior level.

## Haitian coup junta orders arrest of Aristide

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, Nov 9: The army-backed provisional government has ordered the arrest of ousted president Jean-Bertrand Aristide and his prime minister on the eve of talks with the Organisation of American States (OAS), state radio and television reported on Friday, reports Reuters.

Aristide is now in exile in Venezuela and his Prime Minister Rene Preval remains in hiding in a western embassy in the Haitian capital.

The government they headed was toppled in a military coup on September 30.

## Maxwell's son takes control of Daily News

NEW YORK, Nov 9: A son of the late British press magnate Robert Maxwell took control of the Daily News on Friday and assured employees the Maxwell empire was committed to bringing the tabloid back into the black, reports AP.

Kevin Maxwell spent much of the day at the newspaper's Manhattan headquarters and assured union members, executives and bankers that his family was committed to keeping the 71-year-old paper alive.

Maxwell 32, became chairman and publisher Wednesday, a day after his father died. The body of the 68-year-old businessman, who had been on a cruise aboard his luxury yacht, was found in the water off the Canary Islands.

## Off the Record

### Just for a day

BANGKOK: The Thai government is to ask brothels and other establishments operating as fronts for prostitution to close for a day on December 1 to mark World AIDS Day, government officials said Friday, reports AFP.

The idea, proposed by a cabinet minister who is also the country's leading anti-AIDS activist, Meechai Veeravithaya, is part of the week-long campaign against the deadly disease, which is spreading rapidly in the country.

The closure, however, will be on a voluntary basis, the officials said.

"We will ask for their cooperation, without any threat, and I think they will cooperate with us because they should be aware of how serious the problem is," one official said.

According to independent research, there could be as many as 50,000 brothels nationwide, including coffee shops and restaurants which operate as fronts for prostitution.

While prostitution is officially illegal in Thailand there are an estimated 800,000 prostitutes in the country, according to a government health agency.

About 300,000 Thais are infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) which in most cases lead to AIDS, according to officials estimates.

Thailand was recently chosen along with three other developing nations by the World Health Organisation to be a testing ground for potential vaccines against the killer disease.

## Cinderella Imelda puts shoes to good use

MANILA: Imelda Marcos gave away a pair of her fabled shoes Saturday to a contestant who correctly guessed the date of the former Philippine first lady's homecoming, reports AP.

"The shoes of Imelda are being put to good use, like Cinderella," Mrs. Marcos told listeners of local radio station DZRH, which sponsored the contest. "Cinderella has returned and I believe this will bring us good luck. The shoes are a symbol of Cinderella."

Mrs. Marcos returned home last Monday after nearly six years of exile in the United States, where she and her husband, ex-President Ferdinand Marcos, fled after they were ousted in the 1986 uprising that catapulted Corason Aquino to power.

Marcos died in exile in 1989.

"Mrs. Aquino has used them anyway and earned money from them. I just hope the poor and the victims (of calamities) here also benefit from them," Mrs. Marcos said. "Even the poor and downtrodden people should be benefiting from Imelda's shoes."

"The shoes are for good luck," Mrs. Marcos added. "Thank God that when they opened all the rooms and the closets in our houses and in Malacanang, they did not find skeletons or the dirty remains of dead persons, just shoes."



## Skin patch for smokers

WASHINGTON: The Food and Drug Administration has approved for marketing the first nicotine skin patch system designed to help smokers quit their habit, the product's manufacturer said Friday, reports AFP.

The patch delivers a steady dose of nicotine through the skin of the person wearing it, reducing their craving for the addictive ingredient of tobacco.

The patch system is designed to wean a smoker from nicotine over 10 weeks. The system consists of three patches, each of which contains a different dose of nicotine, said David Thompson, a spokesman for Marion Merrell Dow Inc. of Kansas City, which is marketing the patch.

The first patch, about two inches square (13 centimeters square), is to be worn for six weeks. It delivers 21 milligrams of nicotine per day, about half that taken in by a pack-and-a-half a day smoker, he said.

The second patch is smaller, delivers 14 milligrams of nicotine and is to be worn for two weeks. The third, even smaller and delivering 7 milligrams of nicotine per day, is to be worn for the last two weeks, he said.

## AI asks Ishaq to stop execution of 20

LONDON, Nov 9: Amnesty International on Friday called on Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to halt imminent public executions of at least 20 people convicted by special "speedy trial" courts, introduced in August, reports AFP.

"These cases raise a fearful specter for Pakistan as the authorities turn back the clock on human rights," Amnesty said.

None of those sentenced to death had received fair trials and the human rights watchdog said it feared their deaths would herald a wave of executions nationwide.

Rome reports put the number of imminent executions at up to 40, it said.

Pakistan law provided for executions by hanging, or in cases of adultery, by stoning to death.

The "speedy trial" courts were introduced under the governments of general Zia Ul-Haq, but were abandoned after former Premier Benazir Bhutto took office in December 1988.

But the government, which ousted Bhutto in August, 1990, publicly criticised the communications on 2,000 prisoners then on death row.

Amnesty said it feared some or all of these prisoners would have commutations reversed and said at least 100 prisoners had already been moved back to death row.

## Ukraine to sign military pact with Kremlin

KIEV, USSR, Nov 9: The independence-minded Ukraine will sign a military treaty with the Kremlin but may demand more changes to an economic pact that it initiated this week, President Leonid Kravchuk said Friday, reports AP.

His statement signalled that the Ukraine, the second-most populous republic and an industrial powerhouse, was still cautious about cooperating with other republics despite its agreement to join the economic community.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin signed the pact Wednesday in Moscow after hesitating for weeks out of concern it would give too much power the central or Russian governments in the wake of the failed August putsch.

Kravchuk said the 'easy still could be changed before the Ukrainian parliament ratifies it, which is not expected before presidential elections Dec 1.

## SC behind schedule in nominating new Secy-Gen

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 9: The selection process for a new UN secretary-general has fallen behind schedule as members of the Security Council wait for the United States to signal its choice, reports AP.

Earlier, the council had set an October 31 target date for choosing a candidate to replace Javier Perez de Cuellar, whose second five-year term ends on December 31.

The last straw poll was held in the Oct 25, and the next such polls are expected Monday morning and Tuesday afternoon. There are 14 official candidates.

The council's choice would still have to be ratified by two-thirds of the General Assembly. U.S. diplomats say they are still awaiting instructions from Washington as to which candidate to back, and President Bush has not signalled any preference.

"We are awaiting the President's decision on the US candidate," said a State Department official on Friday. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

"We are looking for the best qualified person, one with international diplomatic and political experience and one who has very strong managerial skills."

US backing will carry considerably weight within the council, although officially it does not bow to US policy. As

one of five permanent members, the United States, can veto any candidates not to its liking.

The State Department official said that once Bush has made a decision, the United States will consult with the other council and General Assembly members, including

the four other permanent council members: Britain, China, France and the Soviet Union.

"We don't want to attack a deadline to this," he said. In the last straw poll, two candidates from the African continent — former Egyptian Foreign Minister Boutros Ghali and

Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero of Zimbabwe.

African countries have lobbied strongly for one of their own representatives to be chosen secretary-general because no African has previously been named UN chief. The seven non-aligned nations on the 15-member council have backed African candidates.

The third straw poll held on October was only preliminary, and Ghali and Chidzero might not necessarily be front-runners in later balloting.

On Monday and Tuesday, the council is expected to continue informal balloting in an effort to eliminate candidates and reach a consensus. The council is seeking to avoid a divisive selection process as has occurred in the past.

So far none of the candidates has been eliminated. Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, whose candidacy had been proposed to the council, has withdrawn his name from consideration.

The process so far has been characterized by secrecy, with few nations openly expressing their views. China has



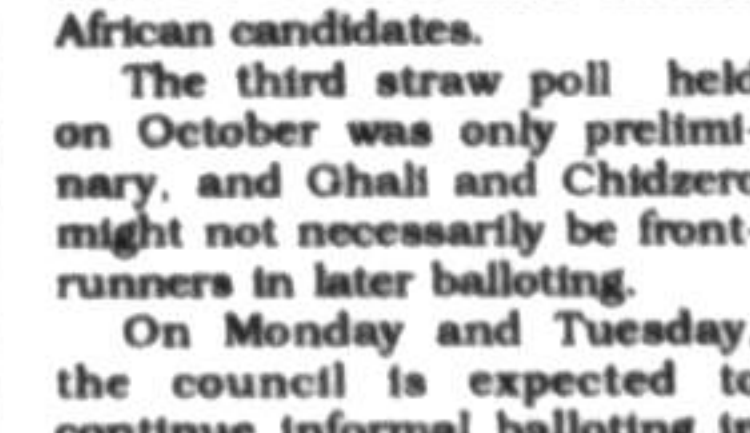
Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan



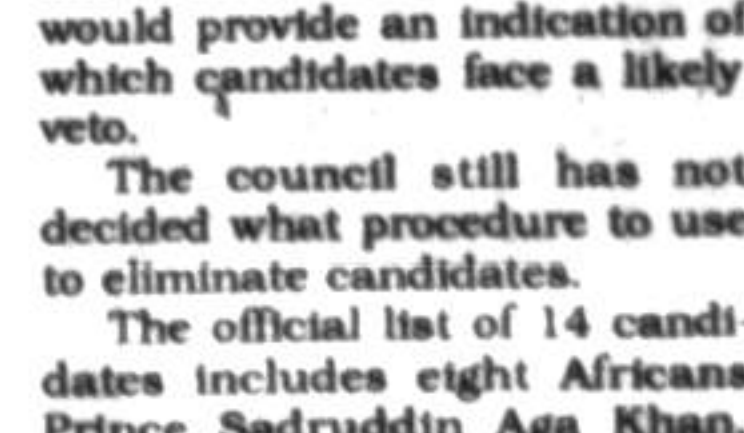
Tommy Koh: Singaporean diplomat



Ghana hope: Kenneth Dadzie



Oscar Arias: former Costa Rican leader



Gro Harlem Brundtland: feminist



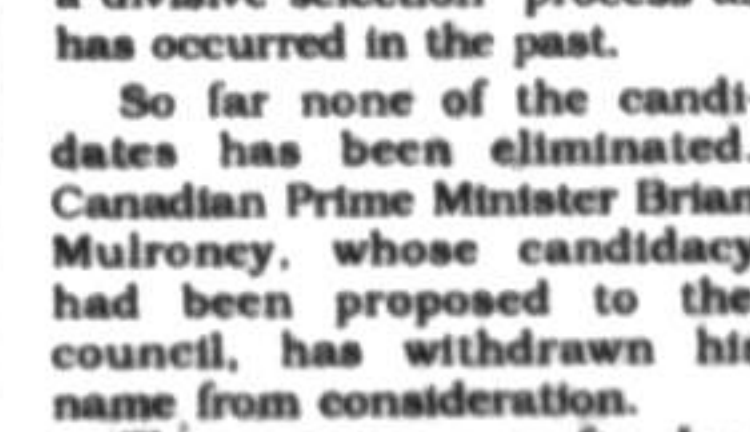
Mrs Thatcher: noted as shot down



Senor Perez de Cuellar: retiring



Shevardnadze: helped end Cold War



Boutros Ghali: runs subtle campaign



Zimbabwe's Bernard Chidzero

## Zambia lifts emergency

LUSAKA, Nov 9: Zambia's 27-year-old state of emergency, which gave police widespread powers of arrest and detention without trial, ended at midnight on Friday after new President Frederick Chiluba allowed it to lapse, reports AP.

"From the minute after midnight life in Zambia will begin to return to normalcy," said Foger Chongwe, newly appointed minister of legal affairs, said earlier in the day.

"This means that the bill of rights in the constitution will no longer be suspended, it will be in force," he added.

Under the country's new constitution, the state of emergency lapses seven days after the swearing in of a new president.

Chiluba, a former trade union boss, was sworn in last Saturday after heavily defeating former President Kenneth Kaunda in the first multi-party election held here since 1968.