BRIFFI

1500 killed in Haiti since coup : More than 1,500 people have been killed in Haiti since the bloody military coup in late September that toppled former President Jean Bertrand Aristide, a human rights group reported Tuesday, says AFP Wednesday from Washington.

The Organisation of American States (OAS), Inter-American Commission on Human Rights denounced what it described as the "systematic violations of human rights" and urged there institution of the democratic government.

The group said it had received complaints of killings, arbitrary detention, maltreatment, torture and harassment committed by members of the armed forces and the police against reporters and other Haitians.

Bush not serious about arms control Seven members of the House of Representatives charged Tuesday that President Bush is not serious about arms control in the Middle East because he is going ahead with major weapons sales to Saudi Arabia, reports AP Wednesday from Washington.

The seven Democrats, all key figures on concessional foreign policy issues, called on Bush to suspend further arms

Congress has been notified that the administration intends to allow the sale of dirs 3 billion worth of Patriot air defense missiles to the Saudis, and sources say it is clear that there are plans to follow that with 72 F-15 fighter planes, worth \$4

billion, next year. "This emerging pattern leaves the impression, at home and abroad, that the administration is not serious about arms control in the Middle East," the law makers wrote, asking Bush to seek congressional support before going forward.

Among the singers of the letter were Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Dante Fascell; David Obey, a key figure on aid questions and Lee Hamilton, head of the subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East.

Klerk meets Mozambican rebel leaders: President F.W. de Klerk met with Mozambican rebel leader Afonso Dhlakama earlier this year in Kenya, the government said Tuesday, reports AP Wednesday from Pretoria.

statement from Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Both a said he and De Klerk met with Dhlakama in June to work toward a cease fire in Mozambique's 14-year-old civil war. The statement said Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano knew of the meeting and other talks between

In response to a newspaper article about the meeting, the

Dhlakama and other South African officials. South Africa supported the rebels seeking to topple Mozambique's leftist government until it agreed in 1984 to

halt its aid. Accusations have persisted that South African aid and weapons continue to flow to the rebels from private groups.

US starts pullout from Kuwait: The US military began its final withdrawal of combat forces from Kuwait on Tuesday, and the Pentagon said the pullout will be completed by mid-December, reports AP from Washington.

About 100 members of a US Army task force left Tuesday and most of the 1,500-member force will be out by the end of the week, Pentagon, spokesman Pete Williams said.

The soldiers have been on duty in Kuwait since late August. The only remaining US military presence in Kuwait beyond mid-December will be about one dozen US non-combat personnel to coordinate the recently signed US-Kuwaiti security agreement and about 150 Army Corps of Engineer workers who are helping Kuwait rebuild from the destruction of the Gulf war, Williams said.

Yeltsin's decree hits KGB: Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree Tuesday transforming

the Russian KGB into a new State Security Agency, the latest in a scries of moves to reorganize the secret police, reports AP Wednesday from Moscow. The new agency will be responsible for intelligence, coun-

try-intelligence, fighting organised crime, uprooting corruption and combating terrorism within Russia, the largest of the 12 remaining Soviet republics.

Victor Ivanenko, director of the new Russian State Security Agency, was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saving that he has fired 20 of the 70 local KGB chiefs in cities and regions throughout the republic. Another 30 will be replaced soon, he reportedly said.

The Soviet KGB is expected to cooperate with the new Russian agency, but it is unclear how they will share responsibilities and authority.

Palestinians riot against **US-sponsored talks**

JERUSALEM. Nov 27 Hundreds of Palestinians rioted and beat their rivals with chairs and metal bars Tucsday to show their opposition to the US-sponsored Middle East peace talks, Israel television said, reports AP.

Also Tuesday, Israeli soldiers shot and wounded three armed Palestinians in a shootout in the occupied Gaza Strip, the military command

The violence occurred in the town of Bett Jala near Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank during a lecture by two members of the Palestinian delegation to the. peace talks, Ghassan Khatib' and Nabil Qassis, the TV said. It said hundreds of supporters of two radical PLO fac-

tions, the Democratic and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, cursed the lectures. Signs hanging in the hall proclaimed that peace talks with Israel ware "treason."

Fist-fights broke out in the crowd, and the rivals beat each other with chairs and metal bars, the TV report said. It said opponents to the talks demanded that Khatib and Qassis pledge not to agree to a "partial settlement" with Israel, a reference to the Palestinian demands for an independent state.

Israel is only willing to grant the 1.7 million Palestinians in the occupied territories a limited self-rule.

In the Gaza Strip, meanwhile, troops patrolling Rafah encountered a group of Palestinians hiding inside a house. One of the Arabs fired at the soldiers from his pistol, the army said.

At least 469 Palestinians have been killed by fellow Arabs during the 4-year-old uprising against the Israeli rule, most on suspicion of col-



JERUSALEM: A Muslim Palestinian shepherd prays next to his flock while on Israeli

- AFP/UNB photo . Thursday.

19 killed as bandit groups clash in.Sindh

KARACHI, Nov 27: At least 18 people were killed, half of them hostages, in a gunbattle between two gangs of bandits in southern Pakistan's troubled Sindh province, police and residents said today, reports

Sources said the clash took place between the gang of an infamous bandit, Liq Chandio, and highway robbers of the Kalhoro tribe in Dadu, about 350 miles (560 kilometres) north of here Monday.

The local administration and nine bandits were killed when Chandio's men attacked Akalhoro village

Arrest warrants against Pak editor issued

KARACHI, Nov 27: The authorities in Karachi served arrest warrants Tuesday against Sherry Rahman, Editor of the monthly Herald, for publishing a news report on a Pakistani Intelligence Agency, a spokesman for the magazine's publisher said, reports AFP

The Herald, in its October issue, had published a report which alleged scrious violations of human and civil rights by the Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) in southern Sindh province, the spokesman said.

The report has given rise to a defamation case, he added.

The editor, along with publisher Ghulam Ali Mirza and printer Zahid Ali, have been asked to appear before a local magistrate in Karachi, capital of Sindh province, on

tions that the Nepali Congress

had instigated dissent among

Bhutanese of Nepalese origin

in order to achieve the aims of

country and remain as we are

today in our geographical size,

cerned with the present polit-

ical situation in Bhutan, which

has forced many Bhutanese of

Nepalese origin to leave their

into Nepal in search of food

and sliciter. This must be

stopped by creating an atmo-

sphere to encourage the

Bhutanese to return to their

homeland and let them remain

as dignified citizens."

"Many of them have entered

"We are however, con-

"We prefer to be small

a so-called "greater Nepal."

peacefully," Koirala said,

homeland."

Off the Record

Major the worst-dressed man

LONDON: A fashion magazine ribbed Prime Minister John Major on Tuesday for reputedly tucking his shirt into his un derpants who named him

man, reports Reuter. "The suit wears him and he will never live down the underpants, Arena magazine said in naming Major "the grayest of them all" in its league of Britain's 20 worst-dressed

Britain's worst-dressed

Major, a 48-year-old who favours grey suits, is used to having fun poked at his fashion style and his office had no comment on the latest broadside. The British shops and stores



association recently branded his clothes a compete bore.

They are victims of feminine violence

JERUSALEM: An Israeli association for the defence of the men's rights spoke up Tuesday for the dozens of husbands who get beaten up by their wives, reports AFP.

An average of 30 men suffer this humiliation each month and an equal number are driven out of their homes, it said. The association accused the police of discrimination, charging that they view with contempt the tragic case of

these men who are victims of feminine violence.

Uri Eliahou, interviewed on the radio, complained of the powers granted to women by Israeli laws.

One day, my wife hit me on the dead harder than usual with an iron bar, sending me in a coma to Belinson Hospital in Tel Aviv, he said.

"After having been treated not only was I not allowed to return home by a court decision, but police refused to accept my complaint."

Thatcher's daughter paid back in mother's coins

LONDON: The daughter of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was ordered to appear in court this year for non-payment of her mother's hated "poll tax" local authority officials said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Hammer Smith and Fulhan Cotuncil said daughter Carol paid the annual 247-pound (445-dollar) local services charge only after a summons to appear in court on September 19. But the West London Council said bailiffs were still trying

to collect 32 pounds (58 dollars) in legal costs. "If at the end of the day we still do not get our money, then there is the possibility of a prison sentence," one official

Carol, a freelance journalist, was not available for comment. But the Daily Mirror, in a frontpage report, said it asked her what her mother would think and quoted her as saying: "My mother wouldn't give a shit, my dear. As a matter of fact, neither do I".

Riots swept Britain in 1990 when Thatcher imposed the tax, a plat-rate charge for community services that takes no account of ability to pay and replaced a centuries-old property

The uproar contributed to a conservative party revolt that led to Thatcher's resignation a year ago.

Cory a heartless woman

MANILA: A group of Philippine teachers on hunger strike to protest against their sacking by the government found a surprise ally Wednesday in Imelda Marcos, reports Reuter: Tears rolling down her face, the flamboyant former First

Lady told the 29 teachers her arch-foe President Corazon Aquino was a heartless woman. Marcos visited the teachers at the National Press Club

compound where they have been staging their protest for

Witnesses said Marcos embraced the teachers, saying: "Do you think this will make Mrs Aquino listen? Do you think this will soften her heart?"

"You should realise that Mrs Aquino has no heart." One protester said conditions for teachers were better when the

late dictator Ferdinand Marcos was ruling the country.

Chatichai's assets worth millions of dollars confiscated

BANGKOK, Nov 27 Thailand's ruling junta, acting on accusations of graft against deposed Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan, announced Tuesday it had confiscated millions of dollars in assets acquired while he was in power, reports AFP.

The move was announced by Sitthi Jirarote, head of an anti-corruption committee appointed by the military after it overthrew Chatichai in a bloodless coup on February 23.

The announcement came amid heightened political tension here, with widespread accusations that the military is maneuvering to effectively retain power after promised elections to be held early next

Critics immediately charged that the junta was taking action new against 70-year-old Chatichai to reassert its reasons for driving him from

Chief among those reasons was alleged corruption by top members in the former Prime

Ministers administration.

The assets were worth 266.5 million bath (10 million dollars) Sitthi said, adding that Chatichai, who in August 1988 became Thailand's first elected Prime Minister in 12 years, had 60 days to appeal the ruling before a court.

Sitthi also announced that



had also been confiscated. But the assets of Chatichai's son, Kaisak Choonhavan, also a close adviser, and his daughter, Vani Hongprapas, which had been frozen immediately after the coup, were now to be

assets acquired during the

same period by Chatichai's

wife, Boonruen Choonhavan

and Pitak Intharavirayanon, an

adviser to the deposed leader,

released, he added. Kraisak reacted angrily to the ruling, describing the accusations as 'trumped up charges," and counter-charging the junta with the "political assassination," of his

Pro-democracy groups have accused Thailand's ruling generals of attempts to retain a stranglehold on any future government through a new constitution, currently being drafted by the military appointed

National Legislative Assembly. Clauses in the constitution, under which the future Senate, whose members will be selected by the junta, would appoint the Prime Minister and

take part in key debates in parliament, have been scrapped following demonstrations by students and members of various political parties. But the draft constitution gives the Senate the right to

take part, with the elected House of Representatives in no-confidence debates against the government, leading Bangkok Governor Chamlong Srimuang, a leading critic of the charter, to say that it "gives the military a remote-

ment on Chattchaf's assets 'was intended to muster sup-

coup in February," said Asdang Panikabutr, a Professor of Political Science.

AI blasts European govts for grilling asylum-seekers

LONDON, Nov 27 : Amnesty International today criticised many European states for putting up what it called unfair parriers against a growing number of asylum-seekers fleeing possible torture and execution in their own countries, reports Reuter.

The London-based human rights organisation said it expected tighter restrictions as European Community members coordinate immigration

Corazon prefers Ramos as successor

MANILA, Nov 27: President Conson Aquino nict with key advisors for two hours Tuesday and afterward one of them said she was leaning toward former Defence Sceretary Fidel Ramos as her choice for her successor next June, reports AP.

"Apparently she is convinced of the winnability of Ramos," Pampanga Gov. Bren Guiao told reporters. He stopped short of saying Mrs. Aquino had made up her choice but said she was stressing candidate's election prospects.

Ramos is locked in a battle with House Speaker Ramon Mitra for the nomination of the Struggle of the Democratic Filipino Party, which is to conduct a straw poll of members Saturday on their preference.

Mitra, a co-founder of the party, is believed to have the backing of a majority of party members but Ramos fares better in public opinion surveys.

The issue of the nominee for the May 11 national election threatens to split the party. It also has led to breach between Mitra and the Cojuangeo family, Mrs. Aquino's blood relatives.

It cited as examples the case of 20 Somalts who were tortured after being turned away from Italy.

European governments want to wash their hands of their responsibility. Amnesty said in a report. They haven't done enough

to put pressure on governments to stop human right vi2 olations in the countries. These people are running from and aren't living up to their obligations when asylum-seekers are on their doorstep.

The report, which focuses on EC countries, said the asylum crists arose because governments treat asylum-seekers as illegal immigrants and not as people escaping persecu-

That approach means asylum-seekers have to contend with complicated and timeconsuming immigration pro-

This maze of rules and

lack of understanding of who these people are and the horrors they could face, the report said. Amnesty detailed some of

the flaws in asylum procedures in EC countries. It mentioned the 2,000-pound sterling (3,600 dollar) fine imposed by the British government on airlines for carrying asylum-seekers from certain countries without visas.

KATHMANDU, Nov 27:

Nepal is "skeeping between two

giant elephants, India and

China and must therefore

move cautiously in its foreign

policy, Prime Minister Girija

Prassad Koirala has said, re-

friendships with both India

and China and we do not want

to annoy any one of them,

Kotrala told AFP in an inter-

four-day officials visit to India

from December 5, and would

go to China if formally invited.

vited to visit China," he said,

"but if I am formally invited, I

will definitely visit there.

"I have been informally in-

"We want to have good

ports AFP.

view this week.

In Italy, asylum-seekers can be turned away by border police without being allowed to make an asylum claim.

Annesty said asylum procedures can be made fair and quick if European governments put in place 10 principles to ensure all asylum-seekers get a fair hearing. The main recommendation is setting up independent bodies to hear asylum cases.

If bad asylum practices are accepted across the European Community, those 12 governments could be setting a dangerous precedent at the international level, Amnesty said.

tions with her neighbours, Koirala added. He said it was crucial for He said that he would pay a

more friendly relations.

bulldozer flatters the field in front of Jerusalem's Old City Damascus Gate Tuesday.

'Neighbours can't be annoyed'

Nepal sleeping between two

giant elephants, says Koirala

"The uplistment of the

economy of the rural poor", he

replied, "we have a great task

to do for the improvement of

the Nepalese rural poor."

substantive

wards .he said.

the economy of the majority of

said his talks during his up-

coming trip to India would be

Indian leaders on a number of

issues including trade and

transit and cooperation for the

development of water re-

sources in Nepal as we are go-

ing to face a power shortage in

On Bhutan Koirala denied

our country from 1993 on-

Bhutanese government allega-

Murder of former

Kenyan FM: two

officials questioned

former high-ranking govern-

ment officials, who an investi-

gator called prime suspects in

the murder of Kenya's Foreign

Minister, were detained by po-

lice for questioning Tuesday,

after President Daniel Arap

Mor dissolved an inquiry board

whose judges had complained

of police intimidation, and

ordered a new investigation

into the murder last year of

Foreign Minister Robert Ouko,

Ouko reportedly had been in-

vestigating human rights ac

tivists and donor nations call-

on condition of anonymity, saw

the detentions as an attempt

by Moi to put the Ouko affair

behind him before parliamen-

tary elections. The government

has not announced elections

but it is expected to hold

One diplomat, who spoke

ing for reform.

The arrests came shortly

NAIROBI, Nov 27 : Two

"I will hold talks with the

On foreign relations Koirala

Nepal to avoid antagonising its two giant neighbours and to maintain good relations with both of them for reasons of economic development and the elimination of poverty in the Himalayan Kingdom.

Kotrala, head of the Nepali

congress government elected

in May this year, said he has

sensed a change in India's atti-

tude towards its neighbours,

judging that New Delhi wants

also changed her attitude and

now wants to improve rela-

In the same way China has

Questioned on the future of communism in Nepal, Koirala indicated that while communists made significant gains in the May elections they would not destabilise the country.

"Communism could not be a threat to the democratic government or the monarchy," he said. "I don't think communism is strong in South Asia and in Nepal in particular it has no future prospects now."

"Kotrala added that following the political changes in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, many of the pro-Soviet communists are showing interest in joining the Nepal Congress and numbers of them have already joined our party. The success the commu-

nists have head Kotrala said is due largely to their ability to exploit the hardships of rura dwellers.

Because of the poverty of the larger number of the rural people the communists in Nepal are.... making all sorts of promises to the rural poor for the upliftment of their cconomy, he said.

"We the Nepali Congress party, representing democracy in the country, cannot make promises which we can not Asked to cite his govern-

them early next year in response to demands for reform. The inquiry into Ouko's death, which continued for over a year, heightened politiment's main problems and cal tension in this East African challenge Kotrala continued in

Shenzhen University. The dynamic changes in economic reforms in the past few years have resulted in

Qin also blamed the spiritual vacuum among the lowly educated young people to worship Mao as they were born before or after an era when religion was totally banned. It was only after China's reform an openness that religion were allowed to be openly practised, but not encouraged.

leader and human being. There was no such thing as favouritism during his time.

ctals and young Turks spend more on one diner than the average Chinese earns in a month, by quoting Mao "everything under heaven is chaos. The situation is excel-

Fabric Vendor Wang Aimen. have Mao's picture hanging side-by-side with a small of their shops.

tar". Wang explained.

Maoist altar set up in a corner "As long as my business goes well, Mao stays on the al-

puffing on an American brand cigarette, but asking that his name not be used, puts forward the party line. "Chairman Mao can arouse

people's faith in socialism", he

represents a force against the corruption that was one of the sparks that ignited the stuin 1989.

time and people really cared about each other, said a 40year-old manager of a joint venture company.

Mao staging comeback in capitalist corner of China wearing a stylish western suit. is great and I admire him a Mao Zedong has done a lot searcher Qin Jinguo of Company Manager with a pen-SHENZHEN (China), Nov

27 : Mao Zedong is making a comeback here in the most capitalist corner of China, with money-hungry entrepreneurs embracing the late great helmsman as a symbol of good luck, reports APP.

Mao's revived popularity, 15 years after his death, is everywhere to be seen in this special economy zone bordering on flong Kong, with street vendors hawking laminated portraits in the shadow of newly built high rises. Some of the pictures come

fitted with red silk tassels, and the vendors - literally work Mao pictures are every-

He is venerated like a god by some, but as a good guide for those caught in the crossroads of socialism and capital-

chant for three-piece suits.

ism, he said. Taxi driver Chen Huaping, 32, has a Mao photo affixed to the dashboard of his Toyata. It is very effective, he said. I have been making more money than before and I have not been

robbed

stick - incense meant for good luck - and bows to Mao before cruising Shenzhen's streets, home to robbers, drug traffickers, pimps, prostitutes, beggars and money-changers, despite official efforts to wipe out such cyils.

Chen admits he burns a joss

of good things to the poor people. That is why he is like a god to me, explained Chen, a former farmer from the poorer side of northern Guangdon province. Chinese sociologists pin

the phenomenon to efforts by the communist party to promote Mao and re-emphasize past glories at a time when socialism is collapsing in Europe Like other Chinese cities, Shenzhen has not been spared the 15 feature films on revolutionary topics released this

year, including Mao Zedong and his son Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlat. It's a kind of business that someone has come up with to make money, said social resome people reminiscing about the simpler times when they had job for life and never had to worry about being sacked,

For students like Robert

Hung, 21, an aspiring computer scientist, Chairman Mao

Hung described the social order in Shenzhen, where offi-

Private entrepreneurs, like

A Communist Party official.

For others, though, Mao

dent-led democracy protests centered in Tiananmen Square We are nostalgic about chairman Mao because there was no corruption during his

controlled detonator." 'On push of the button and the government will be gone," Chamlong added. A prominent political analyst said Sitthi's announce-

port for the junta." "This is meant to justify the

declared Richard Wang, 27, an Assistant