#### US to send Gulf war weapons to South Korea

WASHINGTON, Dec 5: The United States plans to send stealth fighters, Patriot missiles and other Gulf war weapons to South Korea next year to beef up annual joint military exercises there, US defence officials said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said the plan for the annual "team spirit" exercise with South Korean forces was to send a message to North Korea, which Washington has accused of attempting to develop nuclear weapons.

"Plans are for it (team spirit) to include systems that were stars in the Gulf, including aircraft and missiles," said

one senior official. Other officials said the weapons would include radaravoiding F-117A stealth jets, which successfully bombed targets with laser-guided weapons in the Gulf war, and Patriot anti-missile missiles used to shoot down Iraqi Scud missiles fired at Saudi Arabia and Israel.

North Korea has a large number of Scud missiles in its

#### Hostage ordeal yet to end: Bush

WASHINGTON, Dec 5: President George Bush ex pressed his joy Wednesday for the release of US journalist Terry Anderson, the longestheld captive in Lebanon, but said the hostage ordeal has yet to end, reports AFP.

In a White House statement, Bush thanked Iran, Syria, Lebanon and The United Nations for their help in securhostages.

safe and unconditional release of all those held outside the legal system in the region, including the two remaining German hostages," the President said.

Decision to boycott talks right: Shamir

# Arabs propose fresh date for Middle East confce

WASHINGTON, Dec 5: Arab delegates to the Middle East peace conference have decided to ask the United States to propose a new date for the bilateral talks after Israel failed to show up here Wednesday, Palestinian sources said.

By asking the United States, which is brokering the peace process with the Soviet Union, to intervene and set a date. Arab nations avoid satisfying an Israeli demand for direct contact.

It's up to the co-sponsors to announce a new date, we expect that the new date will not be the ninth," Palestinian delegate Saeb Erakat told Agence France-Presse after meeting with other Arab representa-

Reuter from Tel Aviv says: Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said on Wednesday Israel was right to boycott the opening of resumed Middle East peace talks in Washington.

Brushing aside US criticism of the absence of Israeli peace negotiators at the opening session on Wednesday, Shamir

said Israel was sending a signal that it was looking after its own interests.

"This is a well-aimed signal that Israel is acting according to its wishes and its decisions" Shamir told a reunion of exmembers of a Jewish guerrilla group which gave birth to his Likuk Party.

"No one will keep us from attaining what we desire both bringing peace and safeguarding the land of Israel."

Israel, angered by the way Washington issued invitations to resume peace talks, said it would not be ready to attend until next Monday. Senior Shamir aide Yosef

Ben Aharon said on Wednesday Israel wanted the talks to last for about one week before adjourning to a Middle East loca-

"We are sending the three delegations for talks which will take place for about one week," Ben Aharon said on Israel television.

"We want this to be one meeting, or one round of meetings," Shamir, leader of

the most right-wing government in Israel's history, told former underground members that leaders of the Jewish state remain loyal to the concept of a "greater Israel".

Even as they work day and night for peace, Israel's leaders cannot conceive of considering ideas aimed at concessions on Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan Heights", Shamir said.

"Those who head the government are as loyal today as yesterday to their belief in greater Israel." Shamir considers "greater

Israel" to include all Arab lands captured in the 1967 Middle East war. Shamir stirred a firestorm

of protest at the beginning of the current wave of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel by linking "a big immigration" to "a big Israel". Shamir took an indirect

swipe at the Middle East peace talks co-sponsors, the United States and the Soviet Union, warning against giving in to international pressure.

"Israel's leaders cannot reconcile themselves to plans aimed at abandoning parts of the homeland... They will not be tempted to choose the easy road of surrendering to world powers and betraying their most sacred principles."

#### Childbirth, pregnancy claims 5 lakh a year

GENEVA, Dec 5: More than 500,000 women around the world die each year during pregnancy or childbirth, nearly half of them in southern Asia. the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Wednesday. reports Reuter.

Although motherhood had become safer in many areas. the situation had worsened in the poorest regions, the United Nations agency said in a global survey.

#### Israel trying to hinder talks: Assad

DAMASCUS, Dec 5: President Hafez Al-Assad said on Wednesday Israel was trying to hinder Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington and to cling on to Arab land it occupies. reports Reuter.

In a Television speech after his re-election for seven more years in power, Assad said Syria was not surprised by the Israeli stand but that it showed the world how little Israel cared about peace.

Israel did not show up in Washington on Wednesday to meet Syrian, Lebanese and Jordanian-Palestinian peace negotiators. It says it will go on Monday.

The meeting proposed by The United States and The Soviet Union, co-sponsors of the peace talks, follows a historic Arab-Israeli peace conference which opened in Madrid on October 30.

"Israel is now practising every possible effort to hinder the committee meetings in Washington which were proposed by the co-sponsors of the conference," Assad said.

"These Israeli actions against peace, and Israeli statements stressing their desire to keep occupied Arab lands have shown the world ... that the Israeli Government seeks expansion and not

## Shevardnadze fears right-wing coup

MOSCOW. Dec 5 : Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze nas issued a fresh warning that another right-wing coup could take place in The Soviet Union, according to a Weekly Newspaper, reports Reuter.

Megapolis-Express, in an issue dated December 5, said Shevardnadze told a recent meeting of his Democratic Reform Movement that "The threat of a right-wing putsch is growing and becoming more and more real."

Asked to elaborate, he told the Newspaper: "Production is falling sharply. living conditions are worsening, prices are growing, hyper inflation is on the way.

\*Naturally, against this background the discontent of the masses is growing in such a situation nostalgia for a "strong hand" always arises in society, people step into the arena who want to turn back the course of history."

Shevardnadze returned last month to the job of foreign minister which he had resigned in December 1990.

He said then that The Soviet Union faced the threat of dictatorship— a warning which appeared prophetic when communist hardliners staged an abortive coup last

"The "strong hand' can be opposed only by a strong, organised executive power. But that is precisely what we do not have." Shevardnadze told the Newspaper.

The country risked losing all the freedoms it had won in the past five or six years, but people failed to realise this, he added.

The remarks were the lat est in a long line of recent coup warnings, some of which have unnerved world markets.

Mikhail President Gorbachev said in an interview this week that former communists or members of the military-industrial establishment could be trying to organise a new putsch.

St Petersburg mayorsaid.that a military coup was a real possibility and this time, if it happens, it will receive the support of the people."

#### Fighting on in Croatia

ZAGREB, Dec 5 : Serbianled federal forces used heavy artillery guns Wednesday to pound the outskirts of Dubrovnik, the Croatian news agency Hina reported, says

Fighting also raged in Slavonia in the east of Croatia, the scene of some of the flercest fighting in Yugoslavia's civil war, the Croatian military command said.

Several attacks were launched on the Slavonian capital of Osijek, 250 kilometers (155 miles) east of Zagreb, as well as round Vinkovci and Djakovo, and in the Pakrac region, the military

## Off the Record

#### Child birth knows no place or time

NEW DELHI: An Indian housewife sitting for a teacher's certificate popped briefly outside the examination room to have a baby, then returned and finished the exam, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Wednesday, says AFP.

The 28-year-old woman left the exam hall in the coastal city of Puri Saturday when labour pains became acute, delivered a baby girl, then finished her question whet in the allotted time in an adjoining common room.

PII said the baby, who was looked after by maternity nurses rushed from the neighbouring hospital when the birth took place Saturday, was doing well but did not mention whether the mother had passed the exam.

#### Too late to take action

TOKYO: Archaeologists have discovered Japan's oldest written document, a letter by a low-ranking imperial official complaining he wasn't paid enough, reports Reuter.

Experts said Thursday the document, a tablet of wood unearthed this week near the ancient capital of Kyoto, contained a letter of complaint to court authorities dated November, AD 676.

They said the 70 Chinese characters on the tablet described how the official. Gen Itsu, had not received extra pay due to him because of a promotion since May of that year.

Experts said it was Japan's oldest written document. Paper was not used for documents until the ninth century.

#### Terry looks hearty

WIESBADEN, Germany: Peggy Say, sister of freed American hostage. Terry Anderson, said Wednesday her brother looked "tremendous" after his arrival in Damascus, reports AP.

Anderson, the chief Middle East correspondent of The Associated Press, was freed earlier in the day after a more than 6 and a half years as a hostage in Lebanon.

Mrs. Say, who campaigned for years to secure the release of her brother and the other hostages, called The Associated

Press in Frankfurt after seeing her brother on live television from Syria.

"He looked tremendous," Mrs. Say told the AP. Mrs. Say said she had also received a telephone call from US President Bush.

"He had seen Terry on television, and he thought he (Terry) looked wonderful. He seemed genuinely overcome with emotion. He said he had the greatest respect for what I had done. "Mrs Say added.

"And he (Bush) hoped to give me a great, big hug very soon," said Bush planned to call her brother while he was still in Damascus.

#### Taj Mahal to be bitter for foreigners

NEW DELHI: Foreigners will have to pay 130 times more than Indians to see the Taj Mahal, the famed 17th century monument to love, news reports said Thursday, reports AP.

The Agra Development Authority has approved a new guideline, which needs government approval, raising the entrance fee to foreign tourists from 8 cents to 10 dollars, the Indian Express newspaper reported. Indians would continue to pay 8 cents.

The report did not say how the gatekeepers would distinguish Indians from foreign tourists.

The paper said the money will go for maintaining the Taj Mahal, the white marble mausoleum built by the Mogul emperor Shah Jahan for his wife Mumtaz who died in 1629 giving birth to her 15th child.

It took 20,000 workmen 21 years to built the Taj Mahal, which was completed in 1653.

#### Gorby may lose summer house

MOSCOW: Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev could lose his summer house as a result of the Ukrainian independence vote, a newspaper said Wednesday, reports AP.

Komsomolskaya Pravda quoted Ukrainian President Lconid Kravchuk as saying his government will own all property on its territory - including the Crimean dacha in which Gorbachev and his family were held during the August coup.

"If the Ukraine would become independent, everything on its territory will be the property of the republic." Kravchuk was quoted as saying.

However, he allowed: "We could also consider the possibility of selling it, but for standard world prices."



Wednesday showing abducted French engineer Antorio Silva flanked by two armed masked Kashmiri Muslim militants. Silva holding a sign stating his caption demands, was kidnapped October, '91 in the northern Jammu and Kashmir state by the Al-Fatach group of -AFP/UNB photo militants.

#### officers convicted in Argentina BUENOS AIRES, Dec 5: A

l l more army

group of army officers who staged a revolt last December in advance of a visit by US President Bush were convicted Wednesday and sentenced to prison, reports AP. The December 3 rebellion.

intended to embarrass the government of President Carlos Menem, was crushed in a day, leaving a toll of 13 dead and more than 60 wounded. Bush arrived on schedule two days later. A first group of 15 officers

were convicted last September. Rebel leader Lt. Col. Mohammed Alt Seineldin was sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for at least 25 years. On Wednesday, the Federal

Appeals Court convicted an additional 11 officers.

#### 'Kennedy Smith began night as a perfect gentleman' from prosecutor Moira Laseh. and invited her to go swim-

FLORIDA, Dec 5: Weeping and shaking with emotion, the woman who accused William Kennedy Smith of rape told a jury on Wednesday he began the night as a perfect gentleman but became an attacker she feared might kill her, reports Reuter.

"He pushed my dress up. and he raped me," the 30year-old woman said through tears. 'I thought he was going to kill me."

"I was screaming and he told me to "stop it, bitch," she said as she shook with sobs. She said, "I couldn't understand how this nice guy had

turned into that one - the one who raped me" and added he ever believe he raped her.

told her that no one would Outside the courthouse.

Smith broke his silence on the ease and told reporters, "obviously we saw some very sad and dramatic testimony today. But I have been living with these allegations, with this damnable lie for the last eight months and I hope ev eryone will be patient as I have been and allow me the oppor tunity to defend myself in the coming days."

The trial was carried live on two cable television services and watched by millions of Americans. The woman's face was blacked out as she spoke. and most news organisations have not identified her.

Testifying on the third day of the trial, the woman began her testimony calmly, describing how she met Smith at a club called Au Bar, literally bumping into him. They struck up a conversa-

was at Au Bar with him. Wearing a stylish but conservative charcoal grey dress. her shoulder - length hair loose around her shoulders. she spoke with calm confidence for the first hour she was on the stand.

But when she described the attack, she sobbed and shook with emotion, often choking on her words - especially as she described the fear she felt

after she said Smith raped her. Lawyers say the case will ultimately hinge on whether jurors believe her account of a brutal rape on the lawn at the Kennedy Estate or his version of consensual sex with a woman who accompanied him home from a bar.

Defence lawyers have not yet said whether they will put Smith on the stand. Legal experts say they will probably make that decision after they see how the woman holds up under cross-examination by Smith's lead Attorney Roy Black, which began briefly late on Wednesday afternoon and continues on Thursday.

Black began slowly, trying to plant doubts in the jury's mind about the testimony the woman gave under questioning

Lasch drew out a dramatic and emotional account from the woman.

The woman said she drown Smith back to the Kennedy Estate after 3 am. accepted a chaste good night kiss, and then an invitation to see the home of the famous family and take a walk on the beach.

"I was enjoying his company, he was an intellectual man, he had done nothing suggestive. I felt no fear being with him. It was a nice night."

She said neither of them had made any sexual overtures before the alleged attack although she said she and Smith kissed a few times on the beach. "I did not want sex

When Smith began to strip

ming with him, she got uncomfortable, turned away and headed back to the house calling good night behind her. As she neared the top of the stairway, she felt someone

grab her leg. She stumbled but did not fail, and began to run. The assatlant turned out to be Smith, she said. He tackled

her, pinned her down on the lawn, and raped her, she said. She did not remember all the details of the next few

hours. "I was a mess, I had never been raped and I didn't know what to do, I didn't know what to do." She called a friend. Anne Mercer - who under cross examination on Tuesday and Wednesday by Smith's lawyer acknowledged major contradictions.

#### ing the release of Western Anderson arrived Wed nesday in Damascus following his release from nearly seven years in captivity in Lebanon at the hands of pro-Iranian kidnappers. "While the American hostages have now been released, we cannot say that ordeal is over." Bush said. "We call for the immediate.

# BIRTHY

#### Attack on Azarbaijani town : 4 killed: Four people were killed and seven injured in a rocket

attack on Stepanakert, the math town of the disputed

Azerbaijani enclave of Nagorny Karabakh, Tass news agency

reported on Wednesday, reports AFP from Moscow. It said the rockets came from the village of Shusha, which had come under rocket fire from Stepanakert, Tass said quoting the Soviet Interior Ministry, adding that at least 12 rockets had been exchanged in the barrage. There were no casualties in Shusha

Armenians in Nagorny Karabakh are seeking to join with neighbouring Armenia, a move rejected by Azerbaijan and which has led to a bloody feud in the region.

Bonn halting air links with Serbia: Germany stepped up its pressure on the Yugoslav federal government Wednesday, announcing that it was immediately halting all air and shipping links with the Yugoslav republics of Serbia and Montenegro, reports Reuter. Government spokesman Dieter Vogel said agreements be-

Montenegro, especially against Serbia," he told a news conference. "For air transport, this suspension means that Serbian airlines will be excluded from the German air transport market.

tween Yugoslavia and Germany on air travel, inland waterways

"This suspension is aimed at the republics of Serbia and

and the shipment of goods by road were being suspended.

Iraq to boycott OIC summit: iraq. accusing Saudi Arabia and other Muslim states of acting as US agents, said Wednesday it would boycott an Islamic summit in

There will be no more landing rights for them in Germany."

Senegal on December 9, reports Reuter. "Saudi Arabia, a group of its mercenary agents and the Secretary-General of the Organisation (of Islamic Conference) are setting the stage for the meeting to endorse dubious American policies against Iraq." an Iraqi spokesman, quoted

He said Irag's move to boycott the summit was to "protest

by the national news agency (INA), said.

war-shattered city.

against this shameful behaviour which violated the rules and tradition of activity in the organisation and contradicted the brotherly Islamic spirit and solidarity". Battle claims 2,000 in Somalia: Murderous clan battles saged for an 18th day Wednesday in Somalia's devastated capital and aid workers raised their

estimate of the death toll to more than 2,000, reports AP Another 6,000 people have been wounded in the fighting between forces loyal to President Alt Mahdi Mohamed and

Gen. Mohamed Farrah Aidid, chairman of the ruling United Somali Congress. Most of the casualties have been civilians caught in crossfire and artillery barrages or attacked by heavily armed bandits who have turned much of the city into a lethal no-man's

land. Aid workers have described the coastal city as littered Hundreds of thousands of the city's 1 million residents are reported to have fled to Mogadishu's periphery to escape the

Blasts kill 9 in Indian textile plant: Four explosions and a fire in a textile plant in central India killed nine people and injured more than 100 Wednesday, the United News of India (UNI) reported, says Reuter.

fighting, which has caused further destruction in an already

The plant, owned by India's largest business group, the Birlas, is in Gwaltor, 280 km (170 mtles) south of Delhi. UNI said four explosions rocked the area of the mill where cloth was being dyed. A subsequent fire enveloped vats of petrol and chemicals used in the dyeing process and the entire area was filled with poisonous smoke.

it said several workers were trapped under the fallen roof and the army had been called out to help in rescue work. It was not immediately known what caused the explosions.

### Plans for a coalition dropped

### I trust Hun Sen only 50 pc: Sihanouk

PATTAYA, Thatland, Dec 5 Prince Norodom Sihanouk said here today that plans for a coalition between his supporters and the Phnom Penh government had been dropped. adding he only trusted Prime

WASHINGTON: Palestinian delegation Haider Abdel Shafi(r) and Nanan Ashcawi (l)

leaves the US State Department Wednesday with Jordanian delegate Abdel Salam Al-Mayali

(c) following the opening of the second round of the Middle East peace talks.

Minister Hun Sen "50 per cent", reports AFP. The Mercurial Prince, who earlier this year was appointed the neutral head of Cambodia's

#### interim authority, had made Aspirin may prevent colon

cancer BOSTON, Dec 5: Small doses of Aspirin, taken regularly, may prevent fatal colon cancer, the American Cancer Society has concluded after a major study designed to help researchers find links between cancer and lifestyle, reports

Reuter. The study, based on an American cancer society survey that began in 1982, involved 662,424 people in all 50 US states, Puerto Rico and Washington, DC and was pub-

lished in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine. Dr. Michael J. Thun and his colleagues found that the people who took Aspirin 16 times or more per month subsequently had a death rate from colon cancer that was 41 per

cent lower than the rate

among people who did not

take the medicine.

apparent moves last month to throw in his lot with Phnom Penh and abandon his former guerrilla allies.

-AFP/UNB photo

But he told a press conference here before returning to the Cambodian capital that plans to form a coalition government between Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen and a guerrilla faction which supports him had been "definitely" dropped.

Sthanouk, who before being appointed Chairman for the Supreme National Council (SNC) led an anti-Phnom Penh guerrilla coalition dominated by the Khmer Rouge, also credited nominal Khmer Rouge leader Khteu Samphan with courage.

But at the same time he said that it would have served the cause of the Khmer Rouge,

said. "Khieu Samphan is a man capable of sacrificing himself to get tremendous moral and political advantages for the Khmer Rouge movement... He

the backbone of the guerrilla coalition of Khieu Samphan would have been lynched by an enraged mob that attacked the leaders of the radical Marxist faction in Phnom Penh last For Khieu Samphan to die for Pol Pot, it is not so bad," he

is a man of courage." Pol Pot, the paramount chief of the Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia between 1975.

presiding over the death of

more than a million in the

country's "killing fields"

tion and began to dance. When the lights came on for last call he asked her for a ride home. She said she wasn't afraid of Smith because he had been a perfect gentleman all evening - and he was Kennedy. She had met his 'Uncle Ted," US Senator Edward Kennedy, who

with him," she said.