

BRIEFLY

Chinese envoy due in ROK Sunday:

Zhang Tingyan, the first Chinese ambassador to South Korea, will arrive early next week to assume his post in Seoul...

2 more commit suicide in Lanka:

Two more Sri Lankan tomato cultivators of the central province have committed suicide after their bumper crops failed to earn them sufficient returns to pay back bank loans...

PLA leader meets Iranian team:

Zhao Nanqi, Director of the General Logistics Department of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), met with an Iranian military delegation in Beijing Tuesday afternoon...

2 peace-keepers killed in Sarajevo:

UN officials now must decide how best to get supplies to this besieged Bosnian capital, after two French peacekeepers were killed by heavy machine gunfire that appeared aimed at a UN aid convoy...

S Koreans to celebrate Chusok:

Millions of South Koreans began travelling across the country Wednesday to go home for the Chusok, a traditional holiday that celebrates the harvest, says from Seoul.

ANC demands removal of black homeland leaders

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 9: ANC leaders are demanding the removal of all conservative black homeland leaders, including the general whose forces killed 24 protesters...

Russia to withdraw troops from Lithuania next yr

MOSCOW, Sept 9: Russia agreed on Tuesday to pull all former Soviet troops out of the Baltic state of Lithuania by the end of next August...

NASA begins countdown for shuttle flight

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Sept 9: The US space agency began the countdown Wednesday for the 50th shuttle flight, a laboratory research mission featuring the first married couple to fly in space...

Communist kill 8 Filipino troops

BACOLOD, Philippines, Sept 9: Communist rebel Wednesday killed eight government troops in an ambush in the central Philippines...

UNSC to consider imposition of 'no-fly zone' over Bosnia

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 9: The UN Security Council will soon take up the question of imposing a 'no-fly zone' over Bosnia-Herzegovina that would ban flights of military aircraft not part of UN peacekeeping forces...

which stems from the recent London conference on Yugoslavia, also calls for a strengthening of sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro for their role in the Bosnian conflict, diplomats said.

reporters at London's Heathrow airport before starting a mission to Zagreb, Sarajevo and Belgrade. Owen will travel first to Geneva to link up with United Nations envoy Cyrus Vance...

take time to get clear," Owen said. But he said he and Vance were "absolutely determined to hammer home to the parties the futility of their present activity."



KABUL: Afghan children cross a stream carrying buckets of drinking water for their families due to shortage of water and electricity on Tuesday.

Bush tries to patch up ties with American Jews

WASHINGTON, Sept 9: President George Bush on Tuesday tried to patch up relations with American Jews with a strong reaffirmation of his commitment to Israel...

called "part of America's conscience," Bush said the US-Israeli partnership would be shown this week when he sends congress a 10 billion US dollar loan guarantee package...

Israeli request - which he finally approved last month when new Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin visited - due to US opposition to the policy of Rabin's headline predecessor, Yitzhak Shamir...

Liberian rebels disarm 500 S African peace-keepers

MONROVIA, Sept 9: Rebels disarmed 500 members of the West African peacekeeping force hours before the peacekeepers were ordered to withdraw from rebel-held territory...

day just hours before the retreat was announced, the statement added. The peacekeepers, who have been overseeing a ceasefire since November 1990...

faces sanctions. The arms seizure and planned withdrawal threatens the limited progress in the last two years toward bringing peace to Liberia, nation founded by freed American slaves...

Thai election a test of pro-democracy gains

CHUM PHAE, Sept 9: Standing in the bed of a pickup truck, leading politician Chamlong Srimuang waved as his campaign wound through Chum Phae town in Thailand's impoverished northeast...

this country will be a dictatorship," Chamlong said. Thailand holds parliamentary elections Sunday in a test of whether the blood shed by pro-democracy demonstrators Chamlong led in May will produce lasting political change...

east's 17 provinces are crucial to Chamlong's Palang Dharma (Power of Virtue) Party and other parties that hope the new political consciousness born in May will overcome a history of vote buying, military influence and political patronage...

Major optimistic about future of ME peace talks

LONDON, Sept 9: British Prime Minister John Major said Tuesday he was optimistic about the future of Arab-Israeli peace talks after meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, reports AP.

Tigers kill 19 Lankan troops

COLOMBO, Sept 9: Tamil Guerrillas Wednesday killed at least 19 government soldiers in two separate attacks in northeastern Sri Lanka, ending a two-day lull in violence in the embattled region, a military spokesman said, reports AP.

Local officials said the tigers had attacked an army bunker line in Velli Oya, the theatre of frequent LTTE ambushes.

Corazon prefers women for cabinet posts

MANILA, Sept 9: Former President Corazon Aquino told an audience in Spain that she preferred women for Cabinet posts. But her record experience with the few women she appointed was often less than satisfactory, reports AP.

During her six-year term, which ended June 30, Mrs Aquino appointed only five women to her more than 20-member Cabinet, which was reshuffled several times.

French forces put down prison mutiny, free 21 hostages

MOULINS, France, Sept 9: A police special forces unit overpowered mutinous inmates Wednesday and freed 21 hostages held for 14 hours while convicts unlocked comrades with stolen keys and set fires in a prison, reports AP.

One policeman suffered a broken hand during the assault, and three inmates were slightly wounded by rubber bullets, officials said. Last month, the stabbing death of a guard at another French prison triggered a nationwide strike by guards for several days.

Off the Record

Have massage, give support

BANGKOK: A candidate in Thailand's general elections treated dozens of supporters to a session in a famous Bangkok massage parlour after a political rally, the election watchdog body said today, reports Reuter.

Japanese media loves royal marriage scandal

TOKYO: As far as Japan's tabloids and sensation-hungry weeklies are concerned, Fergie is fair game and lonely Princess Di a sure sales boost. But the travails of brideless Crown Prince Naruhito are another story, indeed, reports AP.

Silence is dangerous

BOULDER: Author Salman Rushdie made a rare public appearance Tuesday and called for pressure on Iranian leaders to lift the assassination order they imposed on him for his novel 'The Satanic Verses,' reports AP.



Rushdie, who has spent 2 1/2 years in hiding, said he is making appearances when he can to show that "terrorism by remote control" doesn't work.

NASA begins countdown for shuttle flight

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Sept 9: The US space agency began the countdown Wednesday for the 50th shuttle flight, a laboratory research mission featuring the first married couple to fly in space...

The seven-member crew also includes the first Japanese citizen to fly on a US spaceship, chemist Mamoru Mohri.

Thai election a test of pro-democracy gains

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this country will be a dictatorship," Chamlong said. Thailand holds parliamentary elections Sunday in a test of whether the blood shed by pro-democracy demonstrators Chamlong led in May will produce lasting political change...

adviser of Chamlong's party has said that if it came to power the party would support UN economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge guerrilla group if it continued violating the Cambodian peace accord...

east's 17 provinces are crucial to Chamlong's Palang Dharma (Power of Virtue) Party and other parties that hope the new political consciousness born in May will overcome a history of vote buying, military influence and political patronage...

supported the demonstrators. Another possibility is former Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan, who has staged a remarkable comeback after being ousted in a 1991 military coup.

Communist kill 8 Filipino troops

BACOLOD, Philippines, Sept 9: Communist rebel Wednesday killed eight government troops in an ambush in the central Philippines...

A report from the military's Negros Island Command said the ambush took place in Cauayan town in Negros Occidental province, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of Bacolod and about 544 (340 miles) south of Manila.