## Saudi-Qatar border row

DOHA, Oct 4: Kuwait's Prime Minister visited Saudi Arabia and Qatar Saturday in a bid to defuse an escalating border row between the two countries, reports AFP.

Kuwait "is trying to find common ground between Doha and Riyadh on their border dispute," Crown Prince Saad Al-Abdallah Al-Sabah said here. He had already met Saudi

King Fahd and leading Saudi officials in the Red Sea resort of Jeddah and was meeting Qatari Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ibn Khalifa Al-Thani in

Doha has accused Saudi forces of seizing he border post at Al-Khaffus on Thursday, a day after a deadly clash at the post in a disputed zone. Riyadh has denied the charges.

#### World changes won't harm Sino-Thai ties'

BEIJING, Oct 4: Chinese President Yang Shangkun praised the good relations between Beijing and Bangkok as he received visiting That Princess Maha Chakrai Sirindhorn here today, the Xinhua news agency said, reports AFP.

The princess, who began her fourth visit to China on Saturday, said she hoped bilateral exchanges and cooperation in various areas would be further developed.

Yang, who made an official visit to Thailand last year, said "longstanding friendly relations" between the two Asian nations "will not change, no matter what changes take place in the world".

Shortly after meeting the president, the princess - in China for a four-day visit - left for the port city of Tianjin.

## Kuwaiti move to defuse Brazil's prison riotleaves 111 dead to postpone SAO PAULO, Oct 4: A gang fight between

inmates in Latin America's largest prison left 111 prisoners dead and injured 34 riot troops, officials said, reports AP.

Officials said it appeared most of the prisoners died at the hands of other inmates in the melee Friday, but no details on the cause of death were available.

The fight at Carandiru Prison's Pavilion 9 began Friday afternoon when one inmate hit another over the head with a lead pipe in a dispute over cocaine, federal police Maj Elzio Nagalli told the daily Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper. Nagalli said prisoners in Pavilion 9 had planned a mass escape and became furious with the two inmates for drawing attention to the ward. They started a mass brawl in an outdoor recreation area, he told the newspaper.

The local police chief, Narcfiso Nascimento, said no prisoners escaped during the riot.

The incident could pose yet another crisis for Brazil's new acting president, Itamar Franco, who was sworn in Friday, succeeding impeached President Fernando Collor de

The 36,000-square-yard (meter) pavilion has 15 guards and 2,200 inmates, usually those

charged or convicted of more serious crimes, authorities said.

Inmates grabbed homemade knives and pipes and seized 10 pistols from guards, Pedro Franco de Campo, Sao Paulo state security di-

rector, told a news conference Saturday. They set mattresses, beds and blankets on fire, he said.

De Campo said 300 riot troops were sent in two hours after the fight began and put down the uprising an hour later, he said.

The prison, in Sao Paulo's working-class northern district, was in a lockdown Friday, with all inmates kept in their cells, de Campo

A guard said Saturday that security was eased and families were allowed to visit some prisoners. But TV footage showed long lines of family members, some crying or shouting angrily, waiting to see inmates.

The names of the dead were not released. "It was not a police massacre," said de Campo in a live TV interview. "Most of the deaths were caused by the inmates them-

Some inmates' relatives told Globo TV, the

nation's largest network, that some bodies showed dog bites and were severely beaten.

Television footage Friday night on Globo showed helicopters with sharpshooters flying over the prison, and inmates scaling walls and running along rooftops.

"We were worried the riot would spread to the other pavilions," said de Campo.

"There are indications that a mass prison escape was planned," he added.

De Campo suggested inmates were trying to take advantage of city elections Saturday. The prisoners thought it would be easier to escape on the eve of the national city elections with all of the police in the streets to keep order," he

Prison officials originally told the Associated Press on Friday night and Saturday that only eight prisoners had died in the uprising. Earlier media reports said the uprising lasted until Saturday morning.

Aparecido Flora da Silva, a prison guard, said by telephone Saturday afternoon that order was quickly restored after the gang bat-

"Everything now is perfectly calm," said da

Silva. "The ninth pavilion has been cleaned up and prisoners in other wards are receiving family visitors"

Miserable conditions exist at Carandiru Prison, technically a detention center where prisoners are meant to await sentencing and trial before they are transferred to a nearby state penitentiary. But the penitentiary, too, is full, so some convicted prisoners remain at

Collective Cells sometimes hold up to 50

A report by the New York-based human rights group Americas Watch has described Brazil's prisons as, "hell holes" in which inmates are treated "worse than cattle".

Americas Watch said guard violence "appears to pervade the entire prison system

In July 1987, hundreds of riot police invaded the nearby penitentiary when 200 prisoners rioted. Thirty inmates and two guards were killed.

At a Sao Paolo suburban prison in February 1989, 18 prisoners died when 50 were cramped into a 3-by 9-foot (1-by-3-meter) cell in a punitive action after a failed jailbreak.

## to postpone S Korea trip

SEOUL, Oct 4: Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Barred by Russia's highest court from leaving the country, has been forced to postpone a trip to South Korea this week, reports Reuter.

Gorbachev had been due to arrive on Wednesday for a fourday visit during which he would meet President Roh Tae-Woo and deliver a lecture at a forum organised by the Kyunghyang Shinmun, a Seoul

The newspaper said today he met South Korea's ambassador to Russia on Saturday and expressed regrets that he had to postpone the trip.

Gorbachev promised that he would visit South Korea soon, the paper said.

### Four cops shot dead in Tripura

NEW DELHI, Oct 4: Tribal guerillas attacked a police outpost in a northeastern state Sunday, shooting to death four policemen and wounding two more, a news agency reported, says AP.

One guerilla of the All Tripura Tribal Front was killed when police retaliated the rebel gunfire. United News of India news agency said.

A sentry guarding the outpost ran away with some rifles immediately after the attack, Untied News said. Police suspect he was in collusion with the rebels, it said.

A total of 16.303 caliber rifles of World War II vintage were stolen from the outpost. The report did not say if the sentry took all the rifles or whether the rebels escaped with some rifles after killing the policemen.

The attack occurred in South Tripura district,

SCHWERIN, Germany: German Chancellor Helmut Kohl (R) reacts to anarchists after they disrupted the official celebrations for Germany's second anniversary of unity on Saturday. Some 3,000 people joined a rally, called by unions and left-wing groups, to protest the unemployment. -AFP/UNB photo

## US restricts operation of Sea Sparrow missiles

WASHINGTON, Oct 4: The US Navy clamped worldwide restrictions on Saturday on the operation of its Sea Sparrow missiles, the anti-aircraft weapon involved in last Thursday's accidental attack that killed five Turkish sailors in the Aegean Sea, reports Reuter.

A Defence Department statement said navy commanders had been ordered to place their Sea Sparrows in "a restricted level of readiness," an action that would include removing certain components needed to fire the missiles.

It added that the order did not represent an all-out ban, however, saying commanders "may elect to keep systems operational on selected units if

it is deemed necessary for adequate self-defence of the The statement said the US

navy had operated the Sea Sparrows for more than 17 years without any known AP adds: NATO's chief said Saturday that crew error and

technical problems were being examined as potential causes of a US missile strike that killed five Turkish sailors during war games. Investigators were also looking into whether both of

the Sea Sparrow missiles fired from the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga hit the Turkish warship, said US Gen John Shalikashvili, supreme commander of the Atlantic alliance.

ing Americans and a Turk, convened Saturday aboard the Saratoga to study Thursday's incident and later flew to Ankara, the Turkish capital. Turkey also set up two panels of inquiry.

A panel of admirals, includ-

Ankara to meet with Gen Dogan Gures, chief of the Turkish general staff, said "human error or mechanical failure" were both being stud-But the US general dis-

Shalikashvili, who arrived in

missed as premature reports that human error was likely to blame for the incident in the Aegean Sea about 80 miles (129 kms) off the Turkey's western coast.

## Off the Record



-AFP/UNB photo

#### Snake on PIA

QUETTA, Pakistan: A Pakistan International Airlines (PIA): jet was delayed for two days after a snake fell into a passengers lap just before takeoff, airport officials said Sunday, reports AFP.

They said the A-310 airbus was taking away from the terminal on a scheduled domestic flight to Karachi on Friday causing general panic.

The flight was postponed passengers were herded off and

a hectic search was launched for the reptile.
The plane was thoroughly searched a number of times and fumigation was carried out but the snake was not found, the

officials said.

## BRIEF

### Israelis kill 2 Palestinians: Israeli

undercover operatives disguised as Arabs killed two Palestinians and wounded at least six others Saturday in the northern West Bank village of Qabatiyah, Palestiman sources said, reports AFP from Jerusalem.

The Israeli army imposed a curfew on the area immediately after the shooting.

Witnesses to the incident said the Israelis came across Mohammad Sadek Abu Kamil, 23, a member of the armed wing of Fatah, the main group of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, in an alley.

They said the Israelis immediately opened fire and that he returned fire before being felled.

French FM in Cairo: French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas flew to Cairo Sunday after talks with Syrian President Hafez-Al Assad on how to advance the Arab-Israelt peace talks, officials and diplomats said, reports Reuter from Damascus.

Presidential spokesman Joubran Kourieh said the talks covered the Middle East peace progress, bilateral cooperation and a number of regional and international issues. He gave no further details.

Dumas said earlier his talks in Damascus were a continuation of meetings he had in Syria and in New York recently with Assad and Shara in which he offered French help in advancing the regional dialogue.

Dumas is due to hold talks in Tel Aviv after visiting Cairo.

13 killed in Seoul chapel fire: A man upset by his wife's refusal to quit the Jehovah's witnesses church set a chapel on fire Sunday, killing 13 people and injuring 20 others, police and news reports said, according to AP from Seoul. Police said they expected the toll to grow because fire

started at the church's entrance, trapping some 90 believers inside. The man argued with church members before dousing the second-floor chapel with gasoline at the church in Wonju, 75

kilometers (46 miles) east of Seoul, police said. They identified the man as Won Un-shik a 35-year-old worker at Wonju Land Registration Corp.

Int'l confce on drugs opens: Experts from more than 30 countries opened an international conference on drugs in Abu Dhabi Saturday, admitting the problem was complicated but optimistic they would defeat smuggling, reports AFP.

Participants from Gulf Arab states, Egypt, Iran, Pakistan, Thailand, Turkey, France, the United States and other countries and organisations were to present papers on their experiences in combating drugs.

The six-day drugs conference in the capital of the United Arab Emirates is the biggest in the Middle East.

"We are confident we will win the war against narcotics although we have lost some battles." Igbal Hussein of Inerpol told the conference. He acknowledged it would be a long war.

#### Georgia takes over Red Army assets MOSCOW, Oct 4: Russian cause we have been dragged About 16 per cent of the

Kashmir dispute

Mandela refuses

to take sides

President Boris Yeltsin warned his Georgian counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze on Saturday that he was ready to step up Russia's involvement in secessionist Abkhazia il a ceasefire agreement reached a month ago was not enforced.

But Georgia responded to the stern warning by taking over all of the former Red Army assets on its territory, which had been placed under Russian control after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Ezhaba loseliani, a member of Georgia's state council, told AFP the take-over was 'not an

"We need these assets be-

Kuwaitis go to

polls today

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4:

Kuwait's 80,000 "first-class"

men voters will have a choice

spanning most of the political

spectrum when they go to the

polls Monday for the first par-

liamentary election since

Almost 300 candidates, in-

cluding a myriad of Muslim

fundamentalists, secular liber

als and businessmen, have en-

tered the pray in 25 electoral

districts for the assembly's 50

has gripped Kuwait as it return

to parliamentary life, candi-

dates are grouped in move-

ments, coalitions, alliances and

assemblies because of a ban on

them from modern campaign-

groups are calling openly for

society to become more

Islamic and the adoption of

Islamic Constitutional Move-

ment, has pledged to 'work in

parliament for the in-

troduction of Islam in all as-

The main group, the

Sharta, or Islamic law.

pects of life.".

But this has not stopped

Muslim fundamentalist

In the election fever that

1985, reports AFP.

political parties.

scats.

into a war," loseliani said.

But the move was expected to deprive Russia of a pretext to send reinforcement troops in Abkhazia to protect Russian military assets, as it did last week in another hotbed of the former Soviet Union, Taji-

Yeltsin, who brokered a agreement last September 3 between Georgia, Abkhazia and volunteer fighters from the northern Caucasus, told Shevardnadze during a telephone conversation that he would take "appropriate measures" to protect Russians in Abkhazia.

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, Oct.

4: Nelson Mandela, the leader

of the African National

Congress, said Saturday the

United Nations should inter-

vene if India and Pakistan can't

peacefully resolve their dispute

Institute for Strategic Studies,

a local think-tank, on the

ANC's efforts to end apartheid

in South Africa, Mandela was

asked how the lingering

Kashmir dispute should be re-

tween Islamic Pakistan and

predominantly Hindu India fol-

lowing the 1947 partition of

the Subcontinent. Both coun-

tries claim the fogmer princely

state and went to war over it in

sides. Both countries have

supported the democratic

movement in South Africa, he

Mandela refused to take

Kashmir was divided be-

Following a lecture at the

over Kashmir, reports AP.

500,000 inhabitants of Abkhazia are ethnic Russians while 44 per cent are Georgians and 17 per cent are .Abkhazians.

Yeltsin convened a meeting of his powerful Security Council to discuss 'measures to prevent an increase in the flow of refugees and to achieve a halt to the bloodshed," the Itar-Tass news agency re-

According to Itar-Tass. about 2,500 refugees on Saturday fled the region of Gagra, north of the main city of over by Abkhazian nationalists der.

He also noted that the three

men who fought to free the

Indian Subcontinent from

British colonial rule - Moha-

ndas K Gandhi, Jawaharlal

Nehru and Mohammed Ali

Jinnah - started their political

ability of the leaders of

Pakistan and India to sort out

their problems directly with-

out outside interference," he

said. "I hope this problem will

If it can't, then the UN

should intervene," he said. "We

believe in the ability of the

world body to promote peace

and to promote the idea that

differences between two na-

tions must be addressed

have been killed in Indian-

More than 5,000 people

"We have confidence in the

careers in South Africa.

be solved peacefully."

The news agency quoted

military sources that said about 20,000 more were making their way to the Russian border, crossing the Psou river between Abkhazia and Georgia

Shevardnadze, who on Saturday travelled from Sukhumi to the town of Ganttadi, near Gagra, said the fighting in Gagra was aimed at sabotaging legislative elections in Georgia which are to be held on October 11.

Itar-Tass quoted military sources as saying that fighting continued around Gagra and Sukhumi, which was taken near the Georgia-Russian bor-

## Civil war in Mozambique ends

ROME, Oct 4: The ceasefire accord the Mozambique government and RENAMO rebels sign Sunday brings a formal end to 16 years of vicious civil war, reports AP.

Last-minute objections by rebel leader Afonso Dhlakama were overcome Saturday. Italy's Foreign Ministry said, eapping two years of talks in

Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano and Dhlakama were to meet for the signing, witnessed by the presidents of Zimbabwe and Botswana as well as top officials from the United States and South Africa.

The accord would allow the famine-stricken nation of 15 million to receive urgently needed food aid, suspend fighting which has killed 600,000 and pave the way for free elections in 1993.

Since negotiations began in controlled Kashmir since a 1990, the United States, separatist insurgency flared up Russia, France and Portugal have assisted as mediators.

# MILAN, Italy: A model wears a "Mona Lisa" outfit as part of the new Moschino Spring/Summer collection during the

Milan fashion week on Saturday.

when the snake suddenly fell from a baggage compartment,

## Ruling party defeated in Victorian polls

MELBOURNE, Oct Australia's ruling Labour Party was swept from power in elections Saturday in the country's second most populous state. But Prime Minister Paul Keating denied the result foreshadowed his defeat in the next federal poll, reports AFP.

With four-fifths of the primary and transferable votes counted in the Victorian state election, Labour's support had slumped to 43.8 per cent, while its conservative opponents had 56.2 per cent.

Labour, which had governed for the past 10 years, was expected to lose 20 of its 46 seats in the state parliament, four of them held by members of premier Joan Kirner's cabi-

#### Many Africans live on mud to stave off hunger pains South Africa, Oct 4: The mighty Limpopo River is dry, a broad belt of dirt snaking through a landscape ravaged by a drought that has pushed millions of people to the edge of starvation, reports AP.

Where a torrent of green water hundreds of yards (meters) wide should be flowing and nourishing crops, there is dust. People say they remember nothing like it in their life-

"You can't grow anything. The earth is dead," Hant Mkanst, a peasant farmer, said as she stared out over a lifeless field near the

Across southern Africa, the worst drought in 100 years has stripped many areas bare. Villagers in some places eat mud to stave off hunger pains after months of surviving on leaves and roots that have now run out. Fields are patches of windblown dust, hun-

and millions of desperate people depend on food from aid agencies struggling to meet the growing demand. Upto 20 million people, or about a fifth of

dreds of thousands of cattle are dead or dying

the population, are struggling to survive in the life is cheap." 10 nations of southern Africa. But aid workers do not expect a repeat of the disaster ravaging Somalia to the north, except possibly in wartorn Mozambique, where the United Nations says 3 million people face death from famine and disease.

1948 and 1965.

With less than 50 per cent of average crop yields anticipated during 1992-93, at least 18 million people face the specter of starvation, even famine, said a UN report.

A quarter of Zimbabwe's 10 million people get food aid, but almost as many have been turned away. Large parts of Swaziland depend on 21 overworked government water trucks. In South Africa, the continent's strongest economy, aid groups feeding at least 2 million people have been forced to cut food allowances because they are overwhelmed by demand.

'It is worse, much, much worse than we anticipated ... field trips are journeys of discov-

ery into previously uncharted depths of misery.

human suffering and want," said Ina Periman,

head of Operation Hunger, a private South

African aid group. " But this is Africa, where

in January 1990.

peacefully.

Everywhere, the drought's impact has been made worse by incompetence and bureaucratic red tape, politics, corruption and violence. Much suffering could have been avoided if there had been planing and political accountability, aid workers say.

"Too much has been left for too long. We want action - not next month, not next week, not tomorrow, not today, but now," said Erich Bloch, an economist in Zimbabwe.

Mozambique has been shattered by a 15year war between the leftist government and right-wing rebels. In some northern regions people are dying from malnutrition and related discases. "There is absolutely nothing left to eat," said

Jean-Daniel Taux, a Red Cross official. Haunted by past African famines that have

claimed millions of lives Western nations have been sending food. But the arrival of some aid has been delayed by lack of transport or tardiness by some donor nations in meeting promises.

Aid officials warn the situation could deteri-

orate rapidly if there are unforeseen problems

or if the rains fail again.
"Physical condition can deteriorate quickly. Almost overnight, you can reach a situation where people are beyond the point of no return," said John Hicks of the U.S Agency for International Development. In South Africa, the worst suffering has

been in the rural homelands, created under apartheid as separate nations for blacks and located in barren areas. "It's been a mess for years, now it's a lot

more critical", said Johann Rissik, an Operation Hunger worker in Lebowa homeland. "It's desperate. People are fighting over water Government and aid officials worry the

drought's impact will linger. It will be hard to revive farming and there is a danger that people will become dependent on aid, they said. Emergency measures must be replaced by major projects to develop economies capable

of feeding the region, say the aid workers. "We Africans have to accept that our continent is slowly dying," said Keith Harvey, an agronomist in Zimbabwe.

#### Afghan grand assembly next month ISLAMABAD, Oct 4: Afgha-

nistan's interim coalition has invited international org-anisations to observe a nationwide assembly called next month to determine the country's future government, Kabul' radio said on Saturday, reports Reuter. A meeting of the leadership

council called by President Burhanuddin Rabbant decided to invite the United Nations and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference to observe the grand assembly, according to the state-run radio monitored in Islamabad. The grand assembly will

meet after Rabbant's fouron October 28 to decide the future composition and structure of the government.

month term of office expires