

## 100 Palestinians shot in Gaza

JERUSALEM, Oct 8: Israeli troops shot and wounded more than 100 Palestinians in clashes Wednesday in the occupied Gaza Strip during protests in solidarity with prisoners on hunger-strike. Arab sources said, reports AFP.

Sixty-three Palestinians were shot in Rafah, 26 in Gaza city and 20 in nearby refugee camps, according to Palestinian hospital workers, updating a previous toll.

Most suffered only slight injuries from plastic or rubber bullets used by troops in the clashes but four Palestinians were seriously wounded, the sources said.

An Israeli army spokesman, withdrawing an earlier denial, confirmed that soldiers had used firearms in Rafah but reported only 25 casualties.

The unrest came as Israel marked the Yom Kippur holiday, or day of atonement, one of the most important Jewish religious feasts.

Palestinians have displayed growing unrest over Israeli authorities' failure to satisfy the demands of 5,000 Palestinian

hunger-strikers, who say they are beaten during interrogations and kept in overcrowded cells.

Leaders of the occupied territories on Friday in support of the detainees, whose strike entered its second week Monday.

The Intifada leaders hailed the prisoners as 'heroes,' called for international intervention and urged Palestinians to mark their support for the detainees by 'all possible means.'

The fighting in Rafah broke out after several hundred women, most of them students, marched peacefully through the city and staged a sit-in outside the offices of the international committee of the Red Cross, witnesses said.

Around 3,000 young demonstrators later joined them and threw stones at the soldiers, who retaliated by firing tear gas, plastic bullets and steel balls encased in rubber.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation's mainstream Fatah group had called for the protests in the Gaza Strip.

## Russia-Ukraine deadlock over N-forces continues

MOSCOW, Oct 8: Defence officials from Ukraine and Russia have yet to break a deadlock over control of nuclear forces on Ukrainian territory, Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev reported Wednesday, reports AFP.

Grachev, who was meeting defence ministers from CIS states in the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek, told the Interfax news agency that 'we have not been able to reach an agreement with Ukraine'.

Ukraine and Russia have been haggling over who controls nuclear forces in Ukraine since the break-up of the Soviet Union last December. The issue has been on the

agenda of every summit meeting between the two countries. Meanwhile, Azerbaijan's parliament on Wednesday rejected membership in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) created last year to replace the dissolved Soviet Union. Itar-Tass news agency reported.

By a vote of 48 to one the delegates refused to ratify the treaty signed December 21 by then-President Ayaz Muttalibov, which grouped Azerbaijan with 10 other former Soviet republics in the CIS.

The current Head of State, Abulfaz Elchibey, has long stated his opposition to mem-

bership in the CIS but parliament had yet to officially act on ratification.

The parliament's decision was taken just two days before the next CIS summit, to be held in the Kyrgyzstan capital Bishkek. It also came amid continuing conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, a CIS member, over the Armenian-majority enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armenia has been seeking in recent weeks to gain Russian help in its battle with Azerbaijan, citing the terms of collective security agreements between the CIS members.

Moscow has already withdrawn its troops from Azerbaijan and plans to soon

begin the withdrawal of border guards along the Azerbaijani-Iranian border.

According to Itar-Tass, Elchibey and parliamentary leaders agreed to develop relations with the other former Soviet republics on a bilateral basis. Judging that formal CIS membership would 'contribute nothing' to Azerbaijan.

Elchibey had earlier told the deputies that opinion polls showed that Azerbaijan's seven million inhabitants were opposed to CIS membership. The independent Interfax news agency reported.

The CIS now includes all former Soviet republics except the Baltic states and Georgia.

## OIC asks UN Council to okay urgent steps

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 8: Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) countries have asked the Security Council to approve urgent measures to address the crisis in Bosnia, including a no-fly zone over the former Yugoslav republic, reports AFP.

In a letter released Wednesday and addressed to Security Council President Jean-Bernard Merimee, envoys from a group of OIC countries also sought rapid deployment of additional forces to strengthen the UN Protection force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia.

"A great tragedy awaits the already suffering people of Bosnia-Herzegovina as winter approaches," they wrote, adding that Bosnians must be protected from "brutal, Serbian attacks."



SARAJEVO, Bosnia: Bosnian Muslims pray in front of the tomb of a fighter during his funeral on Wednesday in a stadium here as there is no room in the city's cemetery any more.

## 6,000 UN troops to be deployed in Bosnia

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 8: Some 5,000 to 6,000 UN peacekeeping troops, mostly French, British and Canadian, will be deployed in Bosnia-Herzegovina by early November to protect humanitarian convoys, diplomatic sources said, reports AFP.

The first elements of the force, under the command of French general Philippe Morillon, will arrive in the war-ravaged Balkan state, October 15. The nations contributing to the force expect the peacekeepers to be deployed by the first week of November, the sources said.

Details of the deployment are still being discussed by UN diplomats. But there are still some missing elements particularly in the area of engineering and transport, the sources said.

Russia and the United States have not indicated yet whether they would contribute to the European-dominated

force. For the moment, Washington has said only that it will supply a field hospital in Zagreb, a western diplomat said.

France, which had planned to send 1,100 troops to participate in the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR), has agreed to increase that number to 500. The French force will include a 1,300-man battalion, 150 engineers and a 150-member helicopter unit.

The first group of 300 French troops was expected to arrive in Bosnia around October 15, with the rest in place by October 25.

The British unit, which will be 'totally autonomous' will include 1,600 to 1,800 troops, sources said.

Canada has agreed to send a 1,400-member battalion. Spain is sending 400 peacekeepers. But only for four to six months. Denmark will send 100 to 150 headquarters staff troops and Norway will send

an engineering corps that will be based at the command post near Sarajevo.

The Netherlands will send a communications unit along with a truck transport unit that will be joined by Belgian troops.

The headquarters will be staffed by all contributing countries, and headed by Morillon, with a Spanish general as second in command and a British chief of staff.

The first members of the headquarters staff arrived Monday in Belgrade and are expected to be in Bosnia by October 17.

In addition to the field hospital, the United States is expected to provide air support and communications equipment. Moscow has not yet responded to a UN request for a contribution, sources said.

The strengthening of the Bosnian peacekeeping force was authorized September 14 by Security Council resolution

776. About 1,500 'blue beret' troops are currently in Bosnia, and that force should be up to about 7,000 within a month.

Discussions also were continuing at the UN headquarters on the imposition of a 'no-fly' zone over Bosnia. European and US diplomats were discussing enforcement of the proposed measure, which would ban non-UN military flights from Bosnian airspace.

## The Intifada is dead

JERUSALEM, Oct 8: The Palestinian revolt or Intifada is dead, the commander of Israeli forces on the occupied West Bank said in an interview published today, reports AFP.

"The Intifada is dead, mainly because of the change in the army's operating methods," General Moshe Yaalon told the Israel defence force's weekly magazine *Bamahaneh* (in the camp).

The military has claimed significant success from undercover operations to arrest wanted Palestinian gunmen. The underground Palestinian leadership of the uprising has also in recent months eased demands on the population while insisting the Intifada goes on with mass support.

Yaalon said only 150 Palestinian 'terrorists' were at large today compared with 600 in 1991.

"I don't think the Palestinian side would have entered the peace process if they had succeeded in bending us. Then we would have arrived at the peace process on all for us."

He noted that the 1.7 million Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied territories had paid dearly since the Intifada erupted in December 1987.

"Today the population is not under curfew. They live, work and study. All the schools are open and the universities."

"At the same time they fear inter-Palestinian clashes. Without us we would have ethnic clashes there, like in Bosnia," he said.

## Rao defends defence spending

NEW DELHI, Oct 8: Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao Wednesday rejected overseas criticism about the size of Indian defence spending, and declared New Delhi would not compromise on India's security preparedness, reports AFP.

"There is no point in other countries commenting on our defence expenditure as our per capita income and defence outlay is comparable, or less than that of many [other] nations," The Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted him as saying.

Rao made the remarks, addressing sailors aboard Indian aircraft carrier *Inra Virat* in the Arabian Sea off Bombay, without naming any foreign country.

"India is a vast country, it has a vast coastline and large population," he was also quoted as saying by national television in defending the existing level of spending.

## UN urges world to help flood-hit Pakistan

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 8: The General Assembly on Wednesday requested all states and international organizations to give emergency aid to Pakistan, devastated by its worst ever flooding, reports AP.

The assembly also called on Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and UN agencies to assist in Pakistan's rehabilitation.

The assembly adopted a resolution, introduced by Turkey and sponsored by 53 nations, expressing deep concern about the deaths, destruction of homes and damage to much of the nation's infrastructure.

Six countries, the European Community and the United Nations are donating a total of \$1.8 billion to help Pakistan, recover from the flooding, Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced in September.

The flooding began when non-stop monsoon rains caused the nation's many

rivers to overflow.

AFP adds: The General Assembly on Wednesday adopted a resolution asking Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to cooperate in relief efforts in Pakistan in the wake of last month's devastating floods.

The resolution sponsored by 45 countries noted that the floods, which left at least 1,000 dead or missing and numerous homes and infrastructure destroyed, could hamper efforts by Pakistan to promote economic growth and development.

While commending the efforts of the Islamabad government and the international community to provide relief, the resolution called on the Secretary General, "in cooperation with the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system, and in close collaboration with the government authorities, to assist in the rehabilitation efforts of the government of Pakistan."

## BRIEFLY

### 31.4 pc Russian children have HIV:

Almost one third of Russians infected with the HIV virus are children, a Russian government report on the state of the nation's health revealed on Wednesday, reports AFP.

The report said that as of May 1st 1992, 558 people have been diagnosed as having the Human Immune-Deficiency (HIV) virus in Russia, of whom 31.4 per cent are children.

Russian Health Minister Andrei Vorobyov told a news conference that 81 people are suffering from the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) while 51 persons have died.

According to excerpts of the report published in *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* on Wednesday, 392 carriers of the HIV virus were deported from Russia.

### Troops capture LTTE radio:

A Tamil rebel radio transmitting station in the jungles of Panama near Ampara in east Sri Lanka was captured Tuesday night by government Special Task Force Commandos (STFC), Xinhua reports from Colombo.

The commandos raided the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) encampment in the jungles of Panama and round what was believed to be an important LTTE radio station, security sources were quoted by reports reaching here yesterday as saying.

The commandos found 10 radio transceiver sets as well as infantry weapons, ammunition and some explosive devices, the sources said. The rebels of the LTTE in the camp had fled leaving behind most of their equipment after briefly resisting the STFC advance, according to the reports.

### Drugs seized in Yangon:

A total of 27.597 kilograms of narcotic drugs were seized in Myanmar, according to official reports, Xinhua reports from Yangon.

Seven persons involved in the cases were booked by police force stations under the country's narcotic drugs law, the reports said.

### Kenya hosts 408,000 refugees:

Kenya is now hosting 408,000 refugees from the neighbouring countries, an official of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said on Tuesday, Xinhua reports from Nairobi.

Panos Moutzias, the UNHCR's Public Information Officer, said that more than 300,000 refugees currently in the country are Somalis and the rest are Ethiopians and Sudanese, the Daily Nation reported.

The local newspaper quoted Moutzias as saying that the number of refugees crossing into Kenya daily had increased from 150 to 690 between September 24 and 30.

Moutzias praised Kenya's contribution to refugees, saying the UNHCR is very happy that the living and health conditions in all refugee camps in Kenya have improved and that everything is under control.

### Ghali asks SC to renew UNIKOM:

UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali asked the Security Council Wednesday to renew for six months the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), AFP reports from United Nations.

The demilitarized zone under UNIKOM control is "marked by a gradual heightening of tension in some areas" due largely to the uncertain status and property rights of Iraqi farmers affected by redrawing of the border, he said.

Some Iraqi-run farms in the north of the demilitarized zone are in fact on Kuwaiti territory.

"The continue functioning of UNIKOM is an indispensable factor in maintaining the demilitarized zone, preventing or containing further incidents and reducing tension," Boutros-Ghali said in a report published Wednesday.

### US hails Kuwaiti polls:

The United States Wednesday expressed satisfaction over Kuwait's general elections saying that they were the most open ever in that country, AFP reports from Washington.

"We are pleased by the openness of the electoral process and the conduct of the election itself," said State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher. They had been "the most open that Kuwait has ever had."

"Once the parliament is established, we will continue to encourage the government to move towards expanding political participation," he added.

The Islamic fundamentalist and liberal opposition won 32 of the 50 seats in Monday's poll in Kuwait. The new deputies demanded Wednesday that the next government includes some members of the opposition ranks.

## 23 insurgents arrested in Philippines

MANILA, Oct 8: Philippine police have arrested 23 suspected insurgent hitmen but found they could only detain five of them because of the recent legalization of the Communist Party, a senior official said here today, reports AFP.

Chief Inspector Leo Gara said the 23 were arrested in an industrial suburb on Wednesday and some were found to be carrying photographs and a list of soldiers and policemen who were apparently targeted for liquidation.

## Conquistadors still do not hold complete sway in the new world

LIMA, Oct 8: Five centuries after Christopher Columbus sailed into the Caribbean, the descendants of the Conquistadors still do not hold complete sway in the new world, reports AFP.

From colonial times to the present, Peru's Quechua-speaking peoples have been abused, ignored and shut out. Now they are being wooed by leftist Shining Path rebels, with mixed success. Some back the guerrillas, but many have sided with the government in the bloody 12-year war.

Long before the Spanish make the trek from the Caribbean to Lima, diseases brought by the Spanish devastated the Incan ruling family, leading to a civil war in the empire which then stretched from southern Colombia to central Chile.

This war gave the Spanish Conquistador Francisco Pizarro his opening: in 1532 he presented Athahualpa, ruler of the northern half of the empire, with a bible, and when it was refused, Pizarro threw the Inca emperor from

his horse and in one stroke decapitated the empire.

Nearly five hundred years later, conflicts continue between the largely white and Mestizo populations in the cities on the coast and the Quechua-speaking Indians in the mountain farming villages, some virtually cut off from the capital.

Archaeologist Julio Tello, who has done more than anyone to teach Peruvians about their country's 1,000-year history, writes that the conquest produced "a major cataclysm that brought down even the foundations of the national building constructed by the indigenous engineer."

"Today's Peru, Tello wrote in 1921," has not yet been able to understand the mystery of its race. A small population with European culture lives atop the still beating ruins of another population with a Peruvian culture, we do not know or pay attention to the Indian, and because of this he lives at the margin of civilization."

During the three centuries between the conquest and Peru's independence in 1821, the Spanish tried to change Indian culture by destroying native religious icons and baptizing them, replacing native dress with European fashion and foisting on them products made Spain.

Incan institutions were banned, and Indians were described as "common" and grouped into communities which were granted some autonomy but required to pay taxes to the Spanish crown, much as peasants in Spain were forced to pay tribute.

In Peru's most traditional communities today, it is hard to distinguish between tools and practices which originated in Spain and those native to the Andes.

For the most part the Andean Indians have defenced ancient traditions — their self-sufficiency, their ties to nearby communities and agricultural techniques suited to the harsh Andean climate.

Because of the war between the military and the Shining Path in the Andes, little is known

of what is going on in huge tracts of the country where researchers and journalists are forbidden, or too frightened, to go.

News outlets generally cite military sources when reporting attacks.

The Shining Path, which preaches that peasant warriors with attack the capital after gaining control of the countryside, has found some support in the Andes, but also resistance since Andean Indians have been reluctant to exchange their traditional world view for Maoism.

And some Shining Path practices alienated their potential allies. For example, when they take a town, rebels kill seven community leaders, cutting their throats as the Spanish conquistadors before them had done.

## Thailand requests Myanmar to free captives

BANGKOK, Oct 8: Thailand has asked its embassy in Yangon to request the Myanmar government to order its troops opposite Thailand's Mae Hong Son province to release the 10 Thais who have been held captive since Tuesday, reports Xinhua.

Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Soonstri was quoted by the nation as saying Wednesday that he had instructed the Thai embassy in Yangon to coordinate with the Myanmar government to ensure the early release of the group.

## Off the Record

### A pill that works 'morning-after' unprotected sex

BOSTON: The French-made drug RU-486, which induces abortion early in pregnancy, also works a "morning after" pill for women who had unprotected sex or believed their birth control failed, a new study found, reports AFP.

A study conducted in Scotland and published in today's *New England Journal of Medicine* concluded that making the drug available for use after intercourse could curb the demand for abortions.

The drug is not now available in the United States. It is available in France — where it was introduced in 1988 — and in Britain, Sweden and China.

"People are trying to find a highly effective form of post-coital contraceptive that is easy to use and free from side effects," said Dr Anna Glaiser, who directed the study. "It would seem that RU-486 meets those requirements."

The drug triggers abortions early in pregnancy by causing the embryo or fetus to become separated from the wall of the uterus, and be expelled. When used as a morning-after pill, it is believed to prevent the fetus from being implanted in the uterine wall.

### Divorce has become a mutual agreement

NANJING: A nationwide survey shows that the divorce rate has been increasing at an annual rate of 10 per cent since China issued the country's second marriage law in the early 1980s, reports Xinhua.

A report by the Social Affairs Department said that in 1979, divorce cases stood at 319,000, but the number had climbed to 506,000 by 1986. In 1988, divorce cases increased to 655,000.

Chu Zhaorui, an expert with the Jiangsu Provincial Academy of Social Sciences, attributed the increasing divorce rate to the change of people's traditional concept of marriage, family and sex. The traditional idea which took marriage as the foreign of one's life-long relationship has changed with the developing times.

A sample survey shows that now more people are willing to accept the reality of divorce. More and more spouses have divorced by peaceful mutual agreement, without interference by courts and civil affairs departments.

### Gambling is legal

CARSON CITY: In Nevada, where gambling is legal, even picking a chief justice can be a game of chance. But next month, voters will be asked to scrap the practice instituted in 1864 of tossing a coin to choose the boss of the high bench, reports AP.

If approved Nov 3, the measures also would amend the Nevada Constitution to double the term of a chief justice to four years. It would also let the chief of the five member Supreme Court serve more than one.

Currently, the job of chief justice goes to whichever member of the court has the shortest time remaining in his or her elected six-year term. But from time to time, two justices are "short-termers" simultaneously. So they flip a coin.

The amendment would require the justices to select the chief by vote.

Advocates of the proposal, like Republican state Sen. Bill Raggio and Assembly Judiciary Chairman Bob Sader, a Democrat, feel it's time to try a more modern method, noting that many government bodies elect their own leaders.

Chief Justice John Mowbray was the latest to leave his job to fate when he correctly called "heads" in 1990 as another justice flipped a half-dollar coin. He likes taking his chances the old-fashioned way, he said.

"I think the constitutional fathers in 1864 had a lot of wisdom," Mowbray said.

He and others fear dropping the coin toss could lead to animosity and power-brokering.

"If you have an election among the justices, it will be controlled by them, and perhaps by other justices who have senior status," Mowbray said. "This way, it breaks up the good old boy system. It's left up to fortune."

### Accused in sex torture

CALIFORNIA: A martial arts expert accused in the sex torture killings of 12 persons went before a court in a special steel cage, reports AFP.

Prosecutors said Tuesday evidence at the preliminary hearing would show Charles NG, a Hong Kong native, kept some of his victims as sex slaves and burned and buried the victims in a rural area after killing them in 1985.

NG was arrested in Canada in 1985 after bodies were discovered and he was extradited last year to California.

His alleged accomplice, Leonard Lake, committed suicide by swallowing a cyanide pill after being arrested near San Francisco.

In a courtroom filled with relatives of the victims, NG made an effort to disqualify his two defence attorneys as well as judge Douglas Mewhinney. The preliminary hearing is expected to last six weeks.

## VHP warns to resume temple building

NEW DELHI, Oct 8: A powerful Hindu group warned Wednesday it will resume building a temple in the Indian town of Ayodhya if the government fails to resolve a row over the construction site by October 26, reports AFP.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), (World Hindu Council) said it would not extend the three-month deadline it gave the government at the end of July to try to solve the dispute, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

The VHP would be ready for a "confrontation" with Premier PV Narasimha Rao's 15-month-old government after the expiry of the October 26 deadline, VHP General Secretary Ashok Singhal was quoted as saying.

"The 'confrontation' would take the shape of 'country-wide non-violent agitations'," Singhal told reporters in the northern city of Jaipur, where, about 6,000 Hindu revivalists, took out a ceremonial march Tuesday.

The VHP is currently engaged in government-supervised talks with Muslims, who also claim the Ayodhya site. But Singhal reiterated that the VHP would only go by archaeological evidence and oppose judicial intervention.

"It is not a case of property, but a case of people's faith," he said.

Singhal warned 'political parties, most of which oppose any damage to the mosque' from Hindu fundamentalists, not to interfere in the issue.