

International

US-HK Policy Act to damage colony's stability : China

BEIJING, Oct 11: China has protested a US decision to strengthen its ties with Hong Kong, warning it would damage the British colony's stability and US interests there, the Xinhua news agency said today, reports AFP.

"After the date, it will be purely an internal affair of China," Liu said. Sponsors of the US Hong Kong Policy Act say it is intended to bolster confidence in the colony's future and ensure that democracy and capitalism are enshrined in Hong Kong for at least 50 years after 1997, which is in line with a Sino-British agreement reached in 1984. The act envisages boosting bilateral links between the United States and Hong Kong in a host of areas.

Delhi to foil Kashmiris' bid to cross Line of Control

NEW DELHI, Oct 11: India will foil any attempt by Pakistan or Kashmiris from inside Pakistan to cross into India's Kashmir state, Home Minister S B Chavan said Saturday, reports AFP.

plemented UN Resolution calls for self-determination for Kashmir. The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) whose earlier attempt to carry out a similar crossing in February and March led Pakistani troops to gun down 16 Kashmiris, announced in Pakistan on Wednesday that it would join the March.

since 1947 over the picturesque province. Thousands have died since 1989 in the Kashmiri separatist campaign and India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the rebels. Islamabad denies this, saying it only extends moral and political support to the militants.

and in briefing the press and taking credit for the work, done by other agencies, he says. Marwah, who was also the director-general of the elite National Security Guards (NSG), in an article in the latest issue of the strategic analyses, published by the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) here, says no one is held accountable for over or under reaction in Jammu and Kashmir police force.

BRIEFLY

IRA kills police officer: Two gunmen of the Irish Republican Army killed an off-duty policeman Saturday as he was having a drink with his brother in a crowded downtown bar, reports AP from Belfast.

Landslides kill 8 in West Java: Eight farmers were killed, 10 survived and 40 are still unearched in large landslides in Traskimalaya, West Java, Indonesia, reports Xinhua from Jakarta.

Bus mishap claims 16 in Nepal: A bus packed with 100 people plunged into a ravine in western Nepal Saturday, killing 16 passengers, the state-run television reported, says AP from Kathmandu.

21 protesters held in Bogota: Dozens of Indians and peasants who tried to block a highway in a Columbus Day protest were beaten, detained or reported missing after the army intervened, an Indian organization reported Saturday, says AP from Bogota.

Belarus rejects terms of US offer: The former Soviet republic of Belarus, one of four that still possess long-range nuclear weapons, has rejected the terms of a US offer to help dismantle the arms, the Interfax news agency said Saturday, reports AP from Moscow.

Mortar bomb kills 3 in Sarajevo: A mortar bomb killed three children and wounded 13 others when it slammed into an orphanage in Sarajevo on Saturday, Bosnian television reported, says Reuters from Yugoslavia.

Heavy fighting in Luanda: Heavy fighting erupted in downtown Luanda on Sunday between supporters of the former rebel group UNITA and policemen, reports AP.

Chinese CP to abolish central advisory body: BEIJING, Oct 11: The Chinese Communist Party will abolish a powerful commission made up of elderly revolutionaries at a congress opening Monday, an official spokesman said here today, reports AFP.



CAMBODIA: A woman carries her child and a gibbon on Friday while waiting for a UN helicopter to evacuate them from their jungle bases, 4 km from the Vietnamese border. Some 398 members of the former US backed FULRO guerrillas were evacuated and will be repatriated to the United States. — AFP/UNB photo

Prabhakaran ready to sit with govt to end war

COLOMBO, Oct 11: V. Prabhakaran, top leader of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), has been ready to talk with the government to end the ethnic war of Sri Lanka, the official newspaper Sunday Times reported today, reports Xinhua.

The peace message was conveyed by a group of LTTE representatives during their meeting with the Buddhist and Christian clergy as well as officials of non-governmental organizations, the report said.

The top rebel leader was prepared to meet President R. Premadasa and leaders of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), the biggest opposition of the country, to find a political solution to the war in the northern and east where the rebel group is fighting for a separate state of minority Tamils, the representatives said.

Thousands of government soldiers, LTTE members and civilians have been killed since June 1990 when the war escalated after the collapse of earlier peace talks.

The rebel team, which was in Colombo for talks with the government, has explained the LTTE position on matters such as language policy, land alienation, employment and education, according to the report.

A spokesman for the group said the purpose of the talks was to bring together the ruling United National Party, the SLFP and the LTTE for talks before December.

Rao to reshuffle cabinet soon

NEW DELHI, Oct 11: Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao has hinted he will soon carry out a long-awaited cabinet reshuffle to fill crucial vacancies and shed some of the dozen portfolios he holds press reports said here Sunday, reports AFP.

Important cabinet vacancies include external affairs, commerce, industry and law, which are being handled by the Prime Minister himself.

External Affairs Minister Madhavsinh Solanki quit in March after admitting he had passed on a note to Swiss authorities to slow down a probe of kickbacks paid into Swiss Bank accounts on a field gun deal with the Swedish firm before.

Gorbachev says he has no plan to return to govt

LONDON, Oct 11: Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has said he has no plans to return to a government post, and denied that he is a rival of Russian President Boris Yeltsin who has ordered the confiscation of his Moscow offices, reports AFP.

In a Russian television interview monitored by the BBC, Gorbachev also accused Yeltsin of attempting to prevent the programme being aired. He said television authorities had received "direct instructions from the President of Russia" not to go ahead.

Saturday for a new supreme authority in Russian and warned of the danger of a dictatorship. "We need to draw up a new policy, form a new team, find new formulas to stop the country from collapsing even more," Gorbachev, barred from leaving Russia after refusing to testify at the trial of the outlawed communist party, told France television in an interview. "What is required is a supreme council, created on a legitimate judicial basis and not by the whim of (Russian President) Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin the man that Russia needs and whom it trusts," Gorbachev said.

Sudanese govt to resume talks with rebels

CAIRO, Oct 11: The Sudanese government and the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) should resumed their peace negotiations on October 31, in the Nigerian capital of Abuja, Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported from Khartoum yesterday, reports Xinhua.

The agency said that the government had agreed with an envoy of Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida on the date for reopening the talks, which are expected to last until November 5.

The Nigerian government will inform SPLA of the date for resuming the peace talks, said MENA quoting a statement by Mudathar Abdul-Rahman, Deputy Chairman of the peace committee under Sudan's transitional national assembly (parliament).

Abdul-Rahman underlined the necessity for all the three SPLA factions to attend the Abuja talks to attain a durable and fair peace in southern Sudan.

Heavy fighting in Luanda

LUANDA, Angola, Oct 11: Heavy fighting erupted in downtown Luanda on Sunday between supporters of the former rebel group UNITA and policemen, reports AP.

Palestinians won't accept Israel's self-rule offer

CAIRO, Oct 11: A senior PLO official indicated here today that the Palestinians would not accept Israel's offer for self-rule in the occupied lands as a partial solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, reports Xinhua.

Palestinians are not worried about the alleged progress in the Syrian-Israeli peace talks. His remarks were carried by Egypt's state-run Middle East news agency.

21 in Washington. The PLO is not directly involved in the peace talks, but it was been playing an important behind-the-scenes role.

for hammering out a solution to the Palestinian issue. Washington, in its letters of assurances to the concerned parties last year, set the end of October as the start of the proposed interim Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to Abbas.

Abbas also indicated that the PLO would consider the idea of establishing a confederation between Israel and the Palestinians.

Off the Record

Delayed for PM's luggage: CALCUTTA: A last minute realisation by security officials regarding the Prime Minister's missing luggage delayed the special Indian airforce flight by some 45 minutes, at the city airport Sunday, reports PTI.

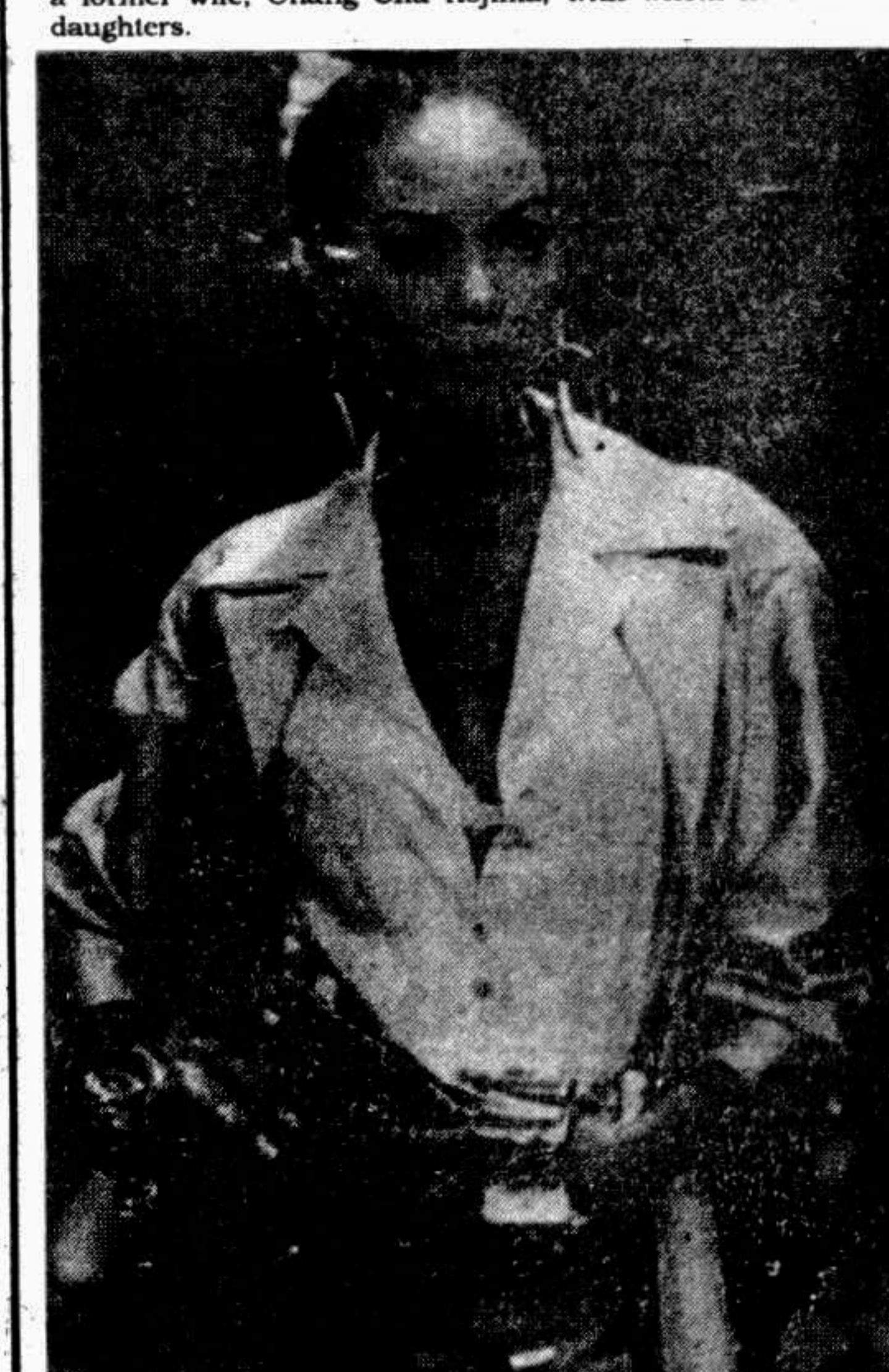
I don't owe anybody money: PARIS: Madonna, the recording world's pouting, cranky, blasé superstar, said Saturday that she owes the French government back taxes on income she made in this country.

A deadbeat dad: A "deadbeat dad" who doled out 500,000 dollars at a Republican Party fund-raiser while owing his ex-wife 100,000 dollars in child support, was arrested Saturday, reports AFP.



Michael Kojtma of Los Angeles was detained at the airport here as he was about to board a flight to Denver, Colorado. Authorities were looking for Kojtma, a 50-year-old self-described international businessman, after news photographs showed him sitting at President George Bush's table at an April 28 fund-raising dinner in Los Angeles.

LONDON: A model shows a daytime outfit featuring silky jacket and pin-stripe skirt from the Arabella Pollen Spring/Summer 1993 collection on Saturday on the second day of the London fashion show. — AFP/UNB photo



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Chinese CP to abolish central advisory body

BEIJING, Oct 11: The Chinese Communist Party will abolish a powerful commission made up of elderly revolutionaries at a congress opening Monday, an official spokesman said here today, reports AFP.

The Central Advisory Commission would be abolished, spokesman Liu Zhongde told a news conference. Senior leader Deng Xiaoping has been trying to disband the commission for years. It is headed by Chen Yun, who has been the main opponent of the pace and scope of Deng's market-oriented reforms.