

BRIEFLY

2 killed in US copter crash: A US Navy helicopter crashed in the Antarctic Tuesday, killing two civilians from New Zealand and a US Navy crew member, said an official, reports AFP from Washington.

Two crew members survived the crash. The UH-1N Iroquois helicopter was ferrying the two New Zealanders from Cape Bird to Scott Base in New Zealand's portion of the icy continent when it crashed at 0500 GMT, officials said.

The helicopter crashed in minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 40 centigrade) temperatures. Another US Navy helicopter braved a storm to pick up the dead and the two injured crew members, officials said.

Guerillas kill 4 in Peru: Shining Path guerillas stabbed four townspeople to death and kidnapped another five during attacks on two remote villages in Tarma province, police said Tuesday AFP says from Lima.

The Maoist guerilla group has killed 159 people — both civilians and military personnel in the month since its founder and leader Abimael Guzman was captured, and then sentenced to life behind bars.

Terrified survivors of the attack on San Pedro De Cajias said about 50 guerillas swept into the area on Saturday and stabbed dead two women and two men in front of horrified onlookers.

UNSC ultimatum to Khmer Rouge: The Security Council on Tuesday refused to put off Cambodian elections set for next May and gave Khmer Rouge guerillas one month to rejoin the peace process or be left out of the voting, reports AFP from United Nations.

If the Khmer Rouge, which has refused to honor a 1991 UN-brokered peace accord signed in Paris, fails to accept UN supervision of its forces and joins the electoral process by November 15, further steps will be considered, the council said in resolution 783, approved unanimously.

Quake hits Japan's island: A strong earthquake rocked a small island in Japan's extreme south Wednesday, but there were no reports of injuries, officials said, AP reports from Tokyo.

The quake, measuring 4.7 on the Richter scale, struck at 1:15 pm (0415 GMT) near Iriomote Island, about 2,000 kilometers (1,250 miles) southwest of Tokyo, the Central Meteorological Agency said.

On the Japanese scale of 7, the shallow undersea quake registered a 5 on the island of 1,700 people, meaning it was strong enough to crack walls and overturn gravestones.

Bush okays climate change treaty: President George Bush on Tuesday signed the treaty on climate change approved by the UN Earth Summit earlier this year, and called on all nations to implement the accord calling for reduction of certain forms of pollution as quickly as possible, reports AFP from Washington.

"The climate convention is the first step in crucial, long-term international efforts to address climate change," Bush said in a statement.

Iran denies N-deal with Kazakhstan

NICOSIA, Oct 14: Iran denies claims that it bought nuclear weapons from the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported Wednesday, reports AP.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said Iran's mission to the United Nations issued a statement Tuesday in New York calling reports of Iranian attempts to obtain nuclear arms as "sheer lie."

The dispatch singled out a report in the Washington Post. It said the Post alleged that "Iran has started secret talks on the purchase of nuclear warheads from Kazakhstan and that some even claim that the deal has been concluded."

Kabul troops capture air base from militia

SHINDAND, Afghanistan, Oct 14: Afghan government troops under the command of general Ismail Khan have captured a large military air base from ex-communist regime militia based here in Herat province, reports AFP.

General Ismail Khan, the military governor of Herat, told journalists that Shindand, located 120 kilometres (75 miles) south of the town of Herat, was captured early Monday after a swift night assault.

Shindand was the base from which jet bombers struck at Herat in support of the failed militia attempt to capture the provincial capital last week.

Ismail Khan, a captain in the Afghan army during the Nur Mohammad Taraki regime, quit the service after Taraki's blood suppression of anti-government riots in Herat in 1979.

Under the banner of the Jamiat-i-Islami, he became a famous Mujahideen commander during the Jihad (holy

Japan's powerful politician resigns from parliament

TOKYO, Oct 14: Shin Kanemaru, Japan's most powerful politician, resigned from parliament today over his involvement in a gangster-linked political scandal, a ruling party official said, reports AFP.

The resignation was widely believed to signal the retirement of Kanemaru, Lower House member since 1958 and the head of the largest faction of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Kanemaru told reporters he had been "resolved to resign since August 27, the day he acknowledged the receipt of 500 million yen (4.2 million

Air force commander threatens to defy 'no fly' order Serb leader agrees to ground warplanes

GENEVA, Oct 14: The leader of Bosnia's Serbs has promised to place his warplanes under United Nations supervision, although his own air force commander has threatened to defy a UN "no-fly" order, reports AP.

The overt move came as US officials said the government was consulting allies on a response to reports Serb bombers were violating the UN ban on warplanes over the former Yugoslav republic.

According to a statement issued late Tuesday by the office of Lord Owen, the European Community mediator on Bosnia, Radovan Karadzic offered to remove all Bosnian Serb combat aircraft from their base at Banja Luka to air-

fields in Serbia and Montenegro.

Last week, in a bid to head off the UN ban, Karadzic offered to ground his warplanes if troops loyal to the Muslim-led Bosnian government refrain from attacks. The Bosnian government forces have no warplanes.

It was not immediately clear whether conditions were attached to Karadzic's latest offer.

Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said last week that he was skeptical the Bosnian Serbs would hold to Karadzic's promise in light of their failure to honor previous agreements.

A UN representative will travel to Banja Luka with a se-

nior representative of the Yugoslav air force to work out the practical arrangements on the ground, the agreement said.

Bosnian Serbs have made increasing use of about 40 warplanes left them by the Yugoslav armed forces in June.

"Nothing will stop us from using all means, including aviation, to defend our people," rebel air commander Zivomir Ninkovic was quoted as saying Tuesday by the Belgrade newspaper Borba.

Bosnian government military leaders contend that since the ban, Serb rebels have bombed the northern Bosnian cities of Gradacac and Brcko, the last Bosnian strongholds in the republic's north. Serb

fighters deny the charge. The ban the UN Security Council approved last week is not backed by military force.

But in Washington on Tuesday, State Department spokesman Joseph C. Snyder indicated that if the United States and its allies conclude the resolution has been violated they will submit another resolution to specifically authorize a military response. Snyder did not directly accuse the Bosnian Serbs of violating the UN resolution.

Six people were killed and eight wounded in heavy artillery attacks on Gradacac this morning, Croatian radio reported. It said hundreds of missiles fell on the city's industrial zone.

About 14,000 people have been killed since ethnic Serbs took up arms against Bosnia's majority Muslims and Croats, who voted to secede from Yugoslavia in February.

The radio also said chlorine cisterns and tankers were put on all the important roads around Gradacac, apparently in hopes of preventing shelling by creating the threat of poisonous gas being released.

Twenty-five missiles were fired on Bosnian city of Bihac and its suburb on Tuesday evening, wounding at least three people, the radio said.

Meanwhile, Serbian police using clubs were reported to have clashed with ethnic Albanian demonstrators Tuesday in southern Kosovo province. Ethnic Albanians have been agitating for greater autonomy for years.

Myanmar frees 16 Thai nationals

BANGKOK, Oct 14: All the sixteen Thai nationals held by Myanmar troops have been released, Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Soontri said here yesterday, reports Xinhua.

Addressing a press conference, Prasong said that he was told by the Myanmar side that all the Thais were treated well by the Myanmar's and due to communications problems the release was delayed.

Among the sixteen Thais, six villagers were detained by the Myanmar's in August and another ten, including Nipon Kampa, Muang district chief of Me Hong Song province, northern Thailand, were held captives by the Myanmar troops last Tuesday.

Hamid Ansari new Indian envoy to UN

NEW DELHI, Oct 14: Hamid Ansari, India's Ambassador to Iran, will take over as India's new permanent representative to the United Nations at New York, reports PTI.

He will succeed C. Gharekhan, who is retiring from the Foreign Service.

Israeli troops capture 3 Arab guerillas

BEIRUT, OCT 14: Israeli forces captured three Arab guerillas trying to infiltrate through southeastern Lebanon, security sources said Wednesday, reports AP.

The three, two Lebanese and a Syrian, were members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the sources said. They were captured Tuesday night after being spotted near Mount Hermon by an Israeli patrol in Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone."

In Jerusalem, the Israeli army said the guerillas carried three Soviet-made Kalashnikov rifles, ammunition.



ATLANTA: Vice President Dan Quayle (2nd L) and his wife Marilyn (L) kiss as Al Gore (R) and his wife Tipper cross paths October 13 after the vice presidential debate at Georgia Tech. James Stockdale participated in the debate with Quayle and Gore. — AFP/UNB photo

Khrushchev armed troops in Cuba with N-weapons

NEW YORK, Oct 14: The Soviet Union had armed its 40,000 troops in Cuba during the Cuban missile crisis with battlefield nuclear weapons to use against US troops in case of an American invasion of the island, a US television documentary says, reports Reuter.

In a two-hour documentary to mark the 30th anniversary of the crisis to be shown on Thursday, the ABC television network says that Nikita Khrushchev has armed the troops with tactical nuclear weapons and given their commander on the ground in Cuba permission to make the decision to use them if there was no way to contact Moscow and

an American invasion of Cuba had already begun.

The documentary quotes General Anatoly Gribkov, the former director of the Soviet high command, as saying he was told to relay that advice to the Soviet commander in Cuba by their Soviet Minister of Defence Marshal Malinovsky.

The programme also quotes Soviet General Mikhail Titov, as saying the commander would have decided on his own. What were the options? war is war, Moscow was far away and communications were not very good. So he had the authority.

If the Soviet Union had not backed down and agreed to

remove its nuclear missiles in Cuba that were being aimed at the United States, President John F. Kennedy was under great pressure to invade the island.

ABC news anchorman Peter Jennings, who narrates the documentary, said, "this is one example of the extent to which Kennedy entered this crisis in the dark. Everyone stumbled forward, totally unaware of what the other was doing."

"It always looked from the outside as a crisis well managed by the administration. It turned out to be the opposite. How close we came to nuclear war in magnified very greatly by this new information."

Ghali shocked UN to give aid for Egyptian quake victims

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 14: Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said Tuesday he was "deeply saddened" by the deadly earthquake that struck his own country, Egypt, and said the United Nations was ready to provide assistance, reports AFP.

The Red Cross has set the toll in a quake that struck Cairo on Monday at 1,000 dead and more than 10,000 missing with many of the victims children.

Boutros-Ghali, an Egyptian who served as his country's Deputy Prime Minister, was "deeply saddened by the tragedy that has just struck Egypt," said his spokesman, Francisco Otulliani.

"He shares the sorrow of the Egyptian people and is looking into ways in which the UN system can help the Egyptian authorities if they so request," he said.

Boutros-Ghali also sent a message of sympathy to Prime Minister Hosni Mubarak

Albanians in Kosovo call a halt to protests

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, Oct 14: Ethnic Albanians in Serbia's volatile Kosovo Province have called a temporary halt to the protests they staged in the capital Pristina and other towns since the weekend, reports Reuter.

But Agim Hyseni, President of the protesters organising committee, said on Tuesday future action would depend on the outcome of talks just begun with Serbian and Federal Yugoslav authorities.

The two days of protests — ostensibly over Albanian demands for freedom of education — brought clashes with police who dispersed crowds with batons and tear gas.

But although nobody was killed and at most a few dozen people were detained, the situation was viewed seriously enough in Belgrade for Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic to announce he would come to Kosovo on Thursday for political discussions aimed at resolving the Albanians' problems.

Albanians outnumber Serbs eight-to-one in Kosovo, which enjoyed considerable autonomy until Serbia's nationalist President Slobodan Milosevic stripped it of self rule, sparking riots in 1990 and 1991.

Although dwarfed by the war raging the Bosnia, and the one in Croatia last year, the Kosovo riots saw the first blood spilled in the Yugoslav conflict and claimed at least 70 lives, predominantly among young Albanians.

Since then the province has been quiet, and Belgrade authorities are desperate to avoid the warfare resulting from the breakup of Yugoslavia spreading to Serbia itself.

A heavy police presence in Kosovo has at once prevented this and exacerbated ethnic Albanian resentment, increasing calls for autonomy, independence or even union with Albania.

Serbia has said it will never accept this and many Serbs are ready to fight to prevent it.

Pindi wants to nab Murtaza Bhutto

ISLAMABAD, Oct 14: Pakistani wants to arrest opposition leader Benazir Bhutto's exiled brother Mir Murtaza Bhutto for alleged terrorist activities and has asked Syria to repatriate him, a government statement said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

It said Syria's Charge d'Affaires had been called to the Foreign Ministry and asked to convey the request to Damascus.

"The government is also approaching Interpol to help Pakistani authorities arrest Mir Murtaza Bhutto," it added. No official explanation was immediately available as to why Islamabad has asked for repatriation rather than extradition, or whether the two countries had an extradition treaty.

There has been mounting tension between Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's 23-month-old government.

On Monday, PPP demanded the arrest of some senior intelligence officials, accusing them of conspiring against Benazir Bhutto's government before it was sacked by President Ishaq Khan in 1990.

Murtaza has lived in exile since a 1977 army coup that toppled his father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto as Prime Minister. Bhutto was executed in 1979 after a controversial conviction for conspiring to murder a political opponent.

Pakistani authorities say Murtaza has led the clandestine Al-Zulfikar group, accused of hijacking a Pakistani airliner to Kabul and Damascus in 1981 and of bombings in Pakistani cities.

In 1985, a military court sentenced him and 36 others in absentia to 14 years' hard labour on charges of using force to spread their views.

The PPP denies links with Al-Zulfikar, which it says no longer exists, and accuses the authorities of trying to discredit the party.

The government statement said the authorities had noted a newspaper report last month of an interview in Damascus that quoted Murtaza as saying he was the leader of Al-Zulfikar.

The news quoted Murtaza as saying the group had thousands of members and was involved in "armed resistance inside Pakistan." PPP sources have doubted the authenticity of the interview.

The statement said the government had resolved "to fight this threat of terrorism and will use all means at its disposal to bring these terrorists to book."

ANC must get rid of radicals to share power: De Klerk

CAPE TOWN, Oct 14: President F W De Klerk has told the African National Congress to dump its radical allies if it wants to share power and vowed to press ahead during a special session of parliament with an amnesty for apartheid crimes, reports Reuter.

De Klerk on Tuesday told White, coloured (mixed race) and Indian representatives in the parliament that excludes South Africa's black majority he would not surrender control to radicals or unconditional majority rule.

Wrapping up a two-day debate on violence and the slow pace of multi-party democracy talks, he said the ANC would have to shed its militant image and register as a political party before he would agree to share power in an interim government.

"I am not willing to form a

government of national unity with the ANC as it is now. It must get rid of the radicals. It must undergo a transformation," he said.

The government has argued since the Bisho massacre of 29 ANC demonstrators in Ciskei on September 7 that Nelson Mandela's anti-apartheid movement is manipulated by radicals opposed to a negotiated transition from White rule to democracy.

De Klerk did not specifically mention the ANC's communist allies, who police often accuse of steering the movement towards confrontation and violence.

De Klerk said legislators would be asked over the next 10 days to begin dismantling "the last remnants of apartheid" and authorise him to appoint people from outside parliament, including blacks, to his cabinet.

Off the Record

A confirmed pacifist

TAIPEI: The eldest son of Taiwan's Defence Minister Chen Li-An is now a confirmed pacifist, reports Reuter.

The 28-year-old Harvard-educated Chen Yu-Ting was ordained as a Buddhist monk Wednesday.

"Chen Li-An is not against his son becoming a monk. He respects his son's decision," Abbot Wei Chueh told the independence Morning Post ahead of the ceremony.

The defence minister is also a devout Buddhist.

No confidence in Her Majesty's govt

OXFORD, England: Students from Britain's elite Oxford University passed a no-confidence motion in the embattled government of Prime Minister John Major on Tuesday night, reports Reuter.

Students attending the first debate of the new academic year at the venerable Oxford Union voted 405-173 in support of a motion reading: "This house has no confidence in Her Majesty's government."

Major emerged last week politically bruised from a stormy Conservative Party conference during which his economic and European policies were severely criticised.

Lawsuit against Bush-Quayle campaign

NEW YORK: Time magazine is filing a copyright infringement lawsuit against the Bush-Quayle '92 campaign, charging it is making unauthorised use of the magazine's April 20, 1992, cover in a television ad, the magazine said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Time charges that the Bush-Quayle campaign's use of the cover, which pictures Bush's democratic challenger Bill Clinton with the headline, "Why voters don't trust Clinton," suggests time endorses the ad.

The magazine, in a letter to Bush-Quayle '92 chairman Bob Teeter, demanded that the campaign halt broadcasting the commercial and stop further use of the cover. Time said in a statement released with the letter.

"The implicit suggestion of the commercial that Time endorses its contents is extremely damaging to Time's reputation and makes this infringement of Time's right all the more serious," Time Deputy General Counsel Robin Birsted wrote.

But a lawyer for the campaign refused to pull the advertisement and Time said that as a result, its lawyers are filing suit in US district court in Washington.



HOSTAGE OF LITERATURE: Indian-born author Salman Rushdie gestures while speaking at the Nordic Council's cultural conference in Helsinki October 13. Rushdie pleaded strongly for freedom of speech. — AFP/UNB photo

Nudity is banned

KUALA LUMPUR: Authorities have indefinitely banned a Malay actress from appearing on programmes of Radio and Television Malaysia because she posed nude for pictures, the information minister said, reports AP.

The ministry wanted to show it was serious in setting high moral standards among artists, the minister, Mohamed Rahmat, said in an interview published Wednesday in the newspaper Star. Nudity is totally banned in Malaysia, a Muslim country.

Kuala Lumpur Police Chief Henry Chin said on October that police were investigating reports that nude pictures of 22-year-old Muslim actress Zarina Zainuddin had been distributed to the public.

Zarina told the newspaper Harian Metro Daily last week she posed in the nude four years ago after a photographer claimed this would bring her fame.

She later confronted the photographer, he burned a roll of negatives in front of her and she thought the matter had ended, she added.

Last week, Zarina reported to police about her nude photos being circulated in the city and said she had been duped, the newspaper said.