

BRIEFLY

Roh to visit Japan Nov 15 : President Roh Tae-woo will make a one-day visit to Japan on November 15 for talks with Japanese leaders on regional and bilateral issues...

6 hurt in Kashmir violence : At least six people were injured when Sikh and Muslim militants in a Kashmir jail clashed with each other following a row over smoking Indian newspapers reported yesterday...

Comedian Bob Todd dead : Comedian Bob Todd, who played Benny Hill's wide-eyed partner on television, has died, AP reports from London.

Murderer executed in US : A convicted murderer was put to death Wednesday night in the nation's 26th execution this year, the most since 1962...

Greece, Turkey start talks : Greece and Turkey began talks yesterday in an effort to resolve disputes over illegal refugees, Greek Foreign Ministry said in an announcement...

S African parliament rejects amnesty bill : CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Oct 22: Parliament on Wednesday rejected a bill pardoning people accused to political crimes...

No breakthrough in Korea nuclear talks : SEOUL, Oct 22: South and North Korean negotiators today failed to achieve a breakthrough in nuclear talks...

Pindi may sue US firm for failing to deliver F-16s : ISLAMABAD, Oct 22: Pakistan, confirming it has signed an agreement with China for the purchase of 40 F-7p aircraft, said today it plans a similar deal with Russia...

China denies arms purchase from Russia : BEIJING, Oct 22: China denied Thursday a report that it had bought missiles and nuclear technology from Russia...

20 Armenians killed in Azeri attack : YEREVAN, Oct 22: At least 20 Armenians died overnight Tuesday when Azerbaijan forces launched a new attack to retake the Armenian-occupied Lachin corridor...

Nyerere, Suu Kyi get Bolivar 'Freedom' prize : PARIS, Oct 22: UNESCO awarded its Simon Bolivar 'Freedom' prize to former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere and detained Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi...

'Clinton to make Washington DC 51st state if he wins' : WASHINGTON, Oct 22: If American voters send Democrat Bill Clinton to Washington DC, he may well make it a new 51st US state...

Washington DC 51st state if he wins : Eleanor Holmes Norton, Washington's delegate to the House of Representatives, said in an interview...

Washington DC 51st state if he wins : While those and all US states send to the federal congress two voting senators and a number of voting House members depending on their population, the district has none...

Washington DC 51st state if he wins : Legally, there is no minimum size, population or economic requirement for statehood...

Washington DC 51st state if he wins : But the diminutive district, about the size of Liechtenstein at 67 square miles (173 square kilometres), pays more federal income tax than each of eight of the 50 states...

Washington DC 51st state if he wins : But to become a state and earn the corresponding congressional representation, taxing authority and other powers the district now lacks, three things are needed...

Washington DC 51st state if he wins : That last item for the past 12 years has been out of the question...

Washington DC 51st state if he wins : Most district residents are Black, and in the past have voted overwhelmingly for Democrats...

Washington DC 51st state if he wins : If statehood were approved, local voters likely would send two liberal Democrats to the senate and more to the house...

Washington DC 51st state if he wins : Both chambers are controlled by the Democrats...

Washington DC 51st state if he wins : But a statehood measure will not get through Congress unchallenged...

Washington DC 51st state if he wins : Holmes Norton said the real battle would be in the senate, where she said from Republican resistance...

Washington DC 51st state if he wins : There will be Democrats who will think of any (New Columbia) senators as progressive, and vote against granting statehood...

Washington DC 51st state if he wins : And statehood worries many democratic representatives from neighbouring Maryland and Virginia...

Washington DC 51st state if he wins : The two states surrounding Washington do not want a district-turned-state to tax their residents who work in Washington...

Washington DC 51st state if he wins : There are 250 million Americans who shouldn't have their capital taken away from them...

Washington DC 51st state if he wins : Pierce fighting was reported from the village of Khotachas, near Kubati, south of the road linking Azerbaijan's Armenian-populated Nagorno-Karabakh region to Armenia proper...

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Ghali okays accord with Iraq on aid operations

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 22: UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has endorsed an agreement on resuming humanitarian aid to Iraq, clearing up an irritant in Iraq's relations with the world...



with the latest UN weapons inspection team. Previously, Iraq had resisted UN attempts to gain information about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction...

Boutros-Ghali sent the Security Council a letter on Tuesday endorsing the humanitarian aid agreement, although he expressed some reservations...

The agreement does not fully meet our aspirations, however I believe that under the circumstances and given the need to urgently provide humanitarian assistance to the affected population in the north as well as in the south...

The agreement does not require Security Council approval and is to be signed shortly by Jan Eliasson, UN undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs, and Nizar Hamdoun, Iraq's UN ambassador...

A UN source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Boutros-Ghali's reservations about the agreement were that humanitarian workers will not be explicitly authorized to travel throughout Iraq...

humanitarian workers will not be explicitly authorized to travel throughout Iraq and that UN guards protecting them and their supplies will not be allowed in southern Iraq...

The United States had objected that under the agreement, Iraq could restrict the movement of aid workers. The UN source said, however, that Iraq routinely controls the movement of all foreigners through the issuance of travel permits...

The agreement says that Iraq will provide the relief workers with "safe and unimpeded access" to affected areas...

The agreement, a copy of which was obtained by the AP, resolves differences over the number of UN guards who would oversee the aid distribution...

Iraq wanted the guards' strength limited to 150 while the United Nations insisted on 300 to 500. The pact sets the compromise figure of 300 guards...

Bosnian President proposes truce

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 22: Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic is proposing an immediate ceasefire around four towns surrounded by heavy shelling by Serb nationalist militia...

Bosnian officials reported last week that outgunned military authorities in Gradacac had placed chlorine tanks around the town as a last line of defence...

If the tanks were hit and toxic gas released, Izetbegovic said, "such an ecological disaster could create a catastrophe on a larger scale and a loss of lives also outside the territory of the former Yugoslavia..."

Milan Panic, Prime Minister of the new Yugoslav Federation of Serbia and Montenegro, meanwhile has put forward several proposals for providing humanitarian aid to Bosnia...

In an letter to UN Secretary General Boutros-Ghali, Panic said, "Winter is rapidly approaching and there is good reason to be concerned about maintaining an adequate flow of relief supplies to Sarajevo..."

He noted that Sarajevo airport, the lifeline for the humanitarian effort for the besieged Bosnian capital, is frequently shrouded in fog during the winter and secondary roads in Bosnia are often impassable...

"Yugoslavia is prepared to offer the full and free use of the facilities of Belgrade International Airport to the United Nations for the delivery of humanitarian supplies to Sarajevo," Panic said...

He also offered as an alternative Batajnica military airfield and its logistical facility near Belgrade. He also offered to "help offset the costs" to the United Nations and relief organizations...

Serious problems have surfaced this week in New York on how to finance the UN operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly over the cost of deploying UN observers to supervise the "no-fly" zone over the former Yugoslav republic, diplomatic sources said...

The United nations wants countries contributing troops to the UN peacekeeping force in Yugoslavia to cover the costs of supervising Bosnian airspace. But member countries have difficulty in finding observers who specialize in air surveillance, and want the observers to operate under their own national procedures, not those of the United Nations...

S African parliament rejects amnesty bill

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Oct 22: Parliament on Wednesday rejected a bill pardoning people accused to political crimes, with one legislator saying the law would protect "crooks, criminals and assassins"...

The bill could apply to ANC members who planted bombs, as well as security officials who tortured or killed anti-apartheid activists or detainees, and right-wing militants accused of bombing black schools...

President F W de Klerk said he would try to force the bill into law by sending it to the President's Council. His comment set the stage for a confrontation with the African National Congress and other opposition groups...

The ANC, the main black political group, and human rights organizations have accused police and soldiers of politically motivated attacks person applying for amnesty the opportunity to argue that his offense was motivated politically...

The 60-member advisory body, dominated by De Klerk's National Party, could recommend that he override Parliament by signing the bill...

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Qatar for direct talks with S Arabia to solve border dispute

CAIRO, Oct 22: Qatar said today it wanted direct negotiations with Saudi Arabia to solve their border dispute but warned that it might go to the world court for a settlement if the negotiations failed...

Blasts rock London: 9 injured

LONDON, Oct 22: Several bomb blasts rocked London last night with one at an army centre and the other on a railway line, the BBC television reported this evening...

Under the deal "no demurrage charges are levied," but the firm has asked Pakistan to pay 200,000 dollars for "maintenance and storage charges," he said...

Pakistan denied that its atomic programme was weapon-oriented, but several bilateral talks on resumption of nearly 600 million dollars annual aid to a traditional US ally have so far failed to end the deadlock...

Islamabad also failed to get some 60 F-16 aircraft despite a contract signed in 1989. The deal has not been officially cancelled and Rehman said his country has been paying the instalments, so far Pakistan has paid 528 million dollars, he added...

Pakistan is paying the instalments regularly as it does not want to become a defaulter," the minister said. He said general dynamics could not confirm the date of delivery because of the freeze...

Official sources said under the agreement signed in June the Chinese jets, a much-improved development of the Mig-21, would be delivered in phases. Starting by the end of this year, the delivery would be completed by 1993...

The planes, already tested by the Pakistan Air Force, would ultimately replace the Chinese built F-6 fighters in service since the last decade, the sources said...

The blasts came only hours after bomb explosion hit a railway line at silver street station Edmonton north London injuring three people...

Three people were also injured in the explosion at the Princess Louise barracks a territorial army centre in Ham-smith road. Another three were reportedly injured in a fourth blast near the army centre...

Debris from the explosion hit a passing passenger train causing damage and anti-terrorist police inspected the area to check for a possible second device...

Off the Record



SYDNEY: Mother Jocasta of Joyous Juices (L) and Sister Deborah from the order of perpetual indulgence (C) look on as Sister Paula inflates a condom during an "exorcism of demons" from the parliament October 21...

The teacher, 23-year-old Barbara Mendez, was wounded in the shoulder Friday and was released from the hospital after a short stay. Police said she told them after the shooting that she hadn't seen her assailant...

On Wednesday, the student, 17-year-old Lamar Goodwine, was arraigned on attempted murder and weapons charges...

The shooting had been cited by the teachers union as another example of violence in the city's schools and had prompted the union to call for metal detectors at every high school...

Prosecutors disclosed just before Goodwine's arraignment that Mendez had asked Goodwine to shoot her. Goodwine implicated himself during questioning earlier in the day, an unidentified source told the New York Daily News...

"She apparently was having problems at home and wanted to die," O'Mara said. Mendez began teaching machine shop at the East New York High School of Transit Technology this year. The school prepares students to maintain subway equipment...

Leadership genes come forward LONDON: The family trees of George Bush and Bill Clinton converge 700 years ago in England, in a common ancestor described as "an early democrat who came to a sticky end"...

He tried to wrest power from the king to secure a more democratic government but after he was defeated and killed in battle, his body was cut into hundreds of pieces and sent around the country to show what happened to people who didn't agree with their sovereign," Brooks-Baker said...

The publisher said his research team proved Clinton also shares with Bush a number of royal antecedents. "Beyond any shadow of doubt, Gov. Clinton is top of the genealogical pool. The leadership genes that have been submerged for years have at last come forward," Brooks-Baker said...

He added that "no American presidential candidate with substantial royal antecedents has ever lost his bid for the presidency." Brooks-Baker, an American from Baltimore, Md. has lived in Britain since 1968. He has traced the family tree of every American president since George Washington and every royal head of state in the world...

Most American presidents were of royal descent but their family trees were usually limited to extremely distant and collateral connections, he said. "Curiously, few Americans other than presidents are descendants of European and British monarchs," he publisher added...

China denies arms purchase from Russia BEIJING, Oct 22: China denied Thursday a report that it had bought missiles and nuclear technology from Russia...

There is no such thing as all. Foreign Ministry spokesman Wu Jianmin said at a weekly briefing. "And, as you know, the Russian side has already denied this..."

His response was an unusual departure from China's practice of not commenting on arms deals. A report in The New York Times earlier this week said Russia had sold China missile-guidance technology, rocket engines, rocket technology and technology to improve Chinese air-to-air missiles...

It quoted unidentified US officials in Washington as saying tanks, tank technology and S-300 surface-to-air missiles also were sold. The S-300, similar to the US-made Patriot, was designed to shoot down planes and missiles...

On Wednesday, a Chinese Foreign Ministry official said the two countries had "normal exchanges and cooperation" in the field of military technology, but he did not confirm or deny the Times report...

Russian officials called the Times report "untrue," but later indicated there had been some arms transactions. They said Russia was developing "normal trade relations" with China...

The officials in Washington said they feared China was acquiring the technology to develop new weapons to sell to the Third World. China has always maintained that it sells arms only when other countries need them for self-defense and that it does not engage in reckless arms proliferation...

Nyerere, Suu Kyi get Boliver 'Freedom' prize

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Consequently, there was no progress on the nuclear issue," he said. "North Korea demanded that South Korea and the United States announce the withdrawal of their recent decision (to resume the annual exercises) by the end of November..."

North Korea also demanded that there be no military exercises in the South involving foreign nuclear weapons or foreign nuclear-related equipment, the spokesman said. He said Seoul reaffirmed its position that the exercises will be resumed unless inspections are implemented to verify that neither side is manufacturing or possesses nuclear weapons...

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