

BRIEFLY

Last combat unit leaves Poland:

The last combat unit of the former Soviet armed forces based in Poland, a squadron of torpedo boats on the Baltic coast, was pulled out on Wednesday, the official PAP news agency said, AFP reports from Warsaw.

Bill Cosby may buy NBC:

Comedian Bill Cosby is considering buying the NBC television network, according to his spokesman David Brokaw, AFP reports from Los Angeles.

Storm hits Thailand:

A tropical storm hit southern Thailand Wednesday night with winds measured at about 90 kilometers an hour at its center, said the Thai meteorological department yesterday, Xinhua reports from Bangkok.

Peru frees six foreigners:

Anti-terrorist police released six foreigners arrested after holding a news conference to denounce the imprisonment of Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman, officials said Wednesday, AP reports from Lima.

US sanction for action on Iran:

More than half of the 100-member US Senate signed a letter sent Wednesday to the United Nations calling for tougher sanctions against Iran for its alleged human rights abuses and terrorism, AFP reports from Washington.

Mulroney's future uncertain

TORONTO, Oct 29: Facing an uncertain future after voters rejected his plan to unify the country, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney must decide if he is going to lead his party into the next elections, reports AP.

Despite being at the helm of Canadian government since 1984 — or perhaps because of it — Mulroney is widely unpopular. A strong majority of Canadians on Monday rejected constitutional reforms heavily promoted by the prime minister, and many blame him for that debacle.

Mulroney, who must call elections by November 1993, planned to meet with the Conservative caucus Thursday to set a new course for his government's final months.

The question on everyone's mind: will Mulroney lead the Conservatives into battle for a third time?

"He's bound to be mulling that over for the next few months," said Bill Atwell, a Conservative member of parliament. "I don't think it will be a snap decision. He definitely is not in trouble within his party."

Another Conservative law-

Miyazawa's popularity drops

TOKYO, Oct 29: Public support for scandal-battered Japanese Prime Minister Kichi Miyazawa is dropping like a stone, with the latest newspaper poll today showing two in three voters disapprove of his government, reports Reuters.

A survey carried out by the daily Yomiuri Shimbun found just 23.1 per cent of respondents thought the Miyazawa cabinet was doing a good job, down from 33.6 per cent last month.

The proportion of those who disapprove soared to 65.6 per cent, from 50.8 per cent in September.

US presidential race has cast a shadow over ME peace talks

WASHINGTON, Oct 29: The Middle East peace conference adjourned a day early here yesterday following heightened tension in the region, and Israeli and Syrian delegates said the US presidential race had cast a shadow over the negotiations, reports AFP.

Palestinian negotiators, however, said the election Tuesday had little effect on the peace process, which began a year ago Friday in Madrid.

Their spokeswoman, Hanan Ashrawi, said Washington should play a broader, more active role when the negotiations resume.

Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said he believed James Baker, who stood down as Secretary of State to direct President George Bush's re-election campaign, should resume his Middle East shuttle diplomacy after the election.

Speaking en route to Tokyo, Eagleburger said, "I think he (Baker) could make a big difference in the peace process. Israeli, Jordanian, Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian negotiators are to meet again November 9, after the election, for at least 10 days.

The head of the Israeli team negotiating with Syria, Itamar Rabinovich, said the race was "the main external element that disrupted the talks, especially from the Syrian side."

The election in the United States, which with Russia is co-sponsor of the talks, had a greater impact on the negotiations than a surge in violence in Lebanon and the occupied West Bank which killed six Israeli troops and an Israeli youth, he said.

"The Syrians could continue to slow the negotiations, even after the election, because of the uncertainty of relations between Damascus and Washington," Rabinovich added.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had resisted pressure from the opposition Likud bloc to break off the talks immediately against the killing of six soldiers and the child in attacks in or from southern Lebanon.

The attacks along with Israeli military reprisal in Lebanon, prompted a sharp exchange of accusations among the delegation chiefs.

Nabil Shaath, the Palestine Liberation Organization official overseeing the delegation chief said, "there will be no major change whichever candidate is elected."

US policy on the Middle East transcends divisions between Democrats and Republicans," he told AFP.

Clinton, still leading in the polls, is seen as more pro-Israel than Bush, whom he ac-

cuses of pressing the Jewish state to make unilateral concessions to the Arabs.

Israeli and Syrian negotiators in the last day continued their discussions toward a joint declaration of common principles, without overcoming their disagreements.

Those talks, Allaf said, covered "the question of land, which is the heart of the problem. He was referring to the Golan Heights, which Israel seized in 1967 and annexed in 1981, and which Syria wants back in exchange for peace."

"Deadlock concerning this core issue was the reason for our disappointment" in the talks, Allaf said.

Israel has proposed only a partial withdrawal, in exchange for a total peace involving an exchange of ambassadors and opening of borders.



SHANGHAI: A Chinese farmer, Zhu Hailiang (R) and his wife (2nd from R) show their rice field to Japanese Emperor Akihito (L) and Empress Michiko on Wednesday 30 km outside of Shanghai. The Emperor and Empress visited the countryside on the last day of their historic visit to China.

Bulgarian govt resigns after losing no-confidence vote

SOFIA, Bulgaria, Oct 29: The government of the anti-Communist Union of Democratic Forces has resigned after losing a no-confidence vote in parliament, reports AP.

The opposition Socialists, who are the renamed Communists, were joined by the Turkish Movement for Rights and Freedoms (the MRF), a small party that had been allied with the government. The vote Wednesday was 120-111, with nine deputies of the 240-seat chamber not present.

Premier Filip Dimitrov announced the resignation of his one-party Cabinet after the vote.

Dimitrov's government took office on November 7 last year after the Union of Democratic Forces, a coalition now consisting of 18 parties, narrowly won parliamentary elections.

Under the constitution, the biggest party in parliament has to form a new Cabinet if the government steps down. But it was not immediately clear whom President Zhelyu Zhelev will appoint to put together a new government.

Dimitrov said the government had to seek a vote of confidence because Bulgaria could not continue with reforms without parliamentary support.

FBI will open remaining files on Kennedy

WASHINGTON, Oct 29: The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) announced Wednesday it would open its remaining confidential files on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in compliance with a new law, reports AP.

"It is essential that the American people be able to see. The few remaining FBI records that have not been released to the public concerning his tragic event in American history, FBI director William Sessions said.

Sessions said that of about 500,000 pages of FBI files on the assassination, more than 220,000 were made public by May.

FBI spokesman Bill Carter was unable to say when the FBI would begin releasing the documents.

Pindi accused of human rights violation

KARACHI, Oct 29: A Pakistani human rights group accused authorities on Wednesday of violating human rights during an army-led crackdown on crime in Sindh province, reports Reuters.

The Lawyers Committee for Human Rights in Pakistan said the violations targeted the ethnic Mohajir National Movement (MQM) Party based in the southern province's capital Karachi and the city of Hyderabad.

"There have been gross violation of human rights in Pakistan," said a statement by committee president Aqil Lodhi.

"In trying to track some workers of the Mohajir National Movement who went underground, the police

Miyazawa's popularity drops

TOKYO, Oct 29: Public support for scandal-battered Japanese Prime Minister Kichi Miyazawa is dropping like a stone, with the latest newspaper poll today showing two in three voters disapprove of his government, reports Reuters.

A survey carried out by the daily Yomiuri Shimbun found just 23.1 per cent of respondents thought the Miyazawa cabinet was doing a good job, down from 33.6 per cent last month.

The proportion of those who disapprove soared to 65.6 per cent, from 50.8 per cent in September.

Off the Record



SARAJEVO: Bosnian youths dance during a rock concert given at the academy of arts in Sarajevo late October 27. It is the first event in its kind held in the city since its siege. Some 200 people attended. — AFP/UNB photo

Where does it hurt?

PHILADELPHIA: The simple question, "Where does it hurt?" Often is anything but simple if you're asking a child, reports AP.

Interviewing a wailing baby is impossible. Even child old enough to talk often shies away from doctors and nurses. They either don't want to complain, or they fear getting a shot.

Doctors had to come up with new ways to assess a child's pain.

Children can point to a face that shows how they feel (smiling, frowning or in-between), move arrows along a scale, or use poker chips to represent the amount of hurt they feel.

For infants, though, doctors rely on physical and behavioral clues — how an infant can or can't move, how the child cries or sleeps, and changes in heart rate and blood pressure.

Hurting toddlers often show changes in appetite and mood.

And doctors can get clues from parents. "We as adults rely on people to talk about their pain. So we turn to the child's parents. They are tuned in to their child and can tell when they're in pain," says Dr Barbara Shapiro, who heads the division of general pediatrics at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Millie knows more about foreign policy

COLUMBUS, Ohio: President George Bush announced to huge applause here Wednesday that if he is re-elected, he will keep his dog Millie on at the White House for her foreign policy expertise, reports AP.

"Yes, we plan to keep Millie in the White House ... because, you see, if I want foreign policy advice, I'd go to Millie before I'd go to Ozone and governor Clinton," joked Bush, referring to his democratic rival Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton and his running mate, Al Gore, an avid environmentalist.

Bush has taken to calling Gore "Mr Ozone" and "The Ozone Man" because of the Tennessee senators concern with depletion of the atmospheric ozone layer protects Earth from ultraviolet solar radiation, Bush considers him an extremist.

The President knows that mentioning the spaniel and his wife Barbara are sure applause lines. "Millie knows more about foreign policy than these guys do," he said Wednesday.

Advice on how to eat a banana

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif: A new handbook gives sheriff's deputies advice on how to eat a banana, how to shake hands and other tips on enforcing the laws of etiquette, reports AP.

It also answers the question: Is an awards banquet the time for the well-dressed detective to break out that safari jacket or expensive cowboy hat? (No).

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Protocol-Etiquette Reference was intended to help law enforcement workers who had gone soft on social graces, said Woody Williams, the department's executive officer.

But the extensive detail in the 43-page booklet has led to some joking, Williams conceded — graciously.

"Some of the items in it, upon further reflection, might have been left out without hurting the purpose of the document even a little bit," Williams said.

When eating bananas at the table, for example, the guide advises peel and break into bite-size pieces with a fruit knife and eat with a fruit fork.

For trickier spaghetti, "Never cut! Twirl on your fork while using spoon in your other hand, if necessary."

There's a section on buffet etiquette: "Do not load up your plate" and "never take an item, change your mind and put it back."

They bought civilian females at their camps

WASHINGTON: The Army is investigating allegations of sexual harassment among civilian employees at two installations in St Louis, Army sources said late Wednesday, reports AP.

The investigation, which is being handled by the Office of the Army's Inspector General, was prompted by a review carried out by military consultants at several bases during the summer, said two sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Army Secretary Michael Stone had asked the consultants to determine whether there was any evidence of problems in the Army similar those revealed by the Navy's Tailhook sex-abuse scandal, one source said.

Moi dissolves parliament

NAIROBI, Oct 29: Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi paved the way for the country's first multi-party parliamentary and presidential elections in 26 years when he dissolved parliament Wednesday, reports AP.

Moi announced no date for the poll, which observers say could be held end of November or early December.

The Kenyan Broadcasting Corporation reported that Moi, in his dissolution statement, said arrangements had been finalized to bring in international election observers to monitor the polls to ensure that they were free and fair.

Kenyans have been bracing for the impending general elections since last week, when Moi said the elections would be held soon.

Moi, 69, has been in power for 14 years and has for months been keeping the election date under wraps as a St Rategic "secret weapon" with which he hoped to throw the already-divided opposition into greater confusion.

He reluctantly lifted a nine-year ban on opposition parties in December last year under massive pressure from foreign donors and domestic critics.

However, the fledgling opposition soon split into three main parties, which political analysts believe will now have little chance of defeating Moi and his Kenya African National Union Party unless it fields a single presidential candidate.

Wife of Collor charged with conspiracy

BRASILIA, Oct 29: The wife of impeached President Fernando Collor De Mello was charged with conspiracy Wednesday by a federal prosecutor in the northeastern state of Alagoas, reports AP.

Federal prosecutor Alex Miranda filed the conspiracy charges on the basis of a police investigation that found evidence that 200,000 dollars were diverted from a federal charity headed by Rosane Collor to an organization controlled by her mother, Rosita Malta.

Miranda, who said he had come under pressure not to charge the president's wife, said he had reached in agreement with the judge in the case, Collor and seven others accused in the case within a year.

The action against Rosane Collor came as special Senate panel began examining her husband's bank accounts, telephone bills and tax records as part of the proceedings against the president, who has been suspended from office on charges of corruption.

The Senate's 21-member special commission has also ordered Collor to testify on Thursday, but Collor has refused to appear.

Miyazawa's popularity drops

TOKYO, Oct 29: Public support for scandal-battered Japanese Prime Minister Kichi Miyazawa is dropping like a stone, with the latest newspaper poll today showing two in three voters disapprove of his government, reports Reuters.

A survey carried out by the daily Yomiuri Shimbun found just 23.1 per cent of respondents thought the Miyazawa cabinet was doing a good job, down from 33.6 per cent last month.

The proportion of those who disapprove soared to 65.6 per cent, from 50.8 per cent in September.

Italy has got a distorted historical view of Mussolini?

ROME, Oct 29: Alessandra Mussolini dared Italians to join her in paying tribute to her dictator grandfather on the 70th anniversary Wednesday of the march of his black-shirted fascist followers on Rome, reports AP.

Ms Mussolini paid tribute to her grandfather's political accomplishments, saying Italians had been given a distorted historical view of his record.

About 1,000 neo-fascist sympathizers rallied in Naples, the home district of the 29-year-old Parliament member, and listened to her speak, the ANSA news agency said. About 300 police were on hand.

"Just as 70 years ago Italy was illuminated by the revolutionary thought of my grandfa-

ther, so have we been pushed by the same ideal of restoring the pride and splendor of the past to Italy," ANSA quoted Ms Mussolini as saying.

The evening rally was held despite a last-minute ban by worried municipal authorities.

Mayor Nello Polese, a Socialist, said he was worried about possible public unrest and refused permission for the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement to hold a rally in a hall where the City Council meets.

But party supporters gathered anyway outside the building. Security officers barred Ms Mussolini and other party officials from mounting the steps to the hall.

Cypriot leaders talk in presence of Ghali

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 29: Cypriot President George Vassiliou and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş met on Wednesday in the presence of the UN Secretary General but declined to give any details of their talks except to say they would meet again today, reports Reuters.

A UN spokesman also maintained a news blackout.

The talks, on ways of reuniting the divided Mediterranean island under a federal system, are a continuation of negotiations adjourned since mid-August.

An informed source said Boutros-Ghali opened the 2 1/2 hour meeting.