### Sino-British row over HK democratisation

HONG KONG, Nov 23: China will negotiate no further with Britain unless Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten gives up his proposals for wider democratisation in Hong Kong, a top official was quoted today as saying, reports AFP.

Lu Ping, head of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Department of the Chinese State Council, told a visiting delegation from the new Hong Kong alliance party in Beijing late Sunday that abandoning the proposals was a prerequisite to renewed talks between London and Betjing, the semiofficial China news service

The talks must be held in the spirit of the 1984 agreement under which Britain will return Hong Kong to Chinese rule in 1997.

10 pc of population flee Bhutan to escape violence been in the Timal refugee BIRTAMOD, Nepal, Nov 23: camp since December 1991 More than 70,000 people who after fleeing their home in claim to be citizens of Bhutan southern Bhutan's Chirang - 10 per cent of the tiny

Kingdom's population - have Gurung, along with 7,871 flooded into eastern Nepal other occupants of the camps, refugee camps in recent ts of Nepalese origin like the months, fleeing alleged viomajority of the 600,000 inhablence and threats from their itants living in the south of the government, reports AFP. tiny Himalayan Kingdom, Some claimed their local sandwiched between India and authorities threatened they would be beaten or even killed.

Almost all said they had fled in

Man Gurung, a 26-year-old

boys, pulls from his meager

that confirms his identity and

Gurung and his family have

fear for their lives.

a Bhutanese citizen.

The government of Bhutanese King Jigme Singye Wangchuk claims the refugees At Timai refugee camp, San are illegal immigrants, or have been forced to leave Bhutan husband and father of two extremists opposed to the monarchy and who want to use possessions a document folder the refugee problem to attract international attention to their says, "the holder of this card is

It also claims some of the

refugees originally came from northeast India and not from

Bhutan's Foreign Affairs Minister Dawa Theering, who was recently in Kathmandu to discuss the problem with Nepalese authorities, avoided contact with reporters.

But the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which set up four camps in eastern Nepal, maintains it is dealing with genuine refugees. "As far as we can tell, the

outnumbering majority have come from Bhutan," said Tahir Ali, UNHCR representative for Nepal, in Kathmandu. At the root of the refugee

problem is the fear of Bhutanese leaders, who mainly belong to the Drukpa Buddhist

community, that they are slowly being outnumbered by Nepalese immigrants in their own country. Nepalese immigrants already constitute at least a third of Bhutan's total

They cite the example of the Buddhist kingdom of Sikim which was annexed by India in 1975 at the demand of the Nepalese community, which had become dominant.

population.

At the end of the 1980s Bhutan which does not have a written constitution and only began to break out of its isolation 30 years ago, adopted a series of measures against illegal immigrants. It suppressed the teaching of the Nepalese language in schools and made it obligatory of its population to wear traditional Drukpa

Buddhist dress.

The measures provoked resentment in the ethnic Nepalese majority south, the appearance of clandestine movements that often reacted violently against "discrimination" and "human rights violations," and the beginning of the refugee exodus.

According to Ali, 71,500 refugees, have now been registered in the camps and "there are reported to be about 100,000 expelled" with "15,000 in Assam and West Bengal" and 5,000 to 10,000 others elsewhere in Nepal.

They are asked to produce documents with their nationality status," he said, adding that "most of them have some document with a residence proof, education, employment,

birth certificates."

Parsuram Dahal is a former **Bhutan Ministry of Agriculture** official who fled his home after police came looking for him following an anti-government demonstration in September

Dahal rejects Bhutan's claim that the refugees are not Bhutanese citizens. He said only people holding genuine identity cards, or are identified by their associates and have property in Bhutan are allowed into the camps.

Raz Kumar Bhudathoki, president of the Bhutan People's Party (BPP) whose headquarters are in Nepal, vis ited the growing Beldangi refugee camp at the weekend and accused the Bhutanese army of "atrocities."

### ANC summit: Interim govt main agenda

VEREENIGING, South Africa, Nov 23: Setting a date to elect an interim government in South Africa will be the tor priority at the ANO's summi next month with the government, ANC Secretary-General Cyrtl Ramaphosa said Sunday, reports AFP.

Ramaphosa told a news conference after a two-day forum on violence in the volatile Vaal Triangle steel conurbation south of Johannesburg: "we have said the setting of a date for election is item number

The business community. the international community. the church want for nothing else from the negotiating process than the announcement of the date for elections." Ramaphosa said.

# BRIFFIY

#### Pindi to extradite 2 to US: Pakistan is to extradite two men wanted in the United States on drugs charges in the next few days and has arrested a Somalian and a Palestinian for smuggling heroin, officials said on Sunday,

Reuter reports from Peshawar. Khalid Mohammad Khan and Tawiz Khan, both Pakistanis, are to be handed over to US officials in the next few days for extradition to the United States, officials in the capital of the north west frontier province said.

The pair were arrested in the United States four years ago but later either were released or escaped, officials said.

4 killed in N Iraqi hotel blast: Four people were killed and 21 infured Sunday when a bomb ripped through a hotel in a Kurdish-controlled city of Northern Iraq, Kurdish opposition officials said, AFP reports from Arbil.

Twenty-five kilograms (55 pounds) of dynamite exploded on the third floor of the Baghdad hotel in Sulaymaniyah where Kurdish refugees returning from Iran were staying, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) officials said.

There were no immediate details on who died. The injured were taken to the city's main hospital, PUK officials said in Arbil, about 150 kilometers (90 miles) northwest of Sulaymaniyah.

Clinton attends Catholic mass: us President-elect Bill Clinton, a Bastist, attended a Catholic mass in Little Rock Sunday along with the revered Jesse Jackson at the invitation of the parish of Saint Theresa, AFP reports from Little Rock.

Clinton later attended a Baptist service. His wife Hillary and 12-year-old daughter Chelsea, both methodists, did not accompany him.

The President-elect and Jackson also had talks at the

governor's mansion in Little Rock. "We talked on some measures about the transition," Jackson said after the meeting.

Typhoon gay hits Guam: Typhoon Gay hit Guam on Monday, but apparently caused no major damage in this capital city, a witness said AP reports from Agana.

The eye of the storm passed directly over Agana, said Dana Williams, assistant city editor at the Pacific Daily News. "It got dead still and really sunny," Williams said.

Winds picked up again as the back side of the storm moved over the Pacific Ocean island chain battered or threatened by six typhoons in three months. No injuries were reported to police, she said.



LIMA: Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori (R) and his wife Susana flash their ink-stained fingers to supporters on Sunday outside a local polling station shortly after casting their votes to elect a constituent assembly. - AFP/UNB photo

### 1200 gather to mark Kennedy's assassination

DALLAS, Texas, Nov 23: More than 1,200 people gathcred here Sunday to mark the anniversary of the assassination of President John Kennedy, whose death is the subject of widespread speculation 29 years after the fact, reports

Some 1,200 people visited the sixth floor exhibit at the former Texas school book depository, from which the sniper fire that killed Kennedy burst on November 22, 1963.

Just after midday, about the time three shots rang out as Kennedy's motorcade rolled through downtown Dallas, 250 people tied ribbons to trees in a knoll from which conspiracy theorists charge there was a second gunman.

The Congressional Warren Commission determined that Lee Harvey Oswaled had acted alone when firing the fatal shots form the depository. though there has been speculation ever since that Kennedy's assassination was a conspiracy.

Oswaled himself was assassinated before he could be prosecuted.

The exhibit in Dallas contains about 400 photographs, films, graphs, charts and other information on the life and sudden death of the 35th President of the United States.

#### Fujimori wins Peru election

LIMA, Nov 23: At least 25 people were killed over the weekend in northeastern Peru in clashes between a civilian self-defence group and leftwing rebels aiming to sabotage Sunday's Constituent Assembly vote, police said today, reports

Another report says: President Alberto Fujimori's supporters won the largest block of Constituent Assembly scats Sunday in elections, boycotted by main opposition parties, according to polling organizations.

Despite rebel bomb blasts around the city, turnout was heavy in the balloting seen as a victory for the President, who seized dietatorial powers in April, and a defeat for Maoist Shining Path rebels.

Fujimori said the win by his supporters meant a "New political panorama" for Peru, where the last two parties to hold the Presidency - Popular Action (AP) and the American, Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) - declined to participate, labeling Sunday's vote fraudulent.

For Peruvians, the result also means that the second most powerful man in the country will be a Fujimori ally. Jaime Yoshiyama Tanaka, 48, heads the new majority-change 90 list which won between 38 and 44 seats in the 80-seat Assembly to rewrite Peru's constitution. It will also serve as a legislature until 1995.



fering from starvation at Baidoa hospital on Sunday. Children are dying at a rate of 30 to 40 a day.

- AFP/UNB photo

### Sophia Loren visits starving Somalis

NAIROBI, Nov 23: Italian actress Sophia Loren, who last week became a United Nations "goodwill" ambassador, yesterday travelled to the western Somali town of Baidoa to visit tens of thousands of starving people displaced by civil war and drought, UN officials said, reports AFP.

Loren, 58, who arrived here late Saturday, officially became United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) goodwill ambassador on Wednesday.

She will also be visiting Somali refugees in camps in northeastern Kenya and the Kenyan coastal city of Mombasa.

Reuter from United Nations adds: Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Chali is sending a senior Norwegian diplomat Tom step up its involvement in efforts to end the violence and foster a political settlement. spokeswoman said on Sunday.

Vraalsen, assistant secretary general of the Foreign Ministry in Oslo, is a former Norwegian ambassador to the UN he is due in South Africa today and will confer with government officials and others.

The negotiation aimed at a non-racial democratic constitution have been clouded by violence, particularly in Black townships, and by allegations of "dirty tricks" by military intelligence officers sceking to discredit the African National Congress, led by Nelson

## UN Council may not agree to ease sanctions against Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 23: Top Iraqi officials planned to appear before the UN Security Council on Monday, but UN representatives said the council would likely not agree to ease economic sanctions imposed after the Gulf War, reports AP.

The UN officials said Baghdad has continued to be evasive in providing information about its nuclear weapons programme ceasefire terms require Iraq to cooperate in dismantling the programme before sanctions can be lifted.

"There's been no movement to date which would give the council any inclination to consider lifting or modifying the sanctions any time in the near future," said Andre Ergos of Hungary, who is chairing the Security Council this month.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and Foreign Minister Mohammed Said al-Sahaf were scheduled to appear before the council. They were expected to request an easing of the embargo.

In a letter to the Security Council released Friday, Al-Sahaf said Iraq has "fully discharged the substantive obligations" imposed by the council

at the end of the war. Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission overseeing the disarmament programme, said "the arguments

contained in the letter were weak," and that he doubted it would have any influence on the decision of the members of the Security Council. Iraq has said the sanctions have hurt the civilian popula-

tion, causing food shortages, disease and hundreds of The council imposed sanc-

tions to punish Iraq for invading Kuwait in August 1990. Baghdad was routed from the emirate by US - led forces in the 1991 Gulf War. Communists win

Lithuanian polls VILNIUS, Lithuania, Nov 23:

Lithuania's former Communist Party captured a majority in last week's election, winning 73 out of 141 parliamentary seats, according to official election results released Monday, reports AP.

Sajudis, the anti-Communist Party that lead Lithuania to independence 21-22 years ago, won only 30 seats, election officials reported.

A central demand was that Baghdad cooperate with UN experts in dismantling its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programme, and missiles with a range greater than 90 miles (145 kilometers).

The Security Council periodically reviews lraq's compliance with the UN demands and has repeatedly refused to lift the sanctions. A major review, requested by Baghdad, is under way.

Ekeus said cooperation with Iraq has deteriorated since last

Ekeus and Hans Blix, director of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, also were to address the Security Council on Monday.

Ekeus said Baghdad's refusal to provide a list of Western companies that aided Iraq's nuclear weapons programme has been a 'major sticking point.' A UN inspection team was denied the list on a visit this month to Iraq. Iraq has also been reluctant

to cooperate with UN programmes providing relief to dissident Kurds in the north and Shiite Muslims in the south.

### Off the Record

### Before love, she wants to make sure he's not her father

OLONGAPO, Philippines: Before Michelle Ramil makes love to any middle-aged Black American Marine, she demands to know if and when he has ever been to the Philippines before. reports Reuter.

"I want to make sure the man I'm giving myself to isn't my father," says the 25-year-old half-Filipino, half-American receptionist at a restaurant just outside the Subic Bay Naval Base in Olongapo city.

Ramil, along with thousands of other Amerastans living around former US military bases, are part of the human legacy the United States leaves behind when it pulls out the last of its troops from the Philippines tomorrow.

So is Lenny Cruz, a government clerk. At 30, he is one of 269 Filipinos officially afflicted with the AIDS-causing HIV virus, unofficial estimates put the number of people with HIV at up to 30,000.

### All because they thought he was Jewish

WUPPERTAL, Germany: Two far-right youths beat a man to death because they thought he was Jewish, pouring alcoholic spirit over him and setting it alight, police announced Sunday, reports AFP.

They youths, described as skinheads and aged 18 and 24, together with the owner of a restaurant in the western German city of Wuppertal where the man was killed on November 13, were arrested and have admitted to the crime.

They drove the dying victim in the restaurant owner's car to Venlo, in the Netherlands, where the man's body was found the next day. The youths had turned on the representative after he

called them "dirty Nazis", and the proprietor of the restaurant

had intervened to tell them that the man was Jewish.



BANGKOK: Miss Globe, a beauty contest winner from the United States poses Sunday in front of a picture of Thailand's Queen Sirikit during a parade in downtown Bangkok. Miss Globe was in Bangkok as part of the yearlong celebration of Queen's Sirikit's 60th birthday August - AFP/ UNB photo

### London Film Festival ends

LONDON, Nov 23: The 36th London Film Festival which opened on November 5 concluded Sunday evening by Premier screening the film "Bald Runner — the Director's Cut" directed by Ridley Scott,

reports Xinhua. The festival showcased more than 230 films from five continents of the world to an audience of more than 75,000 at 10 venues across London, overall increase of 4.7 per cent as compared with last year's festival.

China was represented with several films, including Ripples Across Stagnant Water' Directed by veteran Director Ling Zifeng, "The Silent Thrush' directed by Cheng Shengfu, and Bloody Morning' directed by Li Shaohong. Zhang Yimou's 'The Story of Qiu Ju' winner of the Gold Lion at this year's Venice Film Festival, won a particular success, attracting sellout house.

### Thatcher fades as intrigues grip British politics LONDON, Nov 23: Two years ago, Margaret Thatcher resigned as Prime Minister in

the face of a Conservative Party shock at the ending of an era and government ministers wept in cabinet, reports

. On the anniversary of her downfall on Sunday, Thatcher rated barely a mention in the press, a sign that the influence of the once unchallenged "Iron Lady" is past fading from a political scene gripped by new dramas and intrigues.

But as she surveys the confusion surrounding her successor John Major, the newly styled lady Thatcher may at least feel vindicated as a leader who let every one know who

Major's reputation as a "golden boy" who managed to rcunite the Conservatives after her fall, crowning his success with a surprise election win in

April, is in tatters after a succession of crises have called into question his leadership

which pulled the rug out from under Mrs Thatcher -European Union — has come back with renewed destructive force to torment her succes-

crying "no" to a federal Europe, has watched as like-minded Conservatives rose up revolt. Britain reeled with . In an ironic twist, the issue against the pro-European Major this month, compelling him to slow down the ratification of the Maastricht Treaty on European Unity.

But Thatcher, now installed as a peeress in Britain's unelected upper chamber, was not in the forefront of the assault and even her most ardent fans admit there is no question of a comeback.

On Sunday, she was a political footnote in the pages of newspaper analysts devoted to Major's troubled premiership. The Right-leaning Sunday Telegraph buried a reference

to the anniversary of her resignation announcement on November 22, 1990, in a piece predicting a possible turn around for Major's government after crises over the economy, mine closures, and a

Thatcher, the strident voice scandal about arms sales to Only the Independent on-

Sunday chose to devote a whole story to the woman who led Britain for 11-12 years. It said Thatcher had now put behind her the trauma of the party "coup" which forced her from power and made Major her successor, and had learned how to enjoy life. The

former leader, one a worka-

holic, now likes expensive

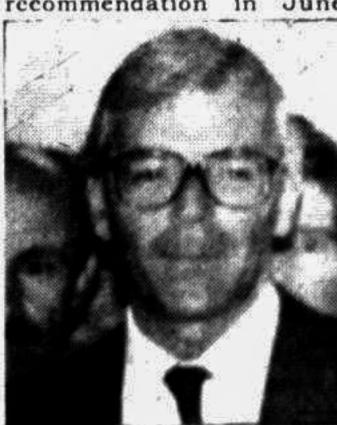
restaurants, buying clothes,

and spending time with her family. "This was a year of liberation for Margaret Thatcher, the year she got out of her mourning weeds, rolled up her sleeves and got on with the

job," it said in its magazine. The 67-year-old former leader spends her time travelling abroad on lecture tours and promoting her Thatcher Foundation, spreading freemarket principles in the

former Soviet block. She also snipes at Major from the sidelines.

Made a baroness on Major's recommendation in June,



Thatcher immediately launched a verbal attack on his European policies from the red-leather benches in the House of Lords which drew condemnation form within the Conservative Party.

Ignoring the rule that speeches by new lords and ladies should avoid controversy, she railed against what she saw as creeping European centralisation and demanded to know why Britain was not holding a referendum on Maastricht.

When the Conservatives held their annual autumn conference, the "iron lady" sounded off again about Europe, but the bombshell blew up in her face. In the end the party rallied behind Major who emerged strengthened by the confrontation.

Commentators said at the time major had finally exercised the ghost of his steely predecessor. She may draw some satisfaction from recent opinion polls showing that both Major and Maastricht are deeply unpopular with the

### Sudan rejects confederation proposal

KHARTOUM, Nov 23: A senior Sudanese official has rejected the proposal by rebel leader John Garang for the creation of two confederated states in Sudan, the Sudanese Daily Al Qouat Al Moussalaha reported Sunday, says AFP.

Ahmed Al-Rabi Jaber, president of the peace commission in Sudan's transitional parliament, said the proposal was "unacceptable."

Colonel Garang, leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), announced the proposal on Thursday in the Zimbabwean capital Harare during a two-week visit to southern Africa.

Under the initiative, each state would have it sown constitution but for a joint defence force against foreign aggres-