

## BRIEFLY

**Landslide kills 10 in Bombay:** At least 10 people were killed and about 25 trapped under rocks and mud in a landslide in a Bombay suburb Thursday caused by torrential rain, police said, Reuter reports from Bombay.

"The death toll could be higher," a police spokesman said as rescue workers tried to pull people out from under mounds of debris in the suburb of Saki Naka. Another 16 people were injured.

The rain, which began on Wednesday night and lasted for nearly six hours, flooded most of the city's low-lying areas, paralysing road and rail services and affecting flights at Bombay Airport.

**UN envoy meets PLO official:** Madeleine Albright, the US Ambassador to the United Nations, met Wednesday with the Palestine Liberation Organisation representative here for the first time and discussed ways of cooperating in the Middle East peace process, AFP reports from United Nations.

"The meeting was professional and businesslike," said a statement from Albright following her meeting with Nasser Al-Kidwa. "We view this as an important step in an historic process in the interest of both the Israelis and Palestinians, as well as the entire region."

The meeting, the first official encounter between Palestinian and US diplomats at the UN was the result of the September 13 peace accord signed by the PLO and Israel.

**Three miners killed in S Africa:** A rock slide killed three miners and injured six Wednesday, and one man was missing underground, mine officials said, AP reports from Johannesburg.

It was the second accident in two days at an Anglo American Corp mine. The slide was triggered by a mild earth tremor and occurred about 2.5 kilometers (1.55 miles) underground at a mine near Carletonville, west of Johannesburg.

On Tuesday, two men died in a rock fall at an Anglo American mine near Welkom, about 250 kilometers (155 miles) south of Johannesburg.

**Hillary returns to Mt Everest:** Sir Edmund Hillary returned to Mount Everest's base camp on Wednesday, 40 years after he and Tenzing Norgay made history by becoming the first to climb the world's highest peak, Reuter reports from Kathmandu.

The famous New Zealander 74, attended the opening of a restored Buddhist monastery located at 13,500 feet (4,430 m), officials said.

Nepal's Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala inaugurated the 80-year-old building whose main edifice was destroyed by fire in January 1989.

Hillary, who was New Zealand's ambassador to India and Nepal in the 1980s, helped to raise nearly 400,000 dollars for restoration work at the monastery.

**Palestinian killed in Gaza:** Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian in the occupied Gaza Strip on Wednesday in clashes following the arrest of three wanted Palestinian activists in the PLO's mainstream Fatah Group, Palestinians said, Reuter reports from Jerusalem.

The army confirmed it arrested the three wanted men along with two other Palestinians and said had aided them, but said it would have to check reports a Palestinian was killed.

## ROK seeks global support to block DPRK's N-plan

**SEOUL, Sept 23:** South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-joo was setting off Thursday on a key diplomatic tour aimed at increasing international support to block North Korean nuclear weapons development, reports AP.

Han's 11-day itinerary includes a three-day stop in Japan, a visit to Washington, and talks at the United Nations with foreign ministers and heads of state from two dozen nations.

South Korea regards Han's trip as crucial as tensions grow over North Korea's continued refusal to open its controversial nuclear sites to international and inter-Korean inspections.

## Egyptian bodyguards for Arafat

**TUNIS, Sept 23:** Egypt has sent bodyguards to Tunisia to help Palestinian and Tunisian officials protect PLO chief Yasser Arafat, the target of death threats from Palestinian radicals, a reliable source said Wednesday, reports AFP.

The 15 Egyptians arrived last week in Tunis, headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, where the authorities have also boosted security for Arafat and his aides, said the source, who requested anonymity.

The measures were taken following the signing of the PLO-Israel accord in Washington on September 13.

Tunisian police have deployed reinforcements around the PLO headquarters and the interior Ministry has placed on high alert a special unit charged with protecting Palestinians in Tunisia.

Roadblocks, many of them just 100 metres (yards) apart, have been erected across the



### Jackson cancels S African tour

**JOHANNESBURG, Sept 23:** American superstar Michael Jackson has cancelled his South African tour, citing political violence and logistical problems, the local promoter said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Anant Singh said two concerts were to have taken place on September 30 and October 2.

"It is a tremendous disappointment to all of us who were looking forward to Michael's arrival in South Africa. I saw this as a unique opportunity to unite people and spread the message of peace, through music," Singh said in a statement.

Radical Palestinian factions have issued death threats against Arafat over the PLO-Israel autonomy accord, charging the agreement was a sell-out.

The PLO Chairman's protection was previously restricted to hand-picked Palestinians working in close cooperation with Tunisian authorities, the source said.

of their destiny and will exercise their power through their legal representatives," he said.

Sihanouk, 70, is to sign the constitution on Friday, be elected by the Crown Council later in the day, and take his oath as king Friday evening. Then he is to form the new government.

The charter, formally adopted Tuesday by the assembly chosen in UN-organised elections in May, provides for a return to monarchy in Cambodia after two decades of conflict.

These days are crucial and very great days for the new Cambodia," said the UN mission chief in Cambodia, Yasushi

## Hole appears in ozone layer over NZ

**WELLINGTON, Sept 23:** A hole appeared in the ozone layer over the southern part of New Zealand last week and the abnormal event may occur within weeks, the National Institute of Water and Atmosphere warned today, reports AFP.

In a statement it said ozone levels measured at the institute's lauder site in central Otago, southwest of here, showed ozone levels in the atmosphere were the lowest ever recorded in New Zealand in September. On Friday and Saturday they were nearly 25 per cent below the average.

The institute said New Zealanders' health had not been threatened by the low amounts of ozone.

The ultraviolet radiation in central Otago during clear skies was still less than half what could be expected in similar conditions in summer.

"Nevertheless the intrusion of such low ozone amounts

over New Zealand in spring, and this year's early development of the Antarctic ozone hole are an ongoing reminder of the threat to the ozone layer posed by CFCs and Halons released by humans."

Researcher Sylvia Nichol said the ozone hole appeared over the lower half of the south island. The Antarctic hole had been squeezed into an ellipse which extended over that area, she said.

The ozone hole moves around over the Antarctic but its shape can change depending on motions in the atmosphere. It does wobble around," she said in an interview.

Last year it extended over South America which had also been unusual.

The appearance of the hole over New Zealand in September did not necessarily mean ozone depletion was worsening.

**South African violence claims 126 in a week**

**JOHANNESBURG, Sept 23:** At least 126 people died violent deaths in South Africa during the past week, with 72 of them losing their lives in the Johannesburg area, the watchdog human rights commission said Wednesday, reports AFP.

The black townships east of Johannesburg remained the worst trouble spots, where violence claimed 63 victims, including 24 people moved down by gunmen in two attacks Tuesday.

In the worst attack 18 people were gunned down in an attack on taxi commuters and pedestrians near Tokoza townships east of here.

The shootings occurred hours after a similar attack in the same area killed six people.

"After an encouraging fall-off of the national toll during the previous week from 121 to 89, the figure climbed to 126," the commission's report said.

## Int'l confce to raise \$ 3b for ME peace accord October 1

**WASHINGTON, Sept 23:** An international conference aimed at raising 3 billion dollar to support the Israeli-PLO peace agreement has been set for October 1 at the State Department, US officials said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Foreign and finance ministers from Europe, Japan, Canada, the Nordic countries, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan have been invited, along with the Israelis and Palestinians, State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said.

The World Bank and United Nations will also play a major role in the funding effort, said Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian.

The World Bank has estimated that the plan for Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will require 3 billion dollars over 10 years.

## Off the Record

### Girlfriend on lap hides nudity of trouserless driver

**JOHANNESBURG:** A man charged with public indecency for driving while wearing only a shirt avoided conviction by explaining his girlfriend was sitting on his lap, reports AP.

Rishard Plant, 29, was arrested by two traffic officers who saw his car swerving and found him undressed from the waist down.

He admitted to a magistrate Wednesday he was driving without trousers or under-wear, but said his girlfriend's presence on his lap prevented his nudity from being visible to the public.

The magistrate agreed, ruling there was insufficient evidence to convict him.

### 2,000 condoms found in 53-man German submarine

**COPENHAGEN:** What did a 53-man German submarine crew, off the coast of Denmark at the end of World War II, need with 2000 condoms and hundreds of bottles of wine? reports AP.

Those items — along with hundreds of wet and muddy documents — seem to be the primary contents of the submarine, raised August 23 from the bottom of the Baltic Sea.

The salvage operation was prompted by the possibility that the U-boat — sunk by British planes on May 5, 1945 — might have contained treasure.

"We have found boxes with a considerable amount of wet and muddy documents, including the log books, but we don't know anything about their content yet," Jonathan Wardlow of the Danish Salvagers Team said Wednesday.

Historians and Defence Ministry officials are emptying the submarine in a dry dock at the northwestern port of Hirtshals, where the U-boat is to be the focus of a museum.

The documents will be freeze-dried for two months, then they can be read, said Wardlow.

"We have found an enormous amount of condoms. Up to 2,000 of them," Wardlow said. Although German submarines in World War II normally carried a box or two of condoms, "the amount is ridiculously high," in the recovered submarine, he said.

Several hundred bottles of German red and white wine have also been found.

### Baby weighs 12.9 ounces

**SARASOTA, Fla:** When she was born, she weighed just 12.9 ounces (360 grams) about as much as three sticks of butter, reports AP.

Four months later, Caci Renee Burke was allowed to go home Tuesday from Sarasota Memorial Hospital, even though she weighed just 3 pounds, 7 ounces (1.6 kg).

"I'm on cloud nine," said father Avery Burke, 34. "For a while there, we weren't sure this would happen."

When she was born May 7, three months premature, Caci was a mere 9 inches (22.9 cm) long.

"I knew she was small, but they wouldn't tell me how small, too ... But she is a real fighter."

For weeks, Caci's head and body fit her father's palm.

She ate a quarter of a teaspoon of mother's milk mixed with water every three hours. Special premature baby diapers had to be cut down for her. Hospital volunteers made all her clothes.

Now she wears doll clothes.

Her mother, Tina Smith, 34, suffers from chronic high blood pressure. She and her husband had been trying to conceive for the five years of their marriage.

### Dinosaur skeleton of Triassic Age unearthed

**JOHANNESBURG:** Paleontologists in South Africa have unearthed a rare complete skeleton of a dinosaur which lived in the Triassic Age, more than 200 million years ago, says Reuter.

Johann Welman, head of Bloemfontein National Museum's Paleontology Department, said on Wednesday he believed the remains were the first of a complete euskelosaurus to be found.

The mud-encased, 4.5-metre (five-yard) skeleton, unearthed at the weekend at a farm in the orange free state, was unusual because the bones were still joined with the skull attached.

The euskelosaurus, a four-legged, barrel-shaped animal which grazed on leaves and grasses, was one of the first browsers.

### Dr Uton M Rafi nominated as WHO S-E Asia Director

Dr Uton Muchtar Rafi (Indonesia) was Tuesday nominated as the Regional Director of the WHO South-East Asia Region by the Regional Committee now in session in New Delhi, says a press release.

Dr Uton will succeed Dr Ko Ko on March 1, 1994 after the nomination is confirmed by the WHO Executive Board in January 1994.

Dr Uton, who has been Director, Health System Infrastructure since 1988 in WHO's regional office for South-East Asia joined WHO in 1981 as Regional Adviser in Primary Health Care.

## Sihanouk returns home to ratify constitution, ascend throne

of their destiny and will exercise their power through their legal representatives," he said.

Sihanouk, 70, is to sign the constitution on Friday, be elected by the Crown Council later in the day, and take his oath as king Friday evening. Then he is to form the new government.

The charter, formally adopted Tuesday by the assembly chosen in UN-organised elections in May, provides for a return to monarchy in Cambodia after two decades of conflict.

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will give him significant powers over the judiciary, executive and legislative branches, even though he did not run in the May election.

But Cambodian leaders see as more important the support for the monarchy by the Khmer Rouge guerrilla group, the country's last obstacle to peace. The group sees Sihanouk as conciliatory.

The Khmer Rouge was among the four factions that signed the 1991 peace accord. But it backed out of the agreement, boycotted the election and violated the cease-fire by continuing to skirmish with government troops in the countryside. When two of the

guerrilla group's former battlefield allies scored significant victories in the election, the Khmer Rouge said it wanted to join the new administration. But it has not been taken seriously because its guerrillas have continued to attack soldiers of the new government's armed forces.

Sihanouk is to play host to peace talks between the government and the Khmer Rouge in November.

If there is one person who can solve this problem, it is Prince Sihanouk," said Minister of Finance Sam Rainay.

He said Sihanouk's return to the throne "means stability, it means the past glories of Cambodia are emerging again."