

## Clinton will meet Zemin to extricate ties

NEW YORK, Oct 1: President Clinton will meet in November in Seattle with Jiang Zemin, the President of China, in an effort to extricate relations between the two countries from "some rough waters," Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Thursday, reports AP.

It will be the first visit to the United States by a Chinese leader since the crackdown on dissidents in Tiananmen Square in Beijing in 1989 sent relations between the two countries on a downward spiral.

## Panel to look into annulment of Nigerian polls

LAGOS, Oct 1: Nigeria's interim head of state, Ernest Shonekan, said today his administration would set up a panel to look into the annulment of June presidential elections that led to the country's worst political crisis in decades, reports Reuters.

still marked by controversy over nuclear weapons testing. Clinton will be in Seattle with Asian leaders attending a conference designed to foster economic development.

Christopher's announcement followed an assertion by Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen that China would not be deterred from setting off underground nuclear weapons tests even while Clinton drives for a worldwide test ban.

"Nuclear testing will not constitute an obstacle to discussions of a test ban treaty," he said.

Christopher did not take the statement lightly. "We still entertain hope China will not resume testing," he said. But he said the United States would pursue the international agreement nonetheless.

In another development, Christopher said John Shattuck, the Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, would go to Beijing for talks October 10-12.

# Army has become democracy's chief guarantor in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Oct 1: Five years after the death of dictator Zia-ul-Haq, Pakistan's voters return to the polls Wednesday with a democratic conscience more mature and self-assured, developed in the shadow of the army, reports AFP.

After having held power directly or by subterfuge during more than half of Pakistan's 46 years of independence — in which democratic ideals were suffocated for years — the army has paradoxically become democracy's chief guarantor.

According to a senior official of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's leftist Pakistan People's Party: "This is a new army. It is no longer the army of General Aslam Beg," the former army chief who made life difficult for Bhutto during her year and a half in power from 1988 to 1990.

Early this summer, it was

army chief General Abdul Wahed himself who unravelled Pakistan's complex political tangle by helping then President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to reach a compromise in their long-running power struggle.

Amid public discontent over Pakistan's political system and conditions that seemed ripe for another military coup, Wahed helped convince the rival politicians to resign simultaneously in support of new elections.

On Wednesday, 52 million Pakistanis will be called to the polls under army supervision with soldiers guarding each of the 34,000 voting stations and patrolling the streets.

The army will also oversee the counting of the ballots, a move approved by the general population who see the army as the only trustworthy institution capable of assuring fair elec-

tions. "The army is like a father who keeps his children calm, who smooths out disputes," an ambassador said.

"They are Pakistan's true masters, the heart of the establishment," a diplomat said.

While Pakistan's democracy has been affected by deterrents such as corruption, religious intolerance and illiteracy, it still seems to have benefited from the political instability that has plagued the country since martial law was lifted in 1985.

Wednesday's vote is Pakistan's fourth general election in eight years — a succession of polls that has given some 128 million Pakistanis the opportunity to discover the democratic process.

"For the first time, they ask questions," says A. Sharma — a major land-holder — who is conducting an election cam-

paign in the backwaters of the country's southeast.

Democracy in Pakistan is young and landless peasants still demonstrate allegiance to local landholders and almost always vote according to the directives of their tribal chieftains or feudal lords, who cast their votes with whoever offers the biggest pay-off.

However, for the first time in Pakistan's history, voters are beginning to ask questions: whether candidates will take refuge in the capital Islamabad if elected, or why promises have not been kept.

As a result, a number of constituencies are no longer as sure as they may once have been. "If people start thinking of voting for candidates other than their cousins or their landlords, we will see some surprises," a diplomat said.

## Lankan army continues advance: Death toll 354

COLOMBO, Oct 1: Sri Lankan security forces continued their advance into Tamil rebel-held territory in the north of the island as the death toll climbed to 354 today, the fourth day of the operation, a military spokesman said, reports AFP.

The air force pounded several positions of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas in the Jaffna peninsula to clear the way for troops advancing north of the key Elephant Pass camp leading to the peninsula, the spokesman said.

The number of soldiers killed rose to 115 dead, including eight officers, with 175 wounded. Tamil rebel losses were estimated at more than 200 in two days of heavy fighting, he said.

Tamil sources said at least 39 civilians were also killed in air strikes.

The army death toll was the heaviest in an anti-LTTE drive since security forces lost 173 men when rebels tried to over-

run their Elephant Pass base in 1991.

Troops have advanced about 13 kilometres (eight miles) from their forward defences at Elephant Pass.

Intense aerial and artillery attacks "destroyed a well-fortified terrorist women's camp, including several lines of their defences," the spokesman said.

The LTTE seeks the creation of an independent homeland in the northeast for Sri Lanka's minority Tamils who are concentrated there.

'West pursuing military revenge in Somalia'

PARIS, Oct 1: French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, in a swipe at the United States, said on Thursday the west had lost sight of its humanitarian aims in Somalia and was pursuing "military revenge," reports Reuters.

# BRIEFLY

## ASI award for a Thai society:

Anti-Slavery International (ASI) a London-based humanitarian group, Thursday awarded its annual international award to a Thai society which fights against child prostitution and its links with the tourist trade in Asia, AFP reports from London.

The organisation, end child prostitution in Asian tourism, was set up in 1991 and has since made numerous campaigns aimed at both western and eastern governments.

Its efforts have led to a tightening of existing laws in Australia, Germany and Sweden, allowing the countries' authorities to prosecute their nationals who have been caught abusing children in Asia, or to allow them to be prosecuted in the country where the offence takes place, ASI said.

## Colombian held with cocaine:

A Colombian was arrested in Hamburg with three kilograms (seven pounds) of cocaine concealed in a wooden leg, police said Thursday, AFP reports from Hamburg.

The man, aged 38, was arrested Tuesday in a Hamburg station with another Colombian, 24, and a Brazilian, 22.

Police said they had been tracking the man since his arrival by air in Frankfurt. He had been recruited by Colombian drug dealers specifically because of his wooden leg, and had been promised three dollars for each gram of cocaine, he transported, plus a new artificial limb.

## US-Kuwait jt exercise:

American and Kuwaiti special operations forces begin a 10-week joint training exercise in Kuwait on Friday as part of a defence cooperation agreement signed after the US-led Gulf War against Iraq in 1991, AP reports from Washington.

About 35 US members of the 5th Special Forces Group Airborne, based at Fort Campbell, Ky, will participate, the Pentagon announced Thursday. The US commander is Brig. Gen. William P. Tangney under the direction of US Central Command.

The training will focus on small unit tactics, survival training and live-fire drills. The exercise, dubbed Iris Gold 94-1, is scheduled to end December 14.

## 2000 teachers held in Tamil Nadu:

More than 2000 elementary school teachers were taken into custody in various parts of Tamil Nadu Thursday when they attempted to picket collectates as part of their agitation in support of their charter of demands, PTI reports from Madras.

Police in Madras said over 1000 teachers, including 300 women elementary school teachers, were taken into custody when they attempted to stage a picketing before the collectate in south Madras.

The teachers are demanding, among other things, a hike in salary, payment of Rs 100 as teaching allowance, scrapping of the teachers recruitment board and employment of teachers through employment exchanges.

## Mafia boss captured in Sicily:

Authorities questioned a reputed Mafia boss Thursday about the slaying of a priest who openly battled the Sicilian underworld, AP reports from Palermo.

Police also said they will examine any links between Benedetto Graviano's alleged Mafia family and bombings earlier this year in Rome, Milan and Florence that killed a total of 10 people.

Graviano, who had been on the run from police since 1990, was captured Wednesday in a villa about 20 kilometers (12 miles) northwest of Palermo in one of the major strikes in the government's anti-Mafia campaign.

## Indian team leaves Myanmar:

An Indian delegation led by Surveyor General Maj-Gen D P Gupta ended its four-day visit to Myanmar and left the country Friday, Xinhua reports from Yangon.

According to a TV Myanmar report, the delegation came Yangon to hold discussions with the Myanmar delegation on inspection, maintenance and repair of boundary pillars of the Myanmar-Indian border.

During its stay in Yangon the delegation called on Myanmar Minister for Forestry Chit Swe and they discussed matters on promotion of friendly relations and inspection of boundary pillars.

## Three shot dead in Punjab:

Three militants were killed and another was arrested in Punjab since Thursday night, police said, PTI reports from Chandigarh.

Three unidentified militants were killed in an encounter with police near village Sohian in Jagraon police district.

One AK-47 rifle with one magazine, some cartridges and 50 kg of explosive materials were recovered from the scene, the police said.

## Flash flood in France: 2 die

PARIS, Oct 1: Torrential rains triggered flash floods in southern France, forcing hundreds of people to flee their homes and killing a winegrower and a Dutch tourist, authorities said Friday, reports AP.

Searchers found the body of the Dutch woman at daybreak near the campground she was staying at in the Vaucluse region. The woman, whose name was not released, was swept away by floodwaters later Thursday.

The winegrower was crushed under a wall that collapsed because of the heavy rain, officials said.

The town of Bollène was cut in two by flooding of the Lez river, and about 500 firemen were working to aid residents.



Former premier and co-chairperson of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Benazir Bhutto waves to a crowd in Rawalpindi, 15 km from Islamabad on Thursday. Bhutto addressed a large election rally stressing her party planning if elected in October elections. — AFP photo

# Big 3 will seek tougher UN sanctions on Libya

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 1: Britain, France and the United States are expected to step up the pressure on Libya today in the UN Security Council to have it turn over two Lockerbie suspects, reports AFP.

A draft resolution by the three permanent members of the council calling for tougher sanctions against Tripoli will be submitted for discussion only, in the hope that Libya complies with UN demands in a few days, diplomats said.

Libya said Wednesday it was prepared to allow two Libyans to stand trial in Scotland on charges of blowing up a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie in December 1988, killing 270 people but that it would be impossible to hand them over by the Friday deadline.

"We take into account the good will shown by Libyan authorities but at present there has been no handover," France's UN ambassador Jean-

Bernard Merimee said late Thursday.

Merimee said progress was also locking over France's arrest warrants for four other Libyan suspects in the downing of a Uta airliner over Niger in 1989, killing 170 people.

"There have been words of encouragement, but no action," he added.

Libyan Foreign Minister Oman Al-Muntasser has met twice with UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali here this week to try to resolve the problem.

The two sides agreed to meet again Thursday, but the meeting did not take place. However, sources said discussions on a compromise were underway. Such a compromise would include a written guarantee by Libya to deliver the suspects by a fixed date, diplomats said.

The draft resolution before the Security Council would call for a freeze on Libyan assets

abroad and an embargo on delivering certain oil industry equipment to Tripoli. The Security Council imposed an air and arms embargo against Libya in April last year in an effort to force it to hand over the Lockerbie suspects.

"We are putting the resolution on the table. We are not pressing for its adoption but we're putting it there for discussion," Merimee stressed.

Another draft resolution recently submitted to the Council would have all sanctions against Libya lifted if the Lockerbie suspects are handed over.

"If they are indeed turned over to Scotland it will be a very important step and the international community ought to respond to it," US Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Thursday.

But "we have to go ahead on the resolution so as to keep the pressure on," he added.

## Strike observed in West Bank

JENIN, West Bank, Oct 1: About 800,000 Palestinians in most of the occupied West Bank observed a commercial strike yesterday to protest Israel's arrest of wanted activists in the PLO's Fatah Group, residents said, reports Reuters.

They said it was the first strike by Fatah since the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel signed a historic deal on September 13 for Palestinian self-rule.

Fatah, the power base of PLO leader Yasser Arafat, called the strike following the capture by Israeli forces of its Black Panther commander Ahmed Awad Iknail and several followers at his hideout near his

home town of Qabatyeh.

Ahmad Ireshah, a Fatah leader in the West Bank, told Reuters: "People were astonished by the Israeli army behaviour especially since Fatah had already announced a ceasefire."

He said Iknail and his group declared a ceasefire with the army after Arafat renounced violence and urged his supporters to stop attacks on Israelis as part of the peace deal.

Palestinians said the strike was not observed fully and did not affect Qalqilya and East Jerusalem.

Fatah did not call a strike in Gaza, residents said. In East Jerusalem, Fatah

leaders Sari Nusseibeh and Ziad Abu Zayyad condemned the arrests on Wednesday as a violation of the spirit of the Israel-PLO accord.

The peace accord calls for a five-year interim period of Palestinian autonomy starting in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

The army said on Wednesday the five arrested members of the Black Panthers would be charged with attacking Israelis and Palestinians suspected as informers for Israel.

The Black Panthers group was founded in the West Bank city of Nablus four years ago as an armed wing of Fatah.

## Shekhawat new Indian navy chief

NEW DELHI, Oct 1: Admiral Vijay Shekhawat took charge as Chief of the Indian navy, one of the world's largest, at a traditional ceremony here Thursday, reports AFP.

Shekhawat was handed over the admiral's baton by his predecessor L Ramadas, who retired after 41 years of service, at the navy headquarters near parliament.

He placed wreaths at the war martyrs' memorial in India Gate before giving Ramadas a ceremonial send off and then called on Minister of State for Defence K Mallik Arjun as well as Army Chief BC Joshi.

A submariner and a keen mountaineer, Shekhawat was awarded the country's highest military honour for his role in the 1971 war against Pakistan.

## Chief UN arms inspector in Baghdad

MANAMA, Bahrain, Oct 1: The chief UN official monitoring Iraq's weapons programmes flew to Baghdad on Friday for talks that could be crucial to the country's quest to end the embargo on its oil exports, reports AP.

The embargo, which has stifled Iraq's economy, has been in force since Saddam Hussein sent his army invading Kuwait in August 1990.

Rolf Ekeus, a Swedish disarmaments expert who heads the UN Special Commission, said in Bahrain on the eve of his departure that the embargo could be lifted in six months if Iraq cooperated.

"It will be a big deal for Iraq," he said. Iraq exported roughly 4 million barrels a day before the war. "So we're talking about a large amount of money which will influence oil prices and market... Iraq will be floating in cash."

Ekeus seeks to finalise details of a long-term monitoring plan to prevent Iraq's revival of nuclear, chemical and ballistics weapons programmes, and long-range missiles as demanded by the Security Council in its Gulf War ceasefire resolutions.

## Newsmen protest UK govt plan to control press

LONDON, Oct 1: Newspaper, radio and television editors joined forces on Thursday to attack government plans to control the British press, saying new laws would stop the exposure of fraudsters such as the late media tycoon Robert Maxwell, reports Reuters.

Editors decided to mount a coordinated campaign against proposals to introduce strict laws on privacy and said that self-regulation of Britain's media was working well.

# Off the Record

## 3-year-old head priest

KATHMANDU: A three-year-old baby boy was enthroned Thursday as the 19th Rinpoche (head priest) of Tibetan Nyingma-pa sect, in a colourful ceremony at a monastery on the outskirts of Kathmandu, witnesses said, reports AFP.

More than 5,000 special guests from over 56 countries, east and west, attended the ceremony for the young Rinpoche, Tenzing Yeshe Dorjes, whose parents are from Bhutan but currently living in Nepal.

The guests included learned Buddhist monks and scholars who thronged to the colourful *tsedrub chinney sokthing puja* (worship) ceremony and environment at the Urgyen Dongakh Chyosling monastery at Baudha Nath.

Monks and head priests came from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore and other countries, a spokesman for the organisers said.

As the tiny boy arrived at the monastery, some 25,000 Tibetan and local Buddhists thronged both sides of the road craning for a glimpse of the new head priest, who will live at the monastery from Thursday.

Nepalese Prime Minister Gijra Prasad Koirala and the leader of the ruling Nepali Congress Party, Ganesha Man Singh, were also present on the occasion.

## A costly mistake

LONDON: Charity shop staff were astonished when they emptied a black plastic garbage sack they thought contained only secondhand children's clothes and found a fortune in jewellery, reports AP.

They had another surprise when the woman who left the sack on Wednesday returned on Thursday to the Helping Hand charity shop at Enfield in north London and tried to reclaim it. Police believe part at least of the haul of gold and silver chains, earrings, and necklaces, some set with diamonds, emeralds and sapphires, had been stolen.

The Times of London estimated the value of the jewellery, now in police possession, 300,000 pounds (£124,447,000). Other news reports put it at twice that.

It included some loose diamonds wrapped in paper. Some of the items had gems prised from them, Scotland Yard said.

The shop staffed by volunteer workers sells donated second-hand, clothes and other items at cheap prices.

"This woman stuck her head in the door (on Wednesday) and said 'Do you want this?' and pointed to a garbage bag of stuff in the doorway," Kerry Smith, 21, the manageress of the shop, told reporters on Thursday.

Ms. Smith added, "I said fine" and she left. But when we started going through it, one of the volunteers said, "Look at this and here was a huge pile of gold and jewels."

"Of course we called the police straight away. The woman came back (on Thursday) and said she had left the wrong bag and she wanted it back because it had a jumper in it she wanted. She was blonde and quite young. I called the police again but she was long gone by the time they got here."

Scotland Yard said police are looking for a woman in her 30s. A police spokesman said about 30 of the items had blue plastic tags attached with the inscription "Fishberg W1."

## Now garbage is fashionable

NEW YORK: First, it became fashionable to recycle garbage. Now, recycled garbage itself is fashionable, reports AP.

Thanks to politically correct thinking at clothing and show manufacturers, Americans can now wrap a good portion of themselves in trash.

We're talking about polyester sweaters made out of plastic soda bottles. Shoes with soles made of old tires. Even Lamine Kouyate, a high-fashion Parisian designer, has introduced women's dresses that are patch-works of used and surplus clothes.

People are suddenly wearing what they once so eagerly bagged, tossed, burned and buried.

"In the past people dressed in recycled garments because they were poor. Now people dress in recycled garments because it's chic and they care about the environment," said Elle magazine fashion editor Constance Cr White.

This fall, Patagonia of Ventura, California began selling a pullover sweater made of 80 per cent plastic beverage containers. "The clear and green plastic we drink our 7-up or Evian out of," said company spokesman Mike Harroson.

## Referendum on assisted suicide

DETROIT: The prosecutor trying to convict Dr. Jack Kevorkian said Wednesday that Michigan voters should decide whether assisted suicide should be legal, reports AP.

Similar referendums have failed in Oregon and Washington. California will put the issue on the 1996 ballot.

In February, the Legislature hurriedly enacted a law banning assisted suicide after Kevorkian had been present at 15 deaths. Lawmakers also set up a Death and Dying Commission to study the issue.

# Secrecy of CIA files on former Soviet Union now unnecessary

WASHINGTON, Oct 1: In 1950 the Truman administration asked the CIA "the date at which the USSR might be prepared to engage in a general war," reports AP.

The top-secret response wasn't long in coming back: The Soviets are prepared at any moment, but when or whether they actually will launch war cannot be predicted.

Nonetheless, successive administrations were preoccupied with this same question in the 1950s.

Variations on the theme of war with the Soviet Union run through thousands of Cold War documents released Thursday from the bowels of the CIA, which the public can view starting next week at Washington's National Archives.

For example, an estimate dated March 4, 1958, discussed the likelihood of the CIA being able to mobilise disaffected Soviet block citizens as resistance fighters of the type who helped the Allies against the Nazis in World War II. It concluded that the potential for recruiting

such resistance was highest among minorities in the Soviet Union and citizens of Eastern Europe who would view a Soviet war with the West as a chance to throw off Moscow's yoke.

With the Soviet bloc dismantled, the continued secrecy of these CIA documents has become unnecessary — and the CIA is engaged in declassifying thousands more pages, including files of some of its most infamous covert actions of the 1950s and 1960s.

In Moscow, thousands of Cold War KGB files have been declassified over the past two years, often in return for money — a capitalist enterprise which would have been unthinkable under the Communists who were the subject of such intense CIA scrutiny.

The CIA's overall record, as reflected in the 277 declassified estimates from 1947 to 1961, correctly predicted that while the Soviet Union would do all it could to control the world — including persistent efforts to drive a wedge into the Western alliance — it would stop short of all-

out war with the United States.

For example, a June 15, 1954, estimate discussed the consequences on the Soviet Union of a possible US-UN decision to use nuclear weapons to stop the Chinese in Indochina.

The Soviets would probably not commit troops to help the Chinese, nor would they provide China with nuclear weapons to counter a Western attack, the authors predicted. Moscow would likely advise the Chinese to negotiate a ceasefire, they said.

This and other estimates reflected the view of the time, which has since proven historically flawed, that the Communist world was a monolithic whole in which Moscow completely controlled Peking (later Beijing).

This view runs throughout a June 19, 1950, estimate about the capabilities of North Korea. The document correctly noted that North Korea was capable of military action against South Korea, including the capture of Seoul. But it failed to foresee that the North would invade the

South six days later, and it predicted that the Soviet Union would refuse to sanction the use of Chinese troops in North Korea.

China in fact joined the war barely six months later.

The North Korean estimate is one of several in which the CIA fell short. "You'll get the good with the bad," said David Gries, Director of the agency's Centre for the Study of Intelligence.

For example, a week after Soviet dictator Josef Stalin died, the CIA predicted that his successor Georgi Malenkov would not face any "immediate challenge." Three days later, Malenkov resigned as Communist Party leader under pressure — to make way for Nikita Khrushchev.

Titled "Probable Consequences of the Death of Stalin and of the Elevation of Malenkov to Leadership in the estimate fails to even mention Khrushchev's name or any others involved in the battle of succession — focusing entirely on Malenkov, to whom formal control was passed on the day Stalin died.

## TB spreading in Europe as in US

LONDON, Oct 1: Swiss researchers today said tuberculosis (TB) was spreading in Europe in the same way as it is in the United States and called for urgent action to control the disease, reports Reuters.

The researchers, writing in the British medical journal the *Lancet*, said the spread of TB was a result of deteriorating living conditions.

They cited the increasing incidence of infection with the HIV virus which causes AIDS and immigration as factors contributing to the increase in TB, which had declined sharply in Europe since around the 1940s.