UN ban on S Africa may go tomorrow

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 6: The UN General Assembly will vote Friday on a draft resolution lifting economic sanctions against South Africa, said UN spokeswoman Cynthia Henry, reports AFP.

The resolution currently being discussed by the special UN committee against apartheid would lift economic sanctions and the oil embargo.

The General Assembly will almost certainly pass the draft. sources said

Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress. called for an end to the sanctions last month before the

United Nations.

In December last year the General Assembly, whose decisions are non-binding, called on all governments, private institutions and the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, not to grant new loans or credits to South Africa.

AFP. The United Nations also imposed an oil embargo in 1986. The current draft resolution does not include lifting the arms embargo, imposed by the UN Security Council in 1977, diplomats said.

Mandela asked for the arms telephone. ban to remain in force until multi racial elections are held in South Africa. being treated in several

10 die, hundreds hospitalised as gas leaks in China

BEIJING, Oct 6: A cloud of deadly gas engulfed an area south of Beijing or poisoning hundreds of people and forcing the evacuation of whole town, officials in neighbouring Hebei province said today, reports

The gas, hydrogen sulfide, escaped from an oil drilling site on Tuesday of last week in Hebei's Songcheng village. about 300 kilometres (185 miles) south of the capital, officials said when contacted by

At least 10 people died and hundreds of others were still

hospitals for poisoning, the officials said.

"All the villages around the area were evacuated," an official at one hospital said. "We've treated about 60 people for poisoning since the accident, but two other hospitals have many more patients."

The number of poisoned was put at more than 200.

Risking their lives, army anti-chemical units, police and emergency medical teams rushed to the area, located in Zhao country, to carry out rescue efforts. Hebei governor Ye Liansong, who sped to the area from nearby Shijiazhuang, the provincial capital, oversaw the rescue work.

Several villages and towns with tens of thousands of residents were completely evacuated after the accident, the exact cause of which was still undetermined, the officials said.

And investigation into the cause was continuing, they added, experts said it was rare that deposits of hydrogen sulfide, which has a rotten-eggsmell, were hit during explo-

The oil well belonged to the state-owned China National Petroleum Corp. where officials at the Beijing headquarters de-

clined Wednesday to comment on the accident.

The leak was plugged 18 hours after the accident and most residents had already returned to their homes. Environmental protection officials said the danger of being poisoned was over after tests were carried out.

Local residents, at first fearing for their lives, had calmed down, the officials said.

The accident was the latest in a series of industrial mishaps that have cast a shadow over China's world safety standards.

Mahathir condemns western media

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 6: Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad again slammed the western media for taking a biased approach toward covering developing countries, charging "they have blacked-out anything good," reports AFP.

Mahathir also condemned the media for "blacking out" his attack on the western press made in an October 1 speech at the UN General Assembly in New York.

Mahathir, on his return late Tuesday, also questioned the significance of a purported move by Hong Kong to introduce legislation preventing any person from controlling both print and electronic media in

Mahathir, a frequent critic of the foreign media, made these remarks when asked why he had accused the foreign media of being irresponsible and spreading damaging lies in his recent UN speech.

"The fact that my speech was not reported by the western media proved that it never reports anything good about south (developing) countries. Mahathir said.

"After my speech at the UN, many delegates from the south apparently showed great interest in what I had to say, people in the south would like to hear what I want to way, but not a word was written (printed)," he

N Korea blasts IAEA

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 6: North Korea on Tuesday condemned a "political conspiracy" to force it to agree to international inspections of its nuclear facilities which are suspected of developing weapons, reports AP.

Son Won Ho, Deputy Foreign Gen Shalikashvili replaces Powell

WASHINGTON, Oct 6: The Senate on Tuesday confirmed army General John Shalikashvili as chairman of the Pentagon's Joint Chiefs of Staff, the nation's top soldier, reports

Shalikashvili replaces General Colin Powell, who recently retired from the army.

The Senate Armed Services Committee had held up action on Shalikashvili's nomination until the Senate received President Bill Clinton's nomination of his replacement as NATO commander.

from Vandenburg air force base.

point on Earth once every 16 days.

crop lands.

reports from Tokyo.

am (2320 GMT Tuesday)

the southern summer

rebels died, the army said.

or ELN

of APS

industry

intended to allow the Landsat 6 satellite to photograph any

land use, water flow patterns, mineral deposits and timber and

Japanese fighter crashes: A

Japanese Air Self-Defence force F-15 jet fighter crashed

Wednesday in the sea some 50 kilometres south of its air force

base in Chitose near Sapporo, defence agency officials said, AFP

The crew of two ejected from the fighter by parachute and

were rescued, the officials said. The crash occurred around 8:20

36 die in Brazil violence: Thirty-six

people were killed in violence over the weekend in Sao Paulo,

The combined weekend total of 67 represents about 35 per cent

murder rate was due in part to not weather with the arrival of

Sixteen rebels and a soldier died in fighting in the Colombian

290 kilometres (180 miles) west of Bogota. The army said troops

shot dead 13 rebels of the pro-Cuban National Liberation Army,

kilometres (285 miles) north of Bogota, a soldier and three

Talmat Algeria press DG: A longtime

journalist and director of a cinema and arts centre has been

named director general of the state-run Algerian Press Service,

Minister Mohammed Merzoug, who himself served twice as head

worked at the weekly magazine African Revolution and was

director of the Algerian Centre for Cinematographic Art and

Velayati leaves for Seoul: Ali Akbar

Velayati has left New York for Seoul to pay the first visit by an

Iranian Foreign Minister to South Korea since the 1979 Islamic

revolution, the official news agency IRNA said yesterday. AFP

the UN General Assembly, left for Seoul Tuesday, it said.

Velayati, who was in New York to attend the 48th session of

During his three-day visit. Velayati is to discuss with Korean

officials bilateral ties as well as regional and international

Amar Talmat, 48, was named to the post by communications

Talmat, a graduate of the Algiers Journalism School, had

the government announced Tuesday, AP reports from Algiers.

The worst clash took place near the village of Riofrio, about

In fighting near the town of Apartado, located some 460

countryside Tuesday, the army said, AP reports from Bogota.

On the last weekend in September, 31 people were killed

riumicido division chief Nelson Silveira said the climbing

killed in Colombian clash:

police said Tuesday, AFP reports from Sao Paulo.

of the 189 homicides recorded in August.

The pictures can be used to study environmental trends,

Minister, condemned 72 countries which voted Friday to urge North Korea to prove it is not making nuclear weapons by submitting to outside inspec-

The North Korean envoy told the UN General Assembly the vote was "a wanton violation of sovereignty of our republic and part of a sinister political offensive aimed at forcing international pressure upon us."

North Korea and Libya cast the only "no" votes on the resolution at the annual general conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria.

The measure expressed "grave concern" over North Korea's refusal to open its nuclear sites to inspection as required under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Speaking of the IAEA resolution, Song told the General Assembly, "This act cannot but be viewed as a product of political conspiracy.



The tank regiment, which was used by President Yeltsin to attack the Russian parliament building October 4, leaves the area after the building was seized October 5. At least 149 people died in two days of fighting between security forces and hardline rebels, Russian officials said. - AFP photo

China won't bow to world pressure over N-test

Landsat 6 satellite launched: BEIJING, Oct 6: China will never bow to outside pressure An Earth observation satellite was carried into a polar orbit to give up its nuclear weaponry, Tuesday aboard a Titari II rocket, the Air Force said, AP reports despite recriminations following its latest nuclear test, diplomats The 438-mile-high (772-kilometre) orbit over the poles is

said here, reports AFP. In a statement published shortly after Tuesday's underground test at its Lop Nor test site in remote Xinjiang Province, the Beijing government said that its development of a nuclear arsenal was "Entirely for the purpose of self-defence."

Instead China called on the other nuclear powers, Britain, France, Russia and the Untied States, to conclude an international convention prohibiting first use of nuclear weapons and the threat of their use against non-nuclear states."

A western diplomat here said India to telecast 'Akbar The Great'

JAIPUR, Oct 6: Indian view-

ers will soon be treated to an-

other historical television serial

"Akbar The Great" from the

maker of the earlier popular

"The Sword of Tipu Sultan.

The actor turned director is

putting in almost 15 hours daily

to complete the 52 episodes at

the Jaigarh port of the

crore serial is scheduled to be

He said efforts were made to

maintain maximum authentic-

ity so the viewers would get the

true picture of the Moghul era

and about the multi-faceted

personality of the great Moghul

One of the six script writers,

Ananda Shanker, a lecturer in

history with specialisation in

Moghul period, said about 56

books on the dynasty were re-

ferred to while preparing the

signer of the serial, said the

costumes, headwear, weapons,

and even the candlestands were

designed after consulting

coloured paintings of the period

winner Naushad Ali has scored

the music for the serial.

Dada Saheb Phadke award

Giliroy Gonsalvez, the de-

script for the serial.

Khan told PTI here the Rs 14

Akbar Khan, reports PTI.

Erstwhile Jaipur ruler.

telecast by December 26.

emperor.

the Chinese appeal would be "Unacceptable" to the other nuclear powers. "This is the usual litary from

Beijing, but these proposals are unacceptable to the other atomic powers because they amount to the abandoning of nuclear deterrent, whose balance of terror has provided the foundation for peace for the past 50 years," the diplomat

In addition Chinese authorities also link the signing of a nuclear test ban treaty to the complete eradication of nuclear arsenals.

being completely left behind by

the other nuclear powers," the diplomat said. Tuesday's underground

blast, measured 5.8 on the Richter scale, and western experts said the device was probably 70 to 80 kilotonnes, and aimed at developing a multiple warhead missile to maintain China's tactical edge in Asia.

"If the Chinese suspend tests, they will lose their edge in Asia and give up on their ambition to become a big economic and military power," a western expert said.

He sald China's nuclear arsenal would be obsolete within 10 years and Chinese researchers have no choice but to press ahead with tests to reduce the size of their devices for use on warheads.

Jackson explodes onto Indian stage next month

NEW DELHI, Oct 6: Superstar Michael Jackson will sen in consultation with Jackperform entirely for charity when he explodes on to the Indian stage next month, his tertainer to fund youth projects sponsors said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

for Pepsi Cola international's Indian subsidiary, said Jackson would play at New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on



November 25 as part of his "Dangerous" world tour

cert," Dhariwal told reporters "Michael Jackson is performing

show would go to the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, a charitable body set up in honour of India's late prime minister, for projects to help children.

content - Communists, ex-

treme nationalists, fascists and

plain thugs - collided with

badly organized police lines and

through the capital, seized the

mayor's office and attacked the

the chance to end a two week

standoff with lawmakers who

had defied his September 21

decree dissolving parliament

and calling new elections. It is

unclear whether the lawmakers

planned Sunday's disturbances.

as Yeltsin charged. But they

On Monday, Yeltsin seized

main television complex.

The rioters rampaged

broke through.

Programmes would be choson's own heal the world foundation, created by the enas part of his much-publicised adoration of children.

Jackson has pledged to raise 100 million dollars for heal the world during the 25-nation tour, which has been dogged by allegations of child abuse by the

But Dhartwal said the Indian show was unique because its entire thrust was charitable. although staging costs would still have to be met. "This is a charity concert

The rest were commercial concerts" he said. Dhariwal said Pepsi, the

tour's main sponsor, would guarantee a minimum contribution of five million rupees (160,000 dollars) to the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, but hoped the concert would raise far

With tickets on sale at minimum of 500 rupees (16 dollars), only affluent middle and upper class Indians will be able to afford to see the show, billed as the biggest entertainment event ever to hit India.

Family of 4 dies in German arson attack

BAO WILDUNGEN (Germany), Oct 6: A family of four including a Shri Lankan father died in a suspected arson attack in the central German town of Bao Wildungen on Tuesday, but police said there was no indication of a racist motive, reports Reuter.

They said the fire appeared to have broken out in two separate places, suggesting arson.

But they added the Shri Lankan had been the only foreigner among the residential block's 16 inhabitants, which implied that the attack had not been a racist one.

The man, his German wife and their children of one and three years all died of smoke poisoning

Members of Germany's six million-strong foreign community have been the chief target of a two-year wave of violence.

Nobel Peace Prize

winner selected

OSLO, Oct 6: The 1993 Nobel Peace Prize winner was selected Tuesday by the Norwegian Nobel Committee but the identity of the recipient will be kept top secret until the announcement October 15, the committee said, reports AFP.

"I can confirm that a winner for the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize has been chosen," committee member Kaare Kristiuansen

"From my viewpoint, this year's peace prize laureate is not controversial," he added, causing speculation that 1993's winner is an organisation and not an individual.

No organisation has won the award since 1988, when the United Nations peacekeeping forces won.

Some 110 candidates were nominated for this year's award, including 88 individuals and 22 organisations. The nominations, which are not disclosed by the committee, had to be submitted by February 1

Candidates can be nominated by former prize winners, parliaments and governments.

One organisation rumoured to be a strong candidate was the Salvation Army, as was the International Committee for the Red Cross.

Among the individuals rumoured to have been candi dates are French President Francois Mitterrand, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, peace negotiators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen and former US President George Bush.

Other rumoured candidates include ANC leader Nelson Mandela, South African President Frederik De Klerk. Czech President Vaclav Havel and Israeli language teacher Shulamith Katznelson for her work in trying to reconcile Arabs and Jews.

Last year's prize was awarded to Guatemalan peasant leader Rigoberta Menchu.

The peace prize, which was awarded for the first time in 1901, will be officially announced October 15 in Oslo The laureate will receive the 6.7 million Kronor (837,500 dollars) award at the formal awards ceremony December 10 in Oslo.

Off the Record

15 pc Indonesians can't speak national language

JAKARTA: Some 15 per cent of Indonesians cannot speak Bahasa Indonesia, the national language that binds this multiethnic nation, news reports said here Wednesday, reports AFP.

The Kompas daily quoted the head of the language development centre, Hasan Alwi, as saying that according to the country's latest population census in 1990, 27 million citizens were unable to speak Bahasa Indonesia.

According to the same census, the country's population stood at 179 million people.

Bahasa Indonesia is a Malay derivative chosen as early as the 1920s as a lingua franca in this archipelago of over 13,000 islands with more than 300 ethnic groups, most owning their own language or dialect.

The language is taught throughout the country starting at primary school level.

Red meat risks prostate cancer

WASHINGTON: Eating a lot of fat, especially from red meat, increases a man's risk of life-threatening prostate cancer, researchers say, reports AP.

Animal fat in the diet seems to promote the growth of small, latent prostate tumours, making them more likely to turn lethal,

researchers at Harvard's School of Public Health found. Their study was to be published Wednesday in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

It is the strongest evidence yet that advanced prostate cancer - like breast and colon cancer - may be linked to a high fat diet, said Dr. Kenneth J. Pienta a cancer researcher and assistant professor at Wayne Sate University in Detroit. He reviewed the study for an editorial in the journal.

2000-yr-old mummies

BEIJING: Archaeologists in northwestern China have unearthed 2,000-year-old mummies bearing surgical incisions stitched up with strands of baar, the Xinhua News Agency said

Wednesday, reports AP. A dozen mummified corpses were found in tombs in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region's Shanshan Country, 240 kilometers (150 miles) southeast of the regional capital of

THE REPORT OF THE PARTY AND TH The state-run news agency said they were believed to date from 475-221 B. C. and may have been people of the lost

kingdom of Cheshi.

Their stomachs and chests were marked by surgical cuts sewn up with hair, and their faces were tattooed.



Dao Hong Hanh poses in swimsuit on October 5 evening during a national beauty-contest final held in Hanoi. Fifty-two girls selected from provincial contests are competing in the national final due to take place on October 9. - AFP photo

Gaddafi fears 'crusading war'

issues, according to IRNA.

reports from Tehran.

CAIRO, Oct 6: As his government tried to end a dispute bombings, Moammar Gaddafi warned Libyans on Tuesday that enemies were preparing to launch "crusading wars" agai-

nst them, reports AP. "Enemies on the other side of the sea and on the other side of the ocean are preparing to launch crusading wars against us," Gaddafi told a crowd of thousands gathered at Sabha, 390 miles (650 kms) south of Tripoli. "In return, we have to drum for confrontation to frigh-

ten them." His comments were carried by the official JANA news agency, which was monitored in

Yeltsin's political opponents with the West over two jethner | may have seemed necessary. even overdue. But it raises serious questions about his commitment to democracy at a critical juncture in Russian history, reports AP.

It also may force Western nations to see Russian politics in less black-and-white terms muddying the image of Yeltsin as a pure democrat fighting the pure evil of resurgent commu-

After the shelling of parliament and the arrest of its leaders Monday, one of the Russian president's first focus was to ban a dozen opposition newspapers and political parties.

While public support is high. even Yeltsin's backers are asking whether democratic ends justify autocratic means - and if so, where does one draw the "I think Yeltsin wants

democracy and he's learning toward democracy, but he doesn't understand that one of the fundamental principles of democracy is that the end does not justify the means," Robert Legyold, a Russian specialist at Columbia University in New York, said Tuesday.

"Not to take away from his many accomplishments, but that's an authoritarian personality, Legvoid said.

certainly encouraged the rioting Yeltsin's opponents started - and were encouraged by it the violence. A demonstration once it began.

"China well knowns that this latter proposal is unrealistic, but sticks to it strongly because it is China's only way to avoid

Ravi Dhariwal, a spokesman



This is a pure charity con-

He said all profit from the

Opponents question Yeltsin's commitment to democracy Initial polls show that most Russians believe Yeltsin was justified in sending tanks and troops to smash the opposition in the barricaded parliament building, known as the White

House. Still, they are appalled by the bloodshed, and many blame Yeltsin for not heading off the conflict earlier.

"Democracy does not have to be toothless before tyranny. historian Dmitry Likhachev said Tuesday. "Democracy must defend itself. Only this time, because the defense came late, it took more victims than it needed to. Yeitsin's subsequent crack-

down on opposition media also

was questionable. Did he really

Seconds" off the air? These questions were especially troubling to moderates. Parliament was not com-

have to shut down Pravda, or

force the popular TV show "600

posed only of Communists. Yeltsin himself was elected with the other lawmakers in 1989. They include some technocrats and intellectuals who support free-market reforms and want nothing to do with Yeltsin hardline opposition, but also have reservations about the president.

State control over the media, combined with the banning of opposition parties, cast a shadow over Yeltsin's assurances that parliamentary elections in December and presi-

dential elections in June will be truly democratic. "If the end justifies the

means in breaking the opposition in the parliament, will the end also justify the means in winning the elections? Will Yeltsin and his colleagues feel justified in stage-managing the process?" Legvold asked.

President Clinton and other Western leaders have expressed strong support for Yeltsin, while also indicating that future support will depend in large part on the conduct of the elections. It moderate critics of the Russian president are stifled, both Russian democracy and Western aid will be in danger.

\$144.8m Lankan budget to fight Tamil rebels

COLOMBO, Oct 6: Shri Lanka expects to spend 7.1 billion rupees (144.8 million dollar) on monetary operations to fight Tamil rebels in 1994 more than a third of its total defence budget - a state-owned newspaper said today, reports Reuter. The daily news said the gov-

for 1994 is estimated at 20.4 billion rupees [416.3 million dollar), some 3.3 billion rupees (67.3 million dollar) higher than was estimated for 1993.

ernment's total defence budget

The Finance Ministry will present the budget estimates in parliament on Friday.