### Japan protests Russia's N-waste dumping

TOKYO, Oct 19: Japan protested to Russia again Tuesday over its dumping of nearly a thousand tons of radioactive waste in the Japan Sea and its plans to dump a second shipload by November 15. reports AP.

Moscow risks "undermining the momentum in Japan-Russia relations" built during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan last week. Vice Foreign Minister Kunihiko

Saito summoned Russian Ambassador Lyudvig Alexsandrovich Chizov for the second day in a row to tell him the dumping was 'extremely regrettable" and present a written

"A high-level political decision that would stop the dumping at sea of nuclear waste is called for," Saito said in an unusually strongly worded statement.

A Russian tanker pumped more than 237,000 gallons (900 metric tons) of liquid waste more than enough to fill three Olympic-size swimming pools into the Sea of Japan over the weekend.

### Caution against repeat of Golden Temple incident

# Delhi asked to protect Hazratbal Mosque

NEW DELHI, Oct 19: Indian newspapers and the opposition today asked the government to do its utmost to protect Kashmiris holiest mosque whose dramatic takeover by Muslim rebels has triggered an army siege of the shrine, reports

Leading dailies here cautioned New Delhi against a hasty assault on the Hazratbal Mosque in Kashmir's summer capital of Srinagar warning that it would spark a mass rebellion in the northern state.

"The shrine is a sentimental issue and any false move on it can easily estrange Kashmiri opinion" the Patriot said in an

The daily said the government was "in a tight spot" and urged it to move cautiously. "It must advise its forces to exercise extreme caution as they have done so far."

The Times of India in an editorial "Saving the Shrine" called upon the authorities to act with "great caution bearing in mind the emotional attachment of the

ordinary people to the shrine." The Indian army and paramilitary forces late Friday laid siege to the holy shrine after it was taken over by dozens of Muslim militants fighting to secede Kashmir the country's only Muslim majority

The troops have ringed the entire mosque complex with barded wire and cut off electricity and water to the shrine in a bid to tire out the gunmen as well as a group of civilians holed up inside.

The mosque houses a single hair reputed to be from the beard of the Prophet Mohammed (SM). Indian army officers have declared they will maintain the sanctity of the

The newspapers cautioned

New Delhi against a repeat of the bloody June 1984 army offensive on the Golden Temple Sikh dom's holiest shrine in Amritsar after it was taken over by Sikh militants in a similar

That operation called Blue

LONDON, Oct 19: The gov-

civilians dead and fuelled Sikh militancy in neighbouring Punjab state.

"Indian forces must under no circumstances attempt another Blue Star" the Economic Times said. "There is no point in rushing down the same road yet again" added the

Opposition leader Inder Kumar Gujral of the centrist Janata Dal (People's Party), said it was New Delhi's responsibility to protect the mosque and "ensure that the terrorists did not spoil its sanctity." The Communist Party of

India said in a statement that any desecration of the shrine "will have serious consequences not only in the (Kashmir) valley but in the entire sub-conti-Muslim militants inside the

shrine have demanded a lifting of a curfew clamped in most parts of Srinagar and permission to hand over the holy relic to Muslim clergy and the gen-



Kashmiri Muslim women chant anti-Indian slogans during an evacuation operation near the besieged Hazratbal Mosque on Sunday in northern Kashmir. . - AFP photo

### Iran to send all Afghan refugees home by Mar'96

TEHRAN, Oct 19: Iran has planned to send home all Afghan refugees in its territory by March 1996, Tehran Radio reported Monday, says Xinhua.

Ahmad Hosseini, Director-General of Refugee Affairs, was quoted as saying by the radio that Afghans in Iran must apply for identity cards over the next five months in preparation for

the phased return.

During the 14 years of the civil war that followed the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, millions of Afghans fled their homes to neighbouring Pakistan and Iran.

Before the Afghan Mujahideen forces ousted former Soviet-backed President Mohammad Najibullah government in April 1992, Iran hosted some two million Afghan refugees, including 580,000 without any valid papers for staying in the country.

Hosseini said that about 850,000 Afghans had voluntarily returned to their country in the past year.

The phased return of the Afghan refugees would be completed by March 1996, he said.

#### Mother Teresa off to China: Mother Teresa left Calcutta for China Tuesday morning to set up the first ever home of the Missionaries of charity there, PTI

reports from Calcutta. The 83-year old Nobel laureate, accompanied by one of sisters of her organisation, plans to set up a home for the desti-

Menem leaves hospital: President Carlos Menem returned home from the hospital Monday, three days after undergoing surgery on a key artery to his brain, AP reports from Buenos Aires.

Menem, 63, said he felt "better than ever" and expected to rest for a few days before returning to work Thursday for a Cabinet meeting

"I never thought of dying, nor am I thinking of dying." Menem said at a news conference at the presidential residence in the suburb of Olivos.

Fellini still in coma: More neurological tests were planned Tuesday for film director Federico Fellini whose doctor anticipated the Oscar winner would suffer some brain damage even if he emerged from his coma, AP repots from

Unfortunately, the prognosis is very guarded and the situation could be very grave," said Dr. Gianfranco Truchetti outside Rome's Polyclinic Hospital.

"If he recovers there will be a decrease in brain function," he

Fellini. 73, went into a coma on Sunday after suffering a heart attack caused by respiratory problems



This file picture dated May 18, '87 shows Italian filmmaker Federico Fellini at the Cannes film festival in the South of - AFP photo France.

Lightning claims 10 in India: Ten boys were killed and two sustained serious burns when lightning struck Satyapur village in Burdwan district on Monday, official sources said Tuesday, reports from Calcutta.

Lightning struck the house killing 10 of them on the spot and the other two were admitted to a local hospital, the sources

Chinese CP meets next month: The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party is to hold a meeting next month to discuss major economic reform policies, a Beijing-run newspaper reported Tuesday. AFP says from Hong Kong.

The third plenum of the 14th Chinese Communist Party Central Committee is to convene in Beijing next month to focus of finance, taxation, investment, foreign trade and assets of state enterprises, the Ta Kung Pao said.

Rebels kill 7 in Peru: Suspected leftist rebels ambushed a pickup truck in a rural area of Peru, killing all seven people aboard, including an eight-month-old baby. police said Monday, AFP reports from Lima.

Before being killed, the driver of the truck was tortured and forced to watch as eight hooded gunmen believed to belong to Shining Path guerrillas killed his wife and children in

The victims included two other children, aged 13 and 15.

ernment cancelled a shortrange nuclear missile programme Monday, signaling a major rundown in Britain's atomic arsenal following the end of the Cold War, reports AP.

Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind told the House of Commons that the planned weapons system, the Tactical Air-to-Surface Missile, was unnecessary.

Britain would rely on its submarine-launched Trident long-range missiles, an American-designed system, he

Earlier, the all-party Commons Defence Select Committee reported that the Royal Navy already was incapable of defending Britain in a full-scale war, and said national security was being undermined to a "potentially fatal" degree. The cancellation of the nu-

clear missile, which will save an estimated 1.5 billion pounds (2.25 billion dollar), alarmed

among many rank-and-file legislators. They are already angered at successive defence cuts by the cash-strapped Conservative government.

"We have concluded that our previous requirement for a new stand-off nuclear weapon capability is not a sufficiently high priority to justify procurement of a new nuclear system in the current circumstances," said Rifkind said.

The new missile was to have replaced the Royal Air Force's free-fall bomb, the WE177. which is to be withdrawn from service by 2006.

"How is it that we are doing this now . . . when all sorts of tin-pot dictators are potentially able to get their hands on nuclear weapons?" demanded John Wilkinson, a right-wing Conservative legislator. According to news leaks,

Prime Minister John Major plans to squeeze Britain's 24 billion-pound (36 billion dollar)

defense budget by another bilthe security of the United lion pounds (1.5 billion dollar) in the annual budget next month. That would come in addition to the cancelled missile

Major's predecessor, Margaret Thatcher, ordered the highly potent Trident missile system - now gradually replacing Britain's aging Polaris longrange nuclear missiles - in the mid-1980s.

programme.

Major, in contrast to the relatively high defense-spending of Thatcher administrations, has implemented a series of cuts in conventional forces during this three years in power.

The cuts would reduce the army by one-fourth to 116,000 personnel by next year and scrap four brand-new dieselpowered submarines.

The Commons defense committee said in its report that further cuts would reduce defense capabilities "to below the minimum level necessary for

The report said the Royal Navy was now stretched to "unwise levels' even in peace-

"It is evident that in the event of full-scale war, the Royal Navy would be incapable of defending our sea routes on which we depend for both trade and the movement of our armed forces," the committee said. "It is our view that this

shortcoming posses a serious and potentially fatal threat to the long-term security of this country". Riskind faces a concerted

lobby, headed by rank-and-file legislators and military commanders, to prevent further defense cuts.

But the government is seeking to close a 50-billion pound (75 billion dollar) deficit and treasury officials say the November budget will be among the toughest ever.

# UK cancels short-range N-missile plan | Israel to free 6000

AMMAN. Oct 19: Israel has agreed to free up to 6,000 Palestinians held in Israeli jails, a move that would fulfill a condition of the Israel-PLO peace agreement, Palestinian officials said Monday, reports AP.

Omar Khatib, deputy chief of the Palestine Liberation Organisation mission in Jordan, said the releases, which could begin this week, will be the first step toward the release of some 13,000 Palestinian prisoners. But Israel says it is holding

11,000 Palestinians, and Israeli media reports have said that up to 2,000 prisoners who have been sentenced to killing Israelis agreed to allow a Palestinian team into the occupied territories to "assess the security situation" ahead of the deployment of a Palestinian po-

Israel is to begin withdrawing security forces from the occupied areas beginning in mid-December.

The Israel-PLO accord. which provides for self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, took affect Wednesday as negotiations continued on how to implement

Khatib said General Amnon Shahak "promised that between 4,500 and 6,000 Palestinian prisoners will be released soon." Shahak is heading an Israeli negotiating team discussing security issues in meetings with the PLO at the Egyptian resort

That could come as early as this weekend," he said. "This issue as well as the release of the rest of Palestinian prisoners will be discussed when the Taba talks resume Wednesday.

Khatib confirmed that the PLO was seeking the release of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

### Venezuela orders | deportation of British writer

CARACAS, Oct 19: Venezuela Monday ordered the deportation of British writer David Yallop for "disrespect," as a result of charges he made against police and officials in defending a suspect in the Yuppie' bombing case, reports

e deported him because he not only was disrespectful to the office of the president of the republic, but he also abused the hospitality of the Venezuelan people." Justice Minister Fermin Marmol Leon

Yallop arrived in Caracas last week to promote his book about famed Venezuelan terrorist Carlos "the jackal" entitled "To the Ends of the Earth."

However he spent most of his time defending Thor Halvorseen, a former president of telephone company Cantv and former presidential commissioner against drug trafficking who was arrested in connection with a summer bomb-

Police have said a group of "Yuppie" businessmen plotted the bombings in July and August including the August 18 car bomb in a luxury Caracas shopping centre in order to profit from the resulting turmoil on financial markets. Police have arrested about

18 people in the case.

Yallop said he had known Halvorseen for three years, and was convinced of his innocence. He suggested the arrest was a political payback for evidence given against former president Carlos Andres Perez for alleged money laundering.

In addition, he accused police of torturing Halvorseen and businessman Ramiro Helmeyer. who he said received electric shocks on the testicles and was doused with gasoline in order to extract information.

### China, Taiwan agree to resume talks

BELJING, Oct 19: China and Taiwan have agreed to resume unofficial talks after a break of nearly two months, but are still wangling over the date and location of the negotiations, it was reported today, says AFP.

China's semi-official Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strit (ARATS) received a fax Friday from its Taiwan counterpart the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) confirming its willingness to resume their historic negotiations, the China Daily reported.

The talks are aimed at implementing agreements reached at a landmark meeting between the heads of the two agencies set up to facilitate cross-strait contacts in the absence of official ties between the longtime rivals - in Singapore in April.

The English-language daily said SEF responded only after repeated requests from ARATS to continue the working-level talks after a first round, held here on August 30 and September 1, ended without substantial progress.

China wishes the next round to take place as soon as possible in the Chinese capital, while Taiwan wants to hold them in Xiamen - in southeastern Fujian province.

## 6 in China

BEIJING. Oct 19: A leak of lethal vulcanized cyanide from an oil well in northeast China killed six oil workers and injured hundreds, an official re-

Tens of thousands of residents near the oil field in Zhaoxian County, Hebei province, were evacuated after the newly drilled well began spouting the lethal chemical September 28, the Beijing Youth News (Beijing Qingnian

About a week after the acci-

# The paper said officials investigating the case refused to answer reporter's questions. Other studies have found affairs to be more common than the General Social Survey did, but still well below estimates

Queen Elizabeth II is greeted by Cyprus President Glafkos Clerides (C) upon her arrival at Larnaca Airport in Cyprus on Monday. The Queen starts a six-day visit to the Commonwealth - AFP photo conference.

## Cyanide leak kills

port said Tuesday, reports AP.

Bao) reported.

dent, 58 people still were in

## Off the Record

### Infidelity is rare!

WASHINGTON: About 85 per cent of American husbands and wives are faithful to each other, says a researcher out to dispel myths about adultery, reports AP. There are probably more scientifically worthless 'facts' on

extramarital relations than on any other facet of human behaviour," said Tom W. Smith of the National Opinion Research Center. About 15 per cent of married or previously married Americans have cheated on a spouse, Smith, director of the

center's General Social Survey, said in a report Monday at an American Enterprise Institute seminar. Perhaps 3 per cent to 4 per cent of husbands and wives have a sexual partner outside their marriage in a given year, he said. Smith said TV talk shows and popular magazines commonly

report much higher numbers of marital cheats that are not based on scientific research. "The problem has been the lack of good scientific information." Smith said in an interview Monday.

often repeated in the popular media. For example, the Kinsey Institute of Sex Research at Indiana University estimated in 1990 that 37 per cent of married men

and 29 per cent of married women have been unfaithful. In the 1993 survey of people who were married or previously married. 21 per cent of men and 13 per cent of women reported

having an affair, Smith said. Smith could not say whether fear of contracting AIDS through sexual contact had reduced marital cheating.

### Nude flight

LEESBURG: There's no law against flying naked so three nude passengers were allowed to go free, but their partially undressed pilot faces drunken-flying charges, reports AP. "I apologise to the city of Leesburg," pilot Phillip C. Smith

said. Tm very disappointed in myself." A Lake County deputy met Smith and his passengers at Leesburg Municipal Airport early Sunday after complaints of a plane flying erratically and buzzing houses, said Sheriff's Lt.

John Thornton. Smith said he, another man and two women had been drinking and decided on the spur of the moment to fly naked. Smith, 49, said he only had his shirt off. But Thronton said Smith's pants were only half on when he landed the Cessna

The passengers, Thornton said, 'didn't have a whole lot to say." Police gave them their clothes, which had been left in a

car, and sent them on their way. Smith was charged with operating an aircraft while intoxicated a felony punishable by up to five years in prison and a 5,000 dollars fine. Police said two tests showed he was well above the legal blood-alcohol content of 0.1 per cent - one recorded 0.179 and the other 0.165.

troops for U.N peacekeeping operations in Somalia, a presidential spokesman said, reports

President Kim Young-sam

disclosed his decision in a letter

to President Clinton, his chief

spokesman, Le Kyung-jae, told reporters. " President Kim said in the letter that the present domestic situation does not allow sending

combat troops," Lee said. Lee did not specify reasons but opposition parties had said there was no good reason for Koreans to fight.

#### NICOSIA, Oct 19: Saddam Hussein's army is inexorably driving Iraq's Marsh Arabs out of their once impenetrable southern awampland, where they have lived off the land since the dawn of civilisation,

reports AP. Day and night, his artillery pounds the marshes where some 10.000 Shiite Muslim rebels are holed up. He's also draining the wetlands so his armour and big guns can move in ever deeper

real objective goes beyond just wiping out armed rebels who can mount attacks against his regime.

But the Baghdad regime's

It is deliberately eradicating the marshes, saying it is re-

claiming it for agriculture, yet dooming a unique way of life that dates back 6,000 years. In recent months, about onethird of the marshes have been

draining, the Shiite Marsh Arabs, or Madan, are fleeing as their habitat becomes unlivable. Baghdad's socialist Baath

regime, obsessed with progress and development at all costs. has long despised the independent-minded Madan and their watery labyrinth where they fish and hunt and live in reed houses.

Over the last few years the . regime has been waging a propaganda campaign against them. The state-run al-Thawra daily newspaper, for example, recently branded them a "monkey-face people" and their culture "primitive, debased and

In 1980, an estimated Between the shellfire and 700,000 people lived in and around the marshes. Now, after mass relocations and the exodus to Iran, only an estimated 200,000 remain.

> Before Saddam's engineers went to work, the mashes covered a triangular area about 6.000 square miles (17,500 square kilometers). The fetid, mosquito-infested waterway threaded through papyrus forests and thick jungles of 20foot-high (7-meter) reeds. Summer temperatures soared

above 122 degrees Fahrenheit (50 degrees Celsius). Iraqi forces have been

shelling Shitte areas between the cities of al-Amara and al-Nasartyah since August, according to rebels and recent visitors to the region.

The last few months have witnessed the heaviest assaults by Iraqi land forces," said Emma Nicholson, a member of the British parliament who went into the marshes from Iran last month, the latest of several trips since 1991

"The Baghdad regime has set out to obliterate the Shiften It's difficult to call this anything else than genocide. "Saddam is determined to destroy the cullies", she told The Associated Press by telephone from Landon.

Nicholson said some 400 villages have been obliterated in recent weeks.

She and other sources said Iran. Saddam has thrown a ring of steel around the marshes, cutting off food and medicine.

'Saddam's campaign is hortfyingly successful. Stravation is endemic in the marshes. The people who've got out say it's hell in there, Nicholson said.

Iran says that 30,000 Shiites, many of them wounded or ailing, have fled into the Islamic republic in the past months. Some 60,000 others.

escape.

#### Saddam forces drive Marsh Arabs out of their swampland including the Madan, have fled there since mid-1991. Dissident sources said 20,000 more are preparing to run the gantlet of lraqi patrols,

British television producer Michael Wood, who visited the marshes several weeks ago to make a documentary, told The AP: 'The Iragis are even shelling the passages people use to

artillery bombardment and fires

in dried-up reed beds to get to

"But bad as the shelling is. it's the declining water level that's really driving people out". Wood said. 'A unique habitat and way of life is simply disappearing.

### Spanish air force officer shot dead

MADRID, Oct 19: Two masked gunmen shot dead a sentor Spanish Air Force officer and wounded his driver in the stomach in Central Madrid early today, police said, reports Reuter.

In another incident shortly

afterwards, a car bomb exploded in Salamanca Square in the centre of the city. Spanish national radio said there had been no injuries. The dead officer was named

as Dionisio Herrero Albinana. 63. a general in the Air Forces Health Department. The ambush took place at 0730 GMT in Madrid's Central Alcala street.

### Saturday's attack, police said. ROK rejects US request to send troops to Somalia SEOUL, Oct 19 : South Korea on Tuesday rejected a U.S request to send combat