

# Teresa hopes to bring missionaries to Shanghai

SHANGHAI, Oct 23: Mother Teresa, famed for her work among the destitute and dying in Calcutta, said today she wants to bring her missionaries to Shanghai to help the poor in China's largest city, reports Reuters.



Mother Teresa

The 83-year-old Nobel laureate was mobbed by Roman Catholic believers seeking a blessing when she visited the Basilica of Mary on the outskirts of Shanghai to attend mass.

"With the lord's blessing we hope to open a home here to show love to the poor people," Mother Teresa later told Young Chinese priests and novices at a nearby seminary.

"Pray that we will be able to give joy, peace and love to the people of Shanghai."

Before the communist revolution of 1949 Shanghai was notorious for its beggars and every morning piles of bodies of starving peasants from the surrounding country side were collected in carts from its streets.

Beggars are now reappearing in the city, to the embarrassment of authorities.

# France to help set up modern Palestinian state

PARIS, Oct 23: French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe told visiting PLO Leader Yasser Arafat on Friday he welcomed the prospect of a modern Palestinian State on Friday, alongside an Israel with secure and acknowledged borders, reports AFP.

Juppe, speaking at a dinner for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman, said France would fully support such a nation's development into a fully modern state.

During his visit Arafat had received abundant support, including a pledge that France would provide a quarter of the European Community support pledged for the autonomous areas of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

"France will be at your side... we will help you... to achieve a peaceful and prosperous future," said Juppe, sitting between Arafat and his

wife at the dinner, after a day in which Arafat met Prime Minister Edouard Balladur.

"We expect you to represent to the Middle East a new example of democracy," and Juppe, adding that he wanted to see full cooperation between Israel, the Palestinians and neighbouring states.

Stressing Israel's right to secure borders, Juppe said his vision included "a Palestinian people free to choose its destiny and to acquire the fundamental structure of a modern state."

For his part Arafat paid tribute to French involvement in the recent progress in the Middle East peace process. "France has played its part without letup... which has not been without results," he said.

"Palestine is being resurrected. Our people are aspiring to build a true state... which

preserves democracy," he said, adding that his visit to France has brought "important results."

Earlier, Arafat said France is to help set up the Palestinians' first television station. Arafat told a news conference the PLO had signed a preliminary agreement Friday with the French television channel France 2.

PLO Information Director Yasser Abed Rabbo said the deal he signed with France 2's Managing Director Herve Bourges was to "found a Palestinian television station in the near future with the support of the French authorities and the European Community."

"We hope to start putting this agreement into practice very shortly so that Palestine has a radio and television station," Rabbo said.

Under the agreement, France 2 would help organise the new station's administration and production, would advise on legal matters and would back the station's efforts to secure international news coverage.

Arafat also earlier announced that France would provide a quarter of aid pledged by the 12-nation EC to the Palestinian autonomous areas of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

He set no figure, but the EC pledged 500 million Ecu (600 million dollars) in aid over five years and 90 million Ecu (108 million dollars) in 1993 after the September 13 autonomy accord signed with Israel in Washington.

He met President Francois Mitterrand on Thursday, and Prime Minister Edouard Balladur Friday, and was due to leave Paris Saturday.

# Off the Record

## Jackson declared persona non grata

LIMA: Peru's writers and artists declared pop superstar Michael Jackson persona non grata Friday, saying "his presence in the country would be harmful to children and youth," reports AFP.



Jackson is scheduled to play here Tuesday as part of a worldwide tour. He is currently in Chile, where he cancelled a concert because of health problems.

Reynaldo Cervantes, President of the National Association of Writers and Artists, also announced that two other artistic associations would protest Jackson's concert at the national stadium.

"It is possible that 90 per cent of the people who attend this pop show will get no positive messages but only hear shouts, squeals and see wild leaps," he said.

Cervantes said Jackson's show was detrimental to Peru's cultural identity.

## Doctor witnesses 19 suicides

ROYAL, USA: For the 19th time, Dr. Jack Kevorkian was at the scene of a suicide. This time, it took place at his apartment, reports AP.

The retired pathologist was present when Merian Frederick, a 72-year-old woman with a Lou Gehrig's disease, killed herself Friday by inhaling carbon monoxide.

Kevorkian, 65, has advocated that the terminally ill have the right to commit suicide with a doctor's help. He already faced two charges of assisting a suicide in violation of a Michigan law passed specifically to stop him.

In a handwritten statement released by Kevorkian's attorney, Frederick said she no longer wanted to live.

"To sum up, I want out, the earliest, most humane way possible," she wrote. "The quality of my life is now such that I have no enthusiasm for solving the new level of problems that my deteriorating condition is causing."

"After a four-year illness, Frederick could no longer speak and was fed through a tube in her stomach, said Geoffrey Fieger, Kevorkian's lawyer. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also called Lou Gehrig's disease for the baseball player who died from it, is a degenerative nerve disorder.

## Pesticide may be linked to breast cancer

WASHINGTON: A pesticide approved by the US government for widespread use on fruits and vegetables may be linked to breast cancer, scientific experts told a congressional panel, reports AP.

The recently confirmed head of the Environmental Protection Agency's pesticide programme promised to study the insecticide, endosulfan.

Emerging evidence shows endosulfan and other estrogenic chemicals are associated with instances of breast cancer, although definite proof is lacking, several experts told the House of Representatives' Energy and Commerce subcommittee on health and the environment on Thursday.

EPA does not screen pesticides when approving their use on crops for chemical properties that imitate the human reproductive hormone estrogen. Some scientists suspect that estrogen causes cancer.

The agency does consider it a matter of "potential significance, and it is an area that EPA needs to look at," said Lynn Goldman, who last week was confirmed by the Senate as EPA assistant administrator.

## Protesters claim they had affairs with priests

VATICAN CITY: A group of women who claim they've had clandestine affairs with priests protested outside the Vatican on Thursday after being denied a meeting inside, reports AP.

The women, some wearing masks and giving only their first name, claim the Roman Catholic Church is seeking to cover up romantic affairs involving clergy.

"The protesters, part of a group called 'Claire-voic,' French for 'Clear Path,' ranged in age from 24 to 75 years old and were from France, Belgium and Switzerland.

A statement by the group urged an "open dialogue" with Pope John Paul II and accused the Vatican of causing "injustice and pain."

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Havarro did not comment on the women's claims and denied that they were mistreated when they tried to enter Vatican grounds.

# Rebels withdraw from two Georgian towns

TBILISI, Georgia, Oct 23: Rebel forces withdrew from two towns, including the birth place of Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian Defence Ministry said Saturday, reports AP.

The reported withdrawal followed Friday's capture of Samtredia, a key town and railroad junction, by government troops loyal to Shevardnadze. But rebels still control the vital Black Sea port of Poti and much of western Georgia.

The rebels are trying to topple Shevardnadze and return the country's former nationalist president, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, to power.

According to the Defence Ministry's press department, the rebel forces early Saturday retreated from Ozurgeti, a small town about 40 kilometres (25 miles) southeast of Poti. About 200 rebel troops and

five tanks seized Ozurgeti on Friday without resistance.

The rebels also left Lanchkhuti, a central town in western Georgia where Shevardnadze was born in 1928, the Defence Ministry said.

The report could not be independently verified. After taking Samtredia Friday, government troops pushed 5 kilometers (3 miles) to the west across a river that had been the front-line in the battle, said Teimuraz Shaashvili, mayor of the nearby Kutaisi, Georgia's second-largest town.

By late Friday, Shashvili said, the fighting had diminished and only a few skirmishes were reported in nearby villages.

The rebel army, believed to number about 10,000 men, remains in western Georgia 250 kilometers (150 miles) from Tbilisi.



Indian troops stand on alert Friday near the besieged Hazratbal Mosque, the holiest Islamic shrine in Kashmir, where a group of about 50 armed Muslim militants have been holed up for a week. During the day, troops shot dead at least 31 people when they fired into crowds of angry Muslims marching on the mosque in support of the militants. — AFP photo

# India frees 29 Lankan fishermen

COLOMBO, Oct 23: India has freed 29 Sri Lankan fishermen together with five boats it suspected them of using for spying near Lakshadweep Island off India's west coast, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday, reports AP.

The boats and the fishermen, who were detained by the Indian coast guard about a month ago, were freed Tuesday after the intervention of Foreign Secretary Bernard Tilakaratna, the spokesman said.

Tilakaratna negotiated their release during a visit to New Delhi last week to discuss Indian accusations that the Sri Lankan navy killed four fishermen earlier this month, the spokesman said.

New Delhi accused the Sri Lankan navy of killing Indian fishermen off Sri Lanka's northern, Kachchhativu Islet October 8.

# Tension remains high in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, (India) Oct 23: Tension remained high in Kashmir on Saturday after Indian security forces fired on demonstrators protesting against an army siege of the territory's holiest mosque, killing at least 35 people, reports Reuters.

At the Hazratbal shrine, the 50 militants and 150 civilians holed up inside and the security men surrounding it were still locked in a confrontation on the eighth day of the siege.

Both sides had threatened to come to a showdown on the Muslim Sabbath on Friday, when hundreds of Kashmiris heeded calls from the militants and their civilian leaders to come out into the streets.

Troops, the paramilitary and the police were heavily deployed

across Srinagar, capital of India's only Muslim majority state — Jammu and Kashmir — to stop residents from leaving their homes.

But it failed to prevent the clashes in several parts of Srinagar, resulting in the deaths of at least 35 people.

The unrest spread out of Srinagar and flared in Bijbehara town of Anantnag district, where security forces fired into a huge demonstration in which at least 10 people died.

Witnesses put the number of injured at between 150 and 2000. Fridays are a traditional flashpoint in Kashmir, where Muslims hold the day sacred and devote it to prayer.

AFP adds: The President of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, Sardar Sikandar

Hayat, Friday appealed to world leaders to intervene for the release of Kashmiri freedom fighter Amanullah Khan, under arrest in Brussels.

Khan, who heads the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), a significant militant group struggling for independence in the Indian held part of Kashmir was arrested by Interpol in Brussels last week.

At the time of his arrest, which Hayat said was carried out at the "instigation of India," Khan was in the Belgian capital to attend a round-table conference of Kashmiri leaders.

In separate letters to US President Bill Clinton, British Prime Minister John Major, UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and the chief of the 51-nation Organisation of

Islamic Conference (OIC), Hayat sought their intervention to effect the "unconditional and immediate release" of the Kashmiri leader.

Stressing that Khan had committed "no crime," he said he was the leader of an organisation fighting for the liberation of Kashmir.

"It is the basic right for which the civilised nations helped those fighting for the achievement of liberation," said the President of Azad (free) Kashmir, controlled by Islamabad.

Hayat said it was strange that a democratic country like Belgium allowed the arrest of a Kashmiri leader when, he said, the entire world community was condemning the "repressive policies of India" in the region.

# 65,000 Burundis flee to Rwanda

KIGALI, Rwanda, Oct 23: Soldiers who quashed Burundis first democratic government killed the president and are rounding up and murdering civilians, exiled officials said. About 65,000 people have fled to Rwanda, reports AP.

A member of Burundis parliament, Jackson Ngezezo, was quoted Saturday by state-run Radio Rwanda as saying President Melchior Ndadaye and several Cabinet ministers were captured and killed in Thursday's coup.

"I am in a position to tell you that the soldiers are picking up innocent people here and there. They are being killed," said Ngezezo, interviewed by the radio in southwest Rwanda, where he sought refuge.

Radio Rwanda reported that about 65,000 Burundis have

fled north across the border into southern Rwanda.

Burundi Health Minister Jean Minani also told the radio Friday that the president was killed. Minani, described by the country's UN ambassador in Geneva as the only known survivor of Burundis democratic government, said the military had also killed the head of the national legislative council and many other leaders.

Minani was visiting Rwanda at the time of the coup. Several other sources also have said the president was slain, but the reports couldn't be confirmed because the Burundi army has shut off the tiny Central African country from the outside world.

Perpetre Nshimirimana, Burundi UN ambassador in Geneva, said it was almost certain the president had been as-

sassinated, and that four leading ministers and the national security chief were also reported killed. She said Burundis foreign minister and finance minister were missing and feared dead.

Ndadaye, earlier had been reported held at a military barracks outside the capital. His wife and children took refuge in the French Embassy.

Ndadaye, 40, a former banker, was elected in June in Burundis first free, multi-party election, becoming the first Hutu and non-military president since independence from Belgium in 1962.

The coup was led by Tutsis, a minority tribe that has dominated Burundis government, army and economy.

Coup leaders established a committee of national salvation,

to run the country, sealed the borders, closed the airport, shut down the port on Lake Tanganyika and cut phone lines.

Lawmaker Fabien Habimana, one of thousands to cross by foot into Rwanda, said the temporary government was headed by a former interior minister, Francois Ngeze. He described Ngeze as a "Hutu" former for the Tutsis and a puppet of Tutsi extremists.

Civilians were resisting the army by destroying bridges and building log barricades on roads leading out of the capital, he said.

Burundi Radio returned to the air Thursday night for the first time since the pre-dawn coup, but broadcast only martial music into the morning and made no mention of the toppled president's fate.

# France to sell \$2.6b arms to Taiwan

TAIPEI, Oct 23: Defense Minister Sun Chen said Saturday he welcomed France's plans to sell US 2.6 billion dollar worth of military hardware to Taiwan, reports AP.

"It will give us more opportunities, more options... in boosting our military might," Sun said at a news conference.

Sun's remarks were the first official confirmation of news reports from Paris about the arms sales.

According to the news reports, the French government had authorised defence companies to resume talks with Taiwan on arming six French-made light frigates with ship-to-ship Exocet missiles, Crotal anti-aircraft missiles and elec-

tronic warfare systems.

The weapons sale would fulfill a contract the companies signed with Taiwan in 1991, the reports said.

Sun said the French government earlier only agreed to sell the La Fayette frigates unarmed. The 1,200-ton vessels, now being built in France, will be delivered to Taiwan in 1996.

At the same time, Sun announced that Taiwan had purchased 48 AH-1N and 26 OH-58D helicopters from the United States, of which 12 had been delivered to Taiwan earlier this month.

China, which considers Taiwan a renegade province, has opposed the sale of arms by Western countries.

# Talks with Clinton to help improve ties: Li Peng

TOKYO, Oct 23: Chinese Premier Li Peng has expressed the hope that upcoming talks between US President Bill Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin would help mend bilateral ties, reports AFP.

"It is significant to improve relations with the United States, which is not the leader of the West but still an influential country," the Nihon Keizai Shimbun quoted Li as saying today.

"I hope the talks would play a positive role in improving bilateral relations," he added, commenting on the relationship strained by China's human rights records and its yawning trade surplus against the United States.

In the interview, Li also regretted negatively to instituting sanctions against North Korea,

# US wants Russia to ensure free press before polls

MOSCOW, Oct 23: US Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Friday he urged Russian leaders to ensure a free press prior to December elections and officials said they were confident current restrictions would be lifted soon, reports AP.

"I urged the Foreign Minister strongly to ensure a free press," Christopher said at a news conference with his Russian counterpart, Andrei Kozyrev.

Christopher however dodged a question on whether media access could be fair for all political parties given that the two main state television channels are tightly controlled by the Kremlin, saying he did not want to deal in nuances."

A senior US official said later that Christopher had held "intensive" talks with Kozyrev on the need for an open political process and a free press.

"We came away with the very distinct impression there will be relaxation of restrictions on press in the very near future," the official said.

About 10 Russian newspapers remain banned under order from President Boris Yeltsin and a handful of hard-line political parties have been barred from taking part in the December 12 legislative elections.

The decision was taken in the wake of the October 3-4 armed revolt and has raised worries in the west of a drastic

curtailment in basic civil liberties in Russia following the violence.

Kozyrev gave assurances to Christopher that the Kremlin was determined to hold just and fair elections and to ensure the equal media access excluding those forces directly involved in the armed mutiny, in terrorism.

"Referring to Kozyrev's statement, Christopher said: 'I do not regard that as an unreasonable choice.'"

A senior US official present at Christopher's talks with Yeltsin at a country house outside Moscow quoted the Russian president as saying he was pleasantly surprised by the number of new political parties taking shape in Russia.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin (R) listens to US Secretary of State Warren Christopher during their meeting in Yeltsin's dacha outside Moscow Friday. Christopher arrived in Moscow Thursday to meet Russian officials and discuss future relations between the two countries. — AFP photo

# Bonn to help cut Russia's chemical arms

BONN, Oct 23: Germany signed an accord in Moscow on Friday promising money to help Russia reduce its chemical weapons arsenal, the German Foreign Ministry said, reports Reuters.

The framework for the accord was agreed in December 1992, when Bonn pledged to help fund agreements between Russian agencies and German firms contracted to destroy the weapons.

Germany's 1993 budget includes some 10 million marks (7 million dollars) for Russia's nuclear and chemical weapons disarmament programme.

Russia vowed to destroy 40,000 tonnes of chemical weapons under a convention signed in Paris by 137 countries earlier this year.