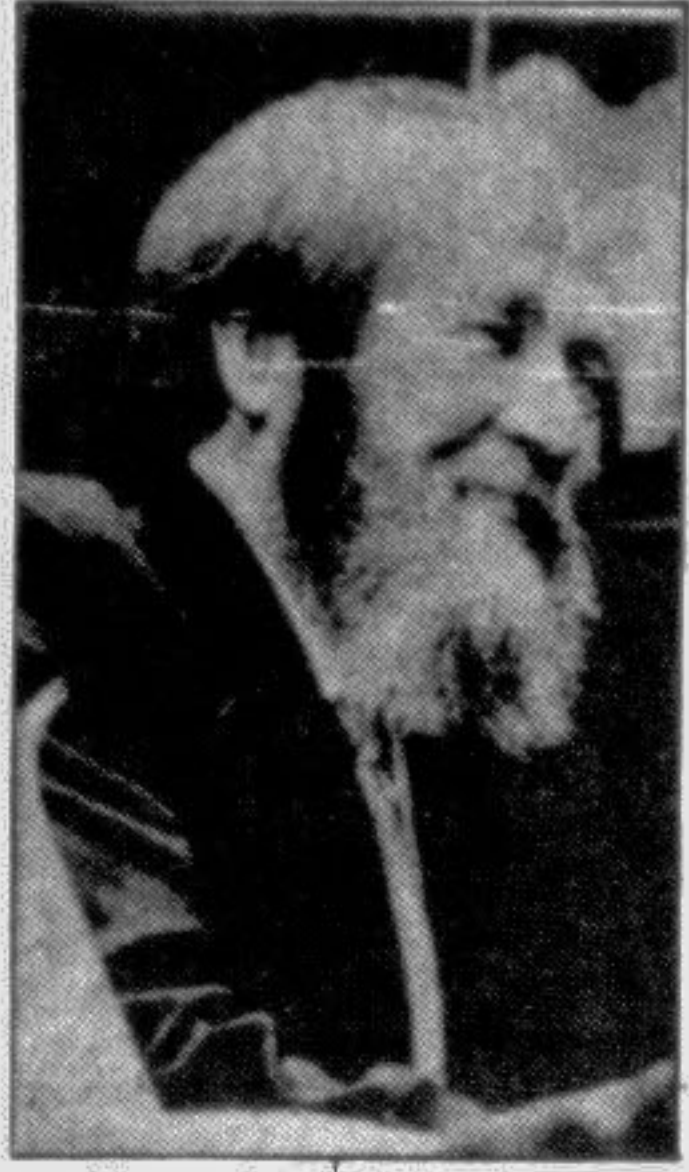


## Solzhenitsyn urges regions to solidify Russia's unity

MOSCOW, Oct 27: Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the most famous dissident writer of the Soviet era, made an impassioned plea on Tuesday for Russia's regions to end a destructive fight for freedom which threatens to pull his motherland apart, reports Reuter.



Alexander Solzhenitsyn

"The central powers must be firm and, while obeying the constitution, strengthen Russia's unity," he told CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) Oostankino television. "Otherwise Russia faces disintegration."

The giant federation's 88 regions and republics have demanded more and more freedom since the 1991 Soviet collapse. President Boris Yeltsin needs their backing to win a majority in a new parliament to be elected in December. The sombre and heavily-

bearded author, 74, a fervent nationalist who plans to return to Russia in 1994 after 20 years of exile in the United States, compared Russia to the human body in which each organ can only exist as part of a whole.

Solzhenitsyn said Russia's regions were tightly bound together in a unitary state which was only a "federation" in the outdated terminology of Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin.

"Russian republics demanding separation and Russian regions demanding republican status and separation are pursuing a mad dream that they can live alone," he said.

"What is more important to a man, his eye or his liver? Take out his eye, put it aside, and what is it? Nothing but dog food."

"If the regions continue to press for more autonomy not only Russia but all these regions, all these torn-out eyes and ripped-out livers, will perish," he added.

Solzhenitsyn has insisted until now that he will have nothing to do with politics when he settles down next spring at a country house being built for him outside Moscow.

### Rust returns to jail voluntarily

HAMBURG, Germany, Oct 27: Mathias Rust, the young pilot who landed in Moscow's Red Square in 1987 and was later jailed for stabbing a student nurse, returned to jail voluntarily Tuesday after being mistakenly let out, reports AFP.

## Pak President asks Benazir, Sharif to bury animosity

ISLAMABAD, Oct 27: Pakistani President Wasim Sajjad urged new Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and her arch-rival and predecessor Nawaz Sharif today to bury their animosity, saying he was not asking for the moon, reports Reuter.

Diplomats said the acting President's appeal for an end to political vendettas - that have seen the rise and fall of eight Prime Ministers in eight years - was a bid to portray himself as a neutral before presidential polls next month.

No one has yet announced a candidacy but the diplomats in-

terpreted Sajjad's speech as an expression of his interest in running.

"I stress the need to create a new chapter in government and opposition relations," Sajjad said, referring to Bhutto's "long marches" to topple Sharif and to Sharif's opposition campaign that contributed to her fall in 1990.

"No one can deny that the nation is fed up with the politics of confrontation," he said. "The nation hopes now there will be no opposition for the sake of opposition and constructive criticism will not be construed as undue interference."

"In my humble opinion these hopes can not be termed as asking for the moon," Sajjad said in an address to the first joint session of parliament since elections this month for the National Assembly (Lower House) brought Bhutto back to power.

He urged the Senate and the National Assembly to reform the constitution, and made a red call for the repeal of a martial law-era amendment that empowers the President to dissolve parliament and appoint the powerful army chief of staff.

"This nation has seen many said examples of trampling of

the sanctity of the elected houses of the country," he said. "Now the nation expects that the democratic institutions will make themselves so powerful that they will be beyond the reach of any hand and will complete their constitutional tenure."

Sajjad, the Senate chairman, took over as acting president after President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif resigned in July in an army-brokered deal to end a paralysing six-month power struggle between the two men.

Ishaq Khan used the controversial Eighth Amendment to sack Sharif in April, cutting short his five-year term after 26 months, only to see him reinstated by the Supreme Court after 40 days.

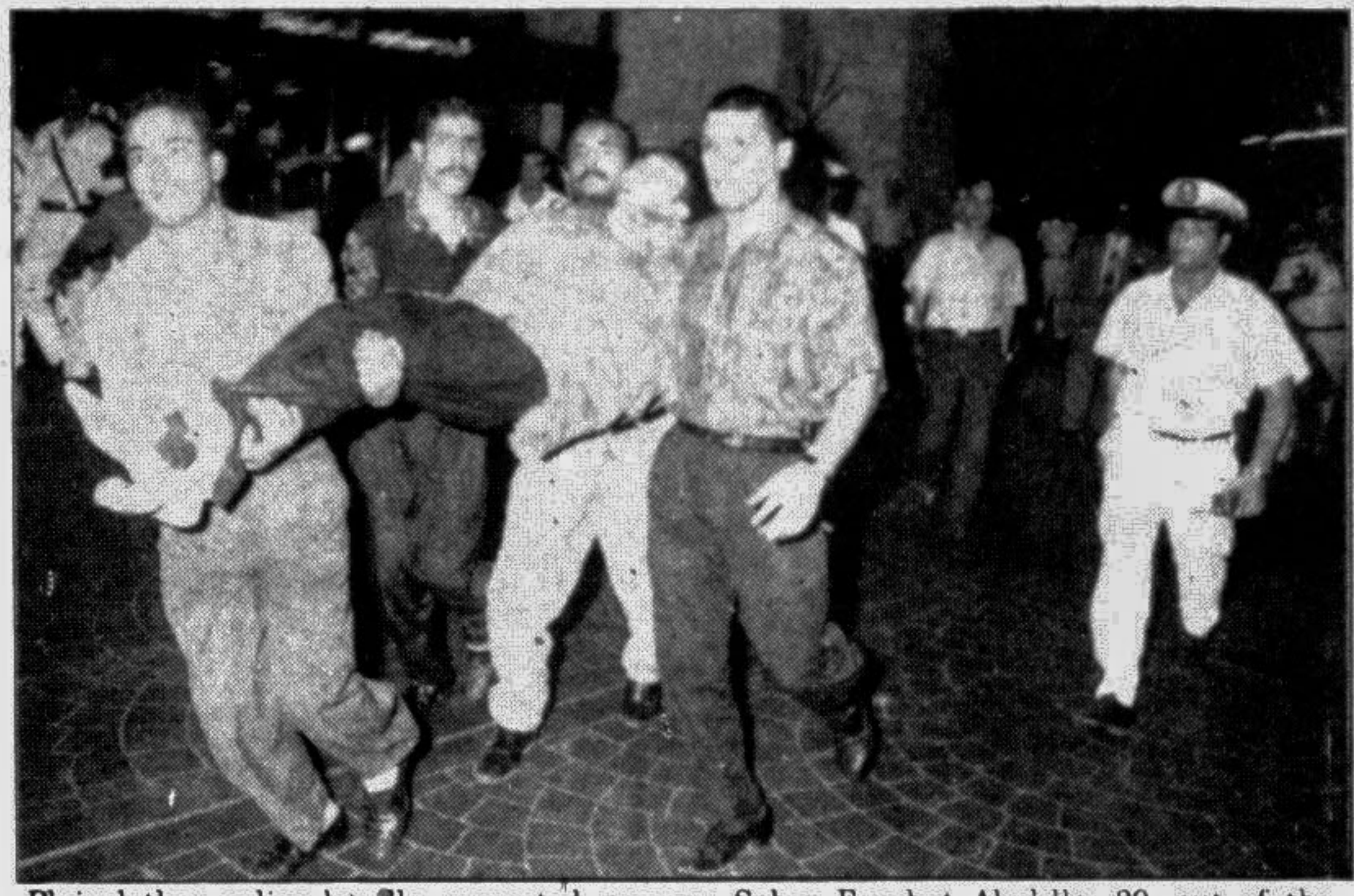
Ishaq Khan first used the amendment to dismiss Bhutto, the Muslim world's first woman Prime Minister, in August 1990 after just 20 months in office, on disputed charges of corruption and misuse.

Sajjad appealed to Bhutto's coalition government and to Sharif's opposition in the hung parliament to cooperate to gain the two-thirds majority needed to amend the constitution.

"If any need is felt to bring constitutional reform, I hope that in the larger interest of democracy the government and opposition will take the necessary steps," he said.

When Sharif asked for Bhutto's help early this year to get rid of the President's powers she led him on and then dumped him, joining forces with Ishaq Khan to force him out of office.

"We had set new trends in running the government and we will set new standards in running the opposition," Sharif told reporters later.



Plainclothes police bundle suspected gunman Sabar Farahat Abul-lla, 29, out of the Nile-side Semiramis International Hotel in Cairo after two Americans and a French tourist were slain on Tuesday by an assailant firing indiscriminately in the hotel's second-floor restaurant.

### Three foreign tourists killed in Cairo

CAIRO, Oct 27: Two Americans and a French tourist were killed and three other people injured Tuesday when a suspected Muslim fundamentalist opened fire at random in a luxury Cairo hotel, officials said, reports AFP.

Police immediately arrested a "mentally ill" suspect, 29-year-old Sabar Farahat Abul-lla, an Arab musician from one of Cairo's slum districts, and two other people accompanying him.

Witnesses said the gunmen were shouting Islamic slogans when he was arrested a few minutes after the attack and was asking why Muslims were

being killed in Bosnia.

The three injured were an American, a Syrian and an Italian, police said.

At least three of those caught in the gunfire were attending a seminar on penal law at the hotel. The condition of the injured was not immediately known.

Muslim fundamentalists have killed foreign tourists before, but this was the first shooting of its kind inside one of Cairo's main hotels.

The well-dressed suspect was sitting at a table in the second floor restaurant of the Semiramis Intercontinental Hotel in downtown Cairo.



A Somali militawoman carrying a rocket-propelled grenade launcher to the fighters of world leader Mohamed Farah Aided on the Green Line dividing Mogadishu, Wednesday.

### China, Britain open 15th round of talks on HK

BEIJING, Oct 27: With time running out for reaching agreement, China and Britain on Wednesday began their 15th round of talks on how much democracy should be allowed in Hong Kong before it reverts to Chinese rule, reports AP.

Meeting with reporters before the talks began, both sides sounded defensive, each stressing that it was up to the other to show more flexibility.

"We on the British side have made great efforts and will continue to make effort," said Britain's negotiator and ambassador to China, Sir Robin McLaren.

### Two lakh street children in China

BEIJING, Oct 27: China has about 200,000 runaway children living on city streets, the official Xinhua news agency reported, quoting a first-ever survey by the Chinese government and UN Children's Fund, reports AP.

Strict government controls over travel for decades kept China from developing the large populations of street people, including runaway children, common to many developing countries.

But travel has become much easier in recent years, and the re-emergence of a private sector has created opportunities for runaways to find odd jobs such as shining shoes or selling flowers to passersby. Some are taken in by an employer, while others sleep in doorways and ditches.

## BRIEFLY

**Quake hits China:** A strong earthquake hit a rural county in northwestern China but there were no immediate reports of casualties, the State Seismology Bureau said Wednesday, AP reports from Beijing.

The quake struck at 7:38 pm (11:38 GMT) on Tuesday in Qinghai province's Qilian County, in the foothills of the Qilian Mountains. It measured 6 on the Richter scale, signifying a quake capable of causing severe damage in population areas.

The bureau said transportation and communication links with the region were poor and provincial officials set out for the country to find out about damage. Qilian is about 220 kilometres (140 miles) northwest of the provincial capital of Xining.

Qinghai, which is crossed by several mountain ranges, is frequently hit by earthquakes. Casualties are usually low because of the province's sparse population.

**Confce on Gun Crime in Tokyo:** Japan's national police agency opened today an International Conference on Gun Crime aimed at enhancing cooperation and communication on gun control, an agency official said, AFP reports from Tokyo.

Discussions during the three-day meeting will include gun smuggling and means of strengthening cooperation to halt the illegal gun trade, the official said.

Tsuneko Nakata, head of the agency's safety department, said in his opening address that 90 per cent of guns confiscated in Japan were smuggled into the country and stressed the need for international cooperation to halt gun running.

**Israel raids Hezbollah bases:** Israeli warplanes blasted suspected bases of pro-Iranian guerrillas in south Lebanon on Wednesday, reports AP from Lebanon.

The air raid came hours after unidentified guerrillas attacked two positions in Israel's self-styled "security zone" with mortars, grenades and machine guns. Security sources said no casualties were reported in the attack.

The sources said the fighter jets struck villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah, or Apple Province, at 12:20 pm (10:20 GMT).

**Fire claims 14 in China:** A fire killed 14 people in a dormitory crowded with migrant workers in China's southern boom town of Shenzhen on Sunday, a newspaper said yesterday, Reuter reports from Beijing.

Tuesday's Yangcheng Evening News said the fire started because of carelessness by a couple who were cooking their dinner on a kerosene stove.

They were among the nine women and five men engulfed by the fire.

Six people managed to escape.

### Chretien: A profile

The Right Honourable Jean Chretien, who was elected Prime Minister of Canada on Oct 25, was born in Shawinigan, Quebec on January 11, 1934, the son of Wellie Chretien and Marie Boisvert-Chretien, according to a press release.

After attending schools in Shawinigan, Joliette and Trois-Rivieres, he studied law at Laval University.

Chretien was first elected to the House of Commons in 1963 representing the constituency of St-Maurice-Lafleche.

During a career spanning over 23 years, Chretien has served in numerous elected and appointed government positions including, in 1984, as Deputy Prime Minister of Canada and Secretary of State for External Affairs. He was also Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Minister of Finance, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, President of the Treasury Board, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Minister of National Revenue.

From March 1986 to June 1990 he was a Counsel with the law firm of Lang Michener Lawrence and Shaw with offices in Ottawa, Toronto, and Vancouver. He was also a Senior Advisor with Gordon Capital Corporation in Montreal.

On June 23, 1990 Chretien was elected Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada.

He was elected Member of Parliament in the December 10, 1990 by-election in the riding of Beausjour (New Brunswick). He was sworn in as Leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons on December 21, 1990.

He married Aline Chaine of Shawinigan in 1957.

## Reasons behind fall of Campbell

TORONTO, Oct 27: Any political party seeking advice on how to lose an election need look no further than Canada's Conservatives, who suffered one of the worst defeats of a ruling party ever, reports Reuter.

"There's a book to be written about how not to win an election," John Wright, Senior Vice President of the polling group Angus Reid, said Tuesday, less than 24 hours after the Conservatives' overwhelming loss to the Liberals.

Conservative prime minister Kim Campbell, and every cabinet minister except one, went down to defeat.

The once proud party, which won sweeping electoral victories under former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in 1984 and 1988, was reduced to a humiliating 20 seats in the 295-member parliament and lost official status.

Mulroney's unpopularity — he departed in June the most reviled Canadian leader in modern times.

Mulroney promised jobs, but unemployment soared to 11.2 per cent of the workforce. He promised to settle the threat of the French-speaking province of Quebec separating from Canada and failed. He promised to put Canada's economic house in order, but the national debt soared.

He said free trade with the United States would benefit Canada, but voters saw industrial plants closing and jobs lost. He criticised opponents for political appointments and then stacked the public service with his cronies.

"The election was... a rejection of the modern-day Conservative Party and the style of government, especially as it was manifested by Mulroney, a politics that flourished on behind-closed-doors deals, cronyism and patronage," wrote Hugh Winsor in Canada's leading English-language newspaper, The Globe and Mail.

Mulroney waited until June to hand over power to Campbell with an election looming by November. This left his successor little time to make a mark.

Even so, political pundits said Campbell could have made a clean break with the Mulroney era. Instead, she never mentioned him and seemed to hope Canadians would forget.

"It's clear that the people had not forgotten Mulroney," Wright said.

Second problem, once Campbell called the election, she focused on an issue most Canadians did not want to hear about — eliminating the country's 26 billion dollar annual budget deficit.

Pollster Wright said that all public opinion surveys showed voters were most concerned about unemployment. Opposition Liberal leader Jean Chretien exploited this to the maximum, offering hope by saying over and over that his government would put people back to work.

Canada's unemployment could remain high until the next century, leaving the impression there was little hope.

Third problem, the Conservatives lurched from crisis to crisis during the campaign. "It was a comedy of errors. It was as if the Conservative campaign was run by Liberal moles," said historian Michael Bliss.

Having stumbled on the jobs issue, Campbell alienated more voters by saying that an election campaign was no time to debate the future of Canada's cherished social programmes.

She came across in televised debates as aloof and argumentative, getting into a shouting match with the leader of the Quebec Separatist Party, Lucien Bouchard.

The final blow was a negative Conservative television advertisement which ridiculed a childhood speech impediment of Liberal leader Chretien. There was a storm of protest and Campbell pulled the ad immediately. But the damage was done.

### British fund for democracy in Russia

LONDON, Oct 27: Britain said on Tuesday it was setting up a 500,000 pound (750,000 dollar) fund to promote democracy in Russia and would send a high-level team of experts to advise President Boris Yeltsin on administering December's elections, reports Reuter.

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, speaking after talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, said Britain would also send between 12 and 20 people to observe the elections, including members of parliament and local government officers.

Prime Minister John Major said on October 8 he had accepted Yeltsin's invitation to send observers to the elections, called by the Russian President after his forces crushed a revolt by hard-line members of the Russian legislature.

Kozyrev met Major earlier on Tuesday and passed Yeltsin's thanks for the British leader's "early and strong personal support" during the rebellion.

The 500,000 pound fund, to be administered by non-governmental organisations, will be used to train the new institutions that the elections will put in place.

Hurd said the "British programme for democracy" underscored London's continuing support for reform in Russia.

Britain will also advise the Russian government on monitoring media coverage of the elections and has asked the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) to assist the more than 100 political parties that have registered for the poll.

The WFD provides help for the development of democratic institutions overseas. It was set up by parliament and is funded by the foreign office.

### Irish writer Doyle wins Booker Prize

LONDON, Oct 27: Irish writer Roddy Doyle won the prestigious Booker Prize on Tuesday for his novel "Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha", reports AP.

Dublin-born Doyle, 35, collected the 20,000 pound (30,000 dollar) prize, Britain's most highly prized literary award, in an evening ceremony at London's Guildhall.

Doyle had international success with his first novel, "The



Roddy Doyle

Commitments," which was turned into an award-winning film by director Alan Parker.

Another novel, "The Snapper", has been made into a film by Stephen Frears, and Doyle was nominated for the Booker Prize in 1991 for "The Van".

Lord Gowrie, chairman of the judges, said: "In the end, Roddy Doyle's extraordinary creation of a 10-year-old in 'Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha' — funny, humane and sad — carried the day."

Roddy Doyle was a teacher in Dublin until he began a two-year sabbatical in May.

He described his prize-winning book, which tells of the ups and downs in 10-year-old Patrick Clark's life, as "basically sad."

## Off the Record

### Killer granted a stay minutes before execution

HUNTSVILLE: A former electrician convicted in the stabbing death of an Arlington woman was granted a stay of execution just minutes before he was to have died by lethal injection Tuesday night, reports AP.

The 5th US Circuit Court of appeals granted the stay to Frank McFarland, 30, who was convicted in the 1988 murder of Terry Lynn Hokanson, 26, a shoeshine girl in Fort Worth, bar.

Ms. Hokanson was found still alive in the driveway of a church after being stabbed more than 50 times. She was able to tell police she had been raped and stabbed by two men before she died the next day.

Witnesses told police Ms. Hokanson was last seen with two men at a second Fort Worth bar the night she disappeared. A knife and gold earring belonging to her were found later in McFarland's vehicle.

### Blindman's bluff

SPACE CENTER, Houston: It was a high-flying version of blindman's bluff, reports AP.

Five of Columbia's astronauts took turns Tuesday pointing a flashlight at targets on a large white chart, first with their eyes open and then with their eyes closed.

The experiment is intended to measure changes in astronauts' awareness of body position. The five-man, two-woman crew has been conducting this test, and numerous others, since the 14-day medical research mission began nine days ago.

Veterinarian Martin Feltman didn't do so well. "I guess this means that nobody should ask me for directions up here," Feltman said.

"Nobody asks you for directions in Houston," joked ground controller Laurance Young.

In another experiment, astronaut William McArthur Jr. endured another hour-long session Tuesday in a vacuum sack that forced blood and other body fluids from his chest into his legs, where the fluids accumulate on Earth. Researchers want to see if the treatment keeps him from becoming dizzy once he's back on Earth, a common complaint of returning astronauts.

McArthur, an Army officer, covered his chest and the waist-high bag with an Army pennant, patches and small signs, including one that read "So Clear Lake CC" for his older daughter's cross country team.

"We just wanted to wish them well," in an upcoming meet, McArthur explained.

### Woman gives birth to septuplets

BOGOTA: A woman gave birth to septuplets, two of whom died, a hospital in Medellin said Tuesday, reports AP.

The surviving five — four girls and a boy — were in critical condition said the El Rosario hospital in Medellin, 165 miles (240 kilometers), northwest of Bogota. A baby girl and boy died.

The babies, born Monday night, weigh an average of 17.5 ounces and their chances for survival are slim, doctors said. They were born to Luz Marina de Hoyos, 22, who had been six months pregnant. She was reported in good condition.

## Woody not guilty of molesting adopted daughter

NEW YORK: Allegations that actor and film maker Woody Allen molested his adopted daughter were unfounded, New York authorities told Allen, reports AP.

Allen, 57, was accused by his longtime companion Mia Farrow of molesting their adopted eight-year-old daughter during an August weekend last year.

"No credible evidence was found that the child named in this report has been abused or maltreated," said a letter sent to Allen on October 7 by the Director of Social Services for New York state.

An earlier inquiry in Connecticut also found no evidence for the allegations in March. Farrow then took Dylan to a New York state doctor, prompting the new inquiry.

Farrow and her lawyer have said they still believe that Allen touched Dylan in a sexual way.

Allen and Farrow split up after 12 years together last year when Farrow found out Allen was going out with her oldest adopted daughter, 22-year-old Soon-Yi-Previn.

Earlier this year Allen lost custody of the three children he and Farrow were parents of, following a highly publicised and nasty court battle.

Allen's lawyer, Elikan Abramowitz, said he was pleased the inquiry was over, except "I'm distressed that it took so long."

## Palestinian state is inevitable: Kissinger

LONDON, Oct 27: Former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger warned on Tuesday that negotiations towards a final Middle East peace settlement would be long and difficult but said he now believed a Palestinian state was inevitable, reports Reuter.

"I have consistently opposed the idea of a Palestinian state," Kissinger, 70, said in a dinner speech.

"I must now tell you that it is inevitable that something with the attributes of a Palestinian state will develop... and that it is now foolish and inconsistent with what is being done to make a serious debate about that issue," he said.

While most Israelis want a peace settlement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the idea of a separate Palestinian state is still an anthem to many Jews.

Kissinger, a German-born Jew who as US secretary of state in the 1970s acted as a broker in Middle East diplomacy, halted last month's is-

raeli-PLO agreement on interim Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

But he warned that the most difficult issues had still to be resolved in negotiations for a lasting peace settlement, including the status of Jerusalem, Jewish settlements, final borders and the political status of the Palestinian "entity".

"I think we are now at a moment of hope," he told the institute of Jewish affairs, a 50-year-old independent research body. Kissinger, known for his "shuttle diplomacy" flying from one capital to another, added, "we shouldn't be too euphoric."

He said, "we have to be ready for the fact that on many points they will stalemate... they will get more difficult."

"But I also believe that if we keep moving, not towards a dramatic cultivation, but in a gradual systematic way... then a great breakthrough has been achieved."