BRIFFIY

Kurds kill 4 more teachers: Kurdish guerillas killed four teachers in attacks in the town of Tekman in eastern Turkey, the Anatolia news agency said, AP reports from Erzurum.

Kurdish rebels killed more than 40 teachers and burned down schools in attacks since last year aimed at disrupting the state educational system in the Kurdish-dominated south-

Gabonese PM resigns: Gabon's Prime Minister Casimir Oye Mba has resigned to make way for a new broad-based government following an accord with the opposition, Gabonese media said today, Reuter reports from Librevile, Gabon.

Oye Mba resigned on Monday night. The government and opposition on Friday signed an accord meant to end 10 months of tension and often violent protest over presidential elections last December which reelected Omar Bongo with 51.07 per cent of votes.

Fire kills 6 mentally retarded in US: Fire killed six mentally handicapped men living in an unlicensed group home, and authorities on Monday were investigating whether the owner had broken any laws. AP

reports from Ala-bama. The blaze began early Sunday on the first floor of the twostory building. The cause was not immediately known. The victims ranged in age from 56 to 80 and were the only occupants of the house.

Fresh fighting in Liberia: Rival rebel factions have traded machine-gun and shell fire for several days west of the capital, killing at least three UN peacekeepers, rebel commanders say. AP reports from

There was no reliable estimate of deaths or injuries in the weekend violence over control of Tubmanburg, the site of derelict iron mines about 35 miles (50 kilometers) west of Monrovia.

Protest rally in Jerusalem: Shouting "We want revenge!," some 300 Israelis marched through Jerusalem's center Monday to protest the slayings of two

Jews by Palestinian militants, AP reports from Jerusalem. Leaflets distributed at the protest also blamed Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for the violence. The leaflets accused Rabin of appeasing "this gang of murderers. Arafat and his terrorists," by making peace with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

2 die in NZ chopper crash: Two people were killed yesterday when a helicopter crashed into the sea off New Zealand's Coromandel peninsula, police said, Reuter reports from Wellington.

One passenger died on impact and police divers later recovered the body of a second person who was trapped in the aircraft as it sank about 1.5 km (one mile) from shore.

Lanka frees 40 detainees: The new socialist government Tuesday ordered the release of 40 people held without trial for up to three years, officials said, AP reports from Colombo.

More than 600 people were arrested by the previous regime for suspected anti-government activities under emergency laws. They do not belong to any particular political party, officials said.

HR activist jailed in China: A longtime human rights activist in Shanghai has been given a three-year labour camp sentence, his wife said on Tuesday, AP reports from Beijing

Yang Zhou, 50, who had tried to form a human rights study group and had spoken on behalf of detained dissidents, was taken from his home on May 12. His wife, Li Guoping, said she had no word from his since then and had not been told of his whereabouts or the charges against him. But on Tuesday Li said police called her in to tell her about the labour camp

4 Guatemalan soldiers killed: Four Guatemalan soldiers were killed and six wounded when leftist rebels ambushed an army platoon in western Guatemala, the

sentence.

army said on Monday. Reuter reports from Guatemala City. Guerillas of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unit (URNG) attacked the platoon in San Marcos Province late Saturday, the army said in a statement. Rebels have stepped up military operations since peace talks to end Guatemala's 33-year civil war broke down in August

British movie director Hill dies: Movie director James Hill, who won an Oscar for his 1960 short film "Giuseppina" but had his biggest commercial hit in 1965 with the hugely popular full-length feature "Born Free" about a family of lions has died aged 75. AP reports from London.

He died in London October 7. Obituary notices gave no indication of cause of death and no funeral details were announced. Hill's career started in 1937 when he joined the General Post office Film Unit, a government funded team whose documentaries are field by critics as all time classics of the genre.

Half a billion are mentally retarded: At least half a billion people worldwide, or about one tenth of the planet's population, suffer from some form of mental disorder, the World Health Organisation said Monday in a communique issued on World Mental Health Day. AFP reports from Geneva.

The communique said that more than 50 million people suffer from serious mental problems, including schizophrania, while 155 million people are neurotic and 120 million are mentally retarded

Frenchman shot dead in Algeria: A

Frenchman was shot and killed in an Algiers suburb on Monday, two days after another Frenchman was found dead near the Algerian capital in violence blamed on Islamic extremists, reports AP from Algiers.

In a rare happy ending in this nation fraught with violence and vengeance, noted singer Lounes Matoub, and idol in his flercely anti-fundamentalist Berber region, was freed by a group of armed men 15 days after being kidnapped

British writer Raphael dies: British thriller writer and Jewish scholar Chaim Raphael, who wrote under the pen name Jocelyn Davey, has died at the age of 86. Reuter reports from London

Raphael, who died on Monday in a London hospital studied at Oxford and was a lecturer at the university in the 1930s. He was born in Middleasbrough in Northern England.

Kuwaiti allies yet to unite to counter Iraqi buildup

UNDATED, Oct 11: The international coalition that worked together to fight Iraq in 1991 has yet to unite again in the face of Saddam Hussein's military buildup on the border with Kuwait, reports AP.

Only the United States, Britain and France had deployed troops by Monday, with Australia and Egypt saying they would join if necessary. Other Arab nations had not made any public announcements about joining an international force to withstand Iraq a second

After Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, it took President George Bush months to build the coalition of dozens of countries to set up forces in the region.

One big difference from the

who died on Friday after a long illness.

CAIRO, Oct 11: PLO and

Israeli negotiators working out

the procedure for the election

of a Palestinian autonomous

council were divided Tuesday

over who should oversee the

We are telling them that the

elections are a Palestinian mat-

ter and we cannot let them

decide conducting them the

way they like," said Hassan

Asfour, a member of the

delegate' Maj Gen Danny

Rothschild proposed creating

a joint committee to supervise

the first elections for a council

to run the autonomous territo-

ries in the West Bank and Gaza

Israeli military governor of the

occupied West Bank, said the

Rothschild, who is also the

"This is the main issue now.

balloting, reports AP.

Palestinian team.

Gulf War was the stand reportedly taken by King Hussein of Jordan, isolated for siding with Saddam in 1991.

The king was quoted Monday by Kuwait's al-Siyassah daily as saying: "We have advised Iraq not to repeat the mistaken of 1990. We will oppose any use of force by any Arab against another. We are on the side of the target of aggression."

Russia and China, members of the UN Security Council with veto power over military action, urged restraint and a peaceful solution to the crisis.

"As we see it, it is still possible to settle the problem by diplomatic and political means," said Russian Foreign : the US-led coalition. Minister Andrei Kozyrev, according to the ITAR-Tass news

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (2nd L) is comforted by the Palestinian ambassador to

Morocco Abu Marwan (L) as Moroccan Prince Moulary Rachid (R) stands by on Monday

during funeral in Rabat of Khaled Al-Hassan, a member of the Fatah central committee,

PLO-Israel talks: No progress

on supervision of polls

proposal was only a means to

ensure "Israeli interests are

self-rule agreement Israel

agreed that the Palestinians

would hold elections for a

council to administer their

did not specify how many

members the council will have,

nor its exact powers. The ne-

gotiators have to work out

these details and decide

to withdraw from populated

areas in the West Bank before

want the Israeli withdrawal

discussed now, not after other

decided, as Israel has sug-

issue related to elections are

Saeb Erekat, the chief PLO

Asfour said the Palestinians

The agreement, however,

Under the September 1993

dealt with."

On Monday, chief Israeli preparations for Israeli troops

the vote.

gested.

autonomous area.

Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating said Monday that his country, which provided several warships for the Gulf War coalition, would favourably consider any US request for similar help this time.

"I think that the great pity was that we never went after Saddam Hussein in the first place," he said. "When we had him beaten, we should have finished him off."

An Egyptian Defence Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Egypt's armed forces were ready to participate in any international *coalition force. Egypt also was a member of

France was sending the frigate Georges-Levguesa to the

AFP photo

delegate, insists that the elec-

tions can still be held this year.

But some members of his del-

egation, speaking privately, say

it will take at least five months

gotiators ended their first

round of talks on the balloting

last Wednesday with disagree-

ment over who could run for

the council. That issue remains

nents of the peace process and

residents of east Jerusalem

from being candidates. East

Jerusalem is a sensitive issue

because the PLO wants the

city's Arab sector as the capital

of a Palestinian state, while

Israel demands that it remain

go on through Wednesday and

The talks are expected to

part of its own capital.

resume again next week.

Israel wants to bar oppo-

The PLO and the Israeli ne-

to organize the election.

undecided.

Gulf waters to join US and British warships already dispatched there, the French Foreign Ministry said Monday.

A British frigate was already patrolling off Kuwait City and Britain has six Tornado fighters based in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, since the Gulf War.

Britain decided Monday to send a battalion of marine commandos, a second Royal Navy vessel and six more fighter-bombers to the Gulf unless Iraq immediately withdraw its troops.

"We have assured our friends and partners in the Gulf of our readiness to help them. Iraq should draw the appropriate conclusions," the office of Prime' Minister John Major said.

Mid-term polls in Nepal now Nov 15

KATHMANDU, Oct 11: Nepalese King Birendra yesterday postponed the mid term elections to November 15, at the recommendation of the caretaker Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, reports

Roirala had advised the monarch to shift the polls earlier scheduled for November 13, by two days, to ensure wider and unrestricted partic-

November 13 happens to fall on Haribodhini Ekadasi - a major festival in the Hindu calendar.

The crown then asked the Nepalèse supreme court to submit its suggestions in con nection with the recommen dation.

After two days intensive of the recommendation, a special bench of the apex judicial body or September 29 okayed the proposal of postponement of polls.

Normalcy returns to Bangalore

BANGALORE. Oct 11: Police patrolled the streets here as calm returned today to India's aeronautical hub where 25 people have died in violence since Friday over an Urdu-Language news bulletin broad-

cast, officials said, reports AFP P Kodandaramaiah, police chief of this city of some four million people, said an overnight curfew was lifted from three riot-torn districts today as Hindu-Muslim clashes ebbed after raging for four

days. The curfew break has passed off peacefully," the police chief said as residents heaved a sigh of relief and workers returned to the country's premier aeronautical and defence research centres located in Bangalore.

Paramilitary rapid action force personnel and anti-riot police patrolled nine city districts where riots erupted on

Lankan govt plans to invite foreign monitors for polls

COLOMBO, Oct 11: Sri Lanka's new government supported moves to invite foreign monitors for next month's presidential elections following violence and allegations of ballot rigging in previous elections, officials here said today, reports AFP.

The government was seek ing agreement from opposition parties to call for foreign and local non-governmental organisations to observe the November 9 election, officials Information Minister Dha-

rmasiri Senanayake told the foreign correspondents' assoclation here Monday that the new administration would ensure a free and fair election and accept foreign monitors if I the opposition agreed.

US softens stand on DPRK N-plan: ROK

SEOUL, Oct 11: South Korea's ruling party said Tuesday the United States is so preoccupied with reaching a compromise in talks on North Korea's nuclear programme that it may a' andon South Korea's interests, reports AP.

It was the second time in a week that South Korea's lead ership rebuked the US negotiators and indicated a growing strain between two countries who have been allies since the Korean War.

The Democratic Liberal Party said the United States should be taking a tougher stand against North Koreka but is trying to reach a compromise before congressional elections in November.

"We have a sense that the US administration is hastening to achieve a diplomatic success" before the elections, said party spokesman Park Bum-jin.

A US team, led by Robert 1 Gallucci, is negotiating in Geneva to open all of North Korea's nuclear facilities to in ternational inspection and to replace its reactors, which produce weapons-grade plutonium, with reactors less suitable for nuclear weapons.

President Kim Young sam raised an alarm on the US ne gotiating stance last week telling the New York Times that "a half-baked compromise ... would bring more danger and peril.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher rejected the criticism, saying there was "the prospect of reaching a very positive solution" at the talks.

But the ruling party's chief policy maker. Lee Se-ki stepped up the attack Tuesday after a meeting with top party officials.

Off the Record



German rock stars Udo Lindenburg (R) and Nina Hagen (L) turn to photographers upon arrival for a party at Cafe Keese at Hamburg's Reeperbahn on Monday to celebrate Lindenburg's 25 years as a performing artiste.

AFP photo

Merry-making leads to tragedy TEHRAN: The merry making at a wedding in southern

Iran led to tragedy when the father and the sister of the groom died of heart attacks, a newspaper said on Monday reports Reuter. Darwish Al-Noor collapsed with a heart attack for having

too much joy" at his son's wedding in Hendijan near the Gulf coast. Tehran's Kayhan daily said on Monday. He died shortly after being taken to a clinic

"Then the groom's sister, grieved by her father's death suffered a heart attack and died instantly." Kayhan said

All because of a crow

TOKYO: A power cut on Tuesday which put 10 bullet trains out of action and delayed a further 32, affecting 28 00% Tokyo passengers, was apparently caused by a crow flying unto an aerial cable, a railway official said, reports AFP The incident occurred at 5:33 am (2033 GMT Monday)

and affected two Tokaido Shinkansen bullet train yards in Tokyo's Shinagawa ward, the official of central Japan Railway Co Ltd said. Operations were restored at both yards by noon (0300

GMT), the official of the Nagova based railway company said. The crow "must have been instantly killed he added

When fortune smiles

DUBLIN: An unemployed Irish construction worker format out on a bus that he had just become a millionaire, reports The 40-year-old builder was riding into Dublin when he

read in a newspaper that he was the winner of 1.5 million punts (2.35 million US dollars) in the state lottery "I just went cold. I felt like shouting and screaming and

had a hard time trying to keep my composure, the man, who wants to be anonymous, was quoted on Tuesday as saying in Irish newspapers.

Challenge indeed!

NICOSIA: A 121-year-old Iranian woman with a perfechealth record thinks she can outrun the kids of her neighbourhood, reports AP. Golnesa Shakeri challenged youngsters in the Banzanian

district of Baft, 800 miles (500 miles) southeast of Tehran to a marathon, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported The woman told IRNA she'd never been ill or been seen by

a physician. Even though she'd be competing against runners a more than a century younger, she thinks she just might win IRNA

Golnesa, who has two children and mne grandchildren told the agency she likes rich foods, canned from and non-

alcoholic beverages. Son helps father commit suicide

WEST HARTFORD: Police are taking a second look at the death of a senior citizen activist after his son told a magazine he helped his father kill himself, reports AP

William Mever III. 65, said he held his father's arms on July 30,1991, as the older man began struggling to remove a plastic bag he had placed over his own head.

"I was there just for a couple of minutes, not too long

Meyer told Connecticut Magazine. "I helped get him started "When I took off he was still struggling. He was still

breathing," he said. "His arms were moving around I just had to leave.

Japanese asked to stay out of Kuwait

ernment on Tuesday urged Japanese businessmen and other travellers to keep away from Kuwait because of grow ing military tensions in the Persian Gulf, reports AP

It is the first time since the Gulf War that Japan has issued such a warning, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Shingo Taguchi He added that the warning was only for Japanese thinking of going to Kuwait and that its embassy in Kuwait had not recommended evacua tion of Japanese already there

President Clinton has ordered an additional 350 warplanes, including B 52 bombers, to the Gulf in a clear warning to Iraq's President Saddam Hussein

GENEVA Oct 1) To the bodies found in a burned-out

was a shadowy dictator dubbed. Tattle Napoleon To the unsuspecting he was a charming white haired gentlemen deeply in love with his wife reports AF

To police the 70-year old French (anadian was a key to solving the mass murder sur cide mystery of 53 members of a doomisday cult allegedly in volved in arms smuggling and money laundering operations

He will take his secrets with him u, the grave Police confirmed Monday that di Mamtou had been identified as one of 25 charred

disafferted Joseph di Mambro. Alpine chalet last Wednesday. The role he played in the death of 23 cult members in a farinhouse in another village and those of five followers in a building he owned in Canada

hundreds of pro-Aristide supporters.

was unclear Unlike Luc Jouret the 46 year old Belgian doctor who was the aporalyptic spiritual leader of the Order of the Solar Tradition di Mambro kept himself out of the public

spotlight While Jouret spent years touring the lecture circuit predicting the end of the world and attracting new members to the mile dr Mambro refused even to be pictured. The only photograph dirs 75 million. It said di many years ago

Commander of US forces in Haiti, Lt Gen Hugh Selton (R) and Haitis military leader Lt Gen

Raoul Cedras (L) salute during the Haitian national anthem at the army's headquarters in

Port-au-Prince on Monday Cedras announced his resignation among the screams of

But to former members of the cult, there was no doubt about who was in charge

One ex-cult member inter viewed on Swiss television de scribed di Mambro as the grand master who had not contact with most members of the group, only with a small inner circle. Other members described

him as "dictator" and "Little Napoleon Canadian radio said that di Mambro was behind a big arms

smuggling and money launder

ing operation to along about

taken of him was at a wedding Mambro's wife. Jocelyne - also believed to be among the dead - would sign the papers authorising the transfer of 600,000 dollars through Swiss banks.

Death of cult mastermind deepens murder-suicide mystery

Di Mambro was born in Pont Saint Esprit in the south of France in August 1924. He was sentenced to six months in fail in April 1972 on charges of fraud and confidence betraval of patients by posing as a asychologist.

In 1974 he set up an orgamization called the Association for the Preparation of the New Age in Annemasse, on the French border near Geneva Jouret had a homoeopathic

The two men accumulated a

string of luxury properties in France, Canada and Switzerland. Ex-cult members accused them of swindling wealthy followers out of vast sums of money to finance the investment spree.

Swiss hoteliers and restaurant managers who met him in the final weeks of his life described him as a lover of fine food, who didn't touch alcohol and didn't smoke. They were impressed by his impeccable manners.

He was always so patient never in a hurry," said Christiane Capelli, owner of the posh restaurant where di Mambro and 12 of his followers ate the night before the fires in the farmhouse and chalets.

"He was so, so sweet. His kindness was surprising," she added.

Di Mambro used to be simply but expensively dressed. wore a white hair-piece and spectacles that seemed too big for his face. Capelli recalled She said he seemed extremely close to his wife and they fre-

"They were adorable clients," she said. "These people didn't have a hint of aggression.

quently left arm in arm.

Kazakh govt resigns ALMA-ATA, Oct 11. The en

tire government of Razakhstan resigned today at the demand of President Nursultan Nazar bayev, a government spokes man said, reports Reuter

Nazarbayev called on the government in the huge former Soviet republic to quit after expressing dissatisfaction over a report on economic reform resented by Prime Minister Sergei Tereshchenko

The government spokes

ters would continue to fulfil their cabinet responsibilities until Nazarbayev had named a new prime minister. But Tereschenko had

man said the outgoing minis

quit completely and been replaced in the interim by his first deputy.