

BRIEFLY

Nyaki new UN envoy to Liberia: Anthony Nyaki of Tanzania was named special UN representative to Liberia on Tuesday by Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. AFP reports from United Nations.

The Secretary General notified the Security Council in a letter that the former Tanzanian UN ambassador would replace Trevor Gordon-Sommers of Jamaica, who was named to the post in 1992.

Fresh talks on Georgian conflict: Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will preside over a new round of talks on December 2 to control the conflict between factions in the former Soviet Republic of Georgia, the UN said on Tuesday. AFP reports from United Nations.

Boutros-Ghali has invited Georgian Prime Minister Shevardnadze, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev and Italian Antonio Martino who currently heads the conference on security and cooperation in Europe — to attend the talks. Boutros Ghalis spokesman Ahamed Fawzi said.

4 killed in US shootout: Three law enforcement agents were killed when a man opened fire with a semi-automatic rifle at Washington police headquarters, sparking a shootout that also left the gunman dead, authorities said. AFP reports from Washington.

The dead included two FBI agents and a municipal policeman working on a joint federal-city task force on homicides.

Bosnian Muslim in Danish jail:

A Danish court on Tuesday sentenced Refic Saric, a Bosnian Muslim to eight years in jail for touring prisoners of war to death in a Croat-run prison camp in Bosnia last year. Reuter reports from Copenhagen.

The Copenhagen Regional Courts verdict was the first in a series of war crimes trials being held outside the former Yugoslavia.

Alcohol poisoning in China, 9 die:

Nine people have died and more than 30 have been admitted to hospital in southern China after drinking methyl alcohol mixed with water and sold as Chinese liquor, state radio said on Tuesday. Reuter reports from Beijing.

Police in Liuzhou in southern Gangxi province were alerted after more than 40 people were admitted to hospital suffering from alcohol poisoning from November 16, the radio said.

Polanski won't visit French islands:

Filmaker Roman Polanski won't be making a trip to the French-owned islands of St. Pierre-Miquelon off Newfoundland's coast to promote his new movie. AP reports from St. Johns.

Publicists had pegged the islands as legally safe ground for the Paris-based director to hold interviews with about 100 reporters from across North America about his new film "Death and the Maiden."

China disciplines 15 officials:

Fifteen people have been disciplined for negligence that contributed to a dam collapse last year that killed 288 people, the official Xinhua News Agency reported on Wednesday. AP says from Beijing.

No criminal charges were brought against any of the 15, despite the heavy loss of human life and economic damages totalling 153 million yuan (18 million dollars).

Leblanc Canada's new governor:

Queen Elizabeth named former cabinet minister Romeo Leblanc as the next governor general of Canada, Buckingham Palace said on Tuesday. Reuter reports from London.

In a statement it said Leblanc will succeed Ramon John Hnatyshyn in February 1995. The governor general is the representative of the British monarch, who is head of state of Canada.

Air mishap in US claims 2:

Two people were reported to have died in a collision on Tuesday night between a TWA airliner and a commuter plane on a runway at St. Louis' International Airport, CNN reported. Reuter says from New York.

All 132 people from the TWA flight escaped with minor injuries, but two people aboard a Cessna commuter plane, whose roof was ripped off, were killed in the mishap at the airport, also known as Lambert field, the network said on Wednesday.

Man jailed for slapping son:

A 29-year-old man has been jailed for four years by a court in eastern France, for slapping his six-month-old son and blinding him in one eye, judicial officials said yesterday. AFP reports from Saverne (France).

Christian Hoerr, who was described as a violent man, injured the baby with a blow to his head in September last year. The court was told he waited several days before taking the child to a doctor.

AI calls for reform of TADA act:

Amnesty International has called for an immediate review and reform of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (prevention) act (TADA), under which thousands of people have been allegedly detained, tortured or otherwise ill-treated. PTI reports from London.

In a report issued here Amnesty said, "the act falls far short of international human rights standards — which India is bound to uphold — depriving people of even the most basic human right."

China blasts BBC documentary:

The Chinese government Wednesday vehemently denied that organs are harvested from executed criminals as portrayed in a documentary by the British Broadcasting Corporation. AP reports from Beijing.

An unnamed "leading Chinese government official" was quoted by the official Xinhua News Agency as saying that the documentary, which aired on October 27, "was entirely fabricated" by producers Harry Wu and Sue Lloyd Roberts.

Blast claims 3 Iraqi children: A mine dropped during the 1991 US-led campaign to oust Iraqi troops from Kuwait, exploded in the southern province of Missan, killing three children and wounding another, the official newspaper Al-Iraq said on Tuesday. Reuter reports from Baghdad.

"A mine dropped by the allied forces during the Gulf War exploded, killing Ali Ni'ma Hashim, 7, his sister Nahiyah, 10, their cousin Khadija Katib Ni'ma, 10, and wounded their three-year-old sister Ikhlas," the paper said.

Yeltsin rules out Estonia's demand

PSKOV (Russia): Nov 23: President Boris Yeltsin visited Russia's disputed border with Estonia today and declared that Moscow would not surrender to it "one single centimetre" of land, reports Reuter.

Estonia is demanding the return of some 2,000 square km of territory now in Russia which belonged to it before World War Two.

Yeltsin, on a brief visit to the border point of Kunchina Gora, told frontier guards: "We will not give up one single centimetre of land no matter who claims it. They (territorial claims) are futile."

Educating children about values gaining ground in Asia

HONG KONG: Nov 23: The Me generation, generation X ... what next? a generation of nihilists?

Many parents and teachers in Asia do not want to wait to find out, and educating children about values is gaining ground in countries across the region, reports IPS.

South Korean children must learn "national ethics" and moral education. In Singapore and Taiwan moral education is compulsory and now China is introducing more confucian teaching in its schools to arrest the alarming decline in moral standards. In Hong Kong education in human values is spread throughout the curriculum.

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There is recognition that throughout Asia the family

unit, while not failing apart, is not as cohesive as it once was. Divorce is rising while external distractions such as television, electronic games and comics are increasing.

Only children with strong sound value systems will be able to resist the corrupting onslaught — or so the argument goes. Asian politicians also favour the teaching of values to safeguard eastern values against western values being increasingly imported via satellite television and other media.

But ironically, teaching values in schools separates values and ethics from religion and community, and breaks it down into its components such as loyalty, integrity, gra-

tude, endurance, self esteem and so on, all of which are universal rather than eastern.

For teachers, the point is not whether children prefer western to eastern values but whether they have any at all. Educators are more concerned that children develop basic human values common to all cultures. They believe some of what had contributed to perceived moral decline in the west are ominously present here, and increasing.

In the past there were not so many distinctions. Basic human values were always at the bottom of every child's heart," says sister Marie Therese of Hong Kong's Good Hope Primary Schools. "Now they are drowned out."

In the last two years, all the

teachers at good hope have attended workshops and undergone training on how to integrate teaching of human values in all parts of the curriculum.

They are taught the method developed by the India-based Satya Sai Foundation and adapted for international use by Lorraine Burrows, a Montessori teacher from Britain and Thai Member of Parliament Ari Ong Jumsal.

The method is now widely used throughout Thailand, heavily promoted by the government there. It is also being increasingly used in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Japan, Britain and Australia.

Although the Satya Sai Foundation's education in human values is itself adapted from the ancient Indian Bal

Delhi offers to help probe Dissanayake's assassination

COLOMBO: Nov 23: The Indian government has offered the services of a ballistics and a forensic expert to assist Sri Lankan detectives probing the assassination last month of the country's top opposition leader, diplomats here said on Tuesday, reports AFP.

The Indian offer was in response to a request by the Sri Lankan government for two experts to help a police investigation into the October 24 slaying of opposition leader Gamini Dissanayake at an election rally here, diplomats said.

New Delhi's response, conveyed through its high commissioner here, does not specify any particular expert, they said.

Dissanayake's family has asked Colombo to press for two top investigators, Dr Karthikeyan and P Chandrasekeran, who both probed the 1991 assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, blamed on the Sri Lankan rebel group LTTE.

Pakistan finds ways for solving Kashmir issue

KASHMIR: ISLAMABAD, Nov 23: Pakistan has come up with six ways of finding a solution to its dispute with India over the ownership of northern Kashmir state. Foreign Minister Assef Ahmed Ali said in an interview published today, reports AFP.

These included an independent Kashmir or the possibility of division of the Himalayan state, with India taking Jammu and Pakistan the insurgency hit valley region.

Ali told the Karachi Daily Dawn that there were six different ways of implementing United Nations resolutions on a plebiscite "which can be acceptable to all the parties."

But he said "we cannot talk about them until India comes to the negotiating table with a political will to solve the problem."

Kashmir has triggered two of the three wars India and Pakistan have fought since independence in 1947.

IAEA experts arrive in DPRK

TOKYO: Nov 23: A team of technical experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) arrived in Pyongyang on Tuesday for talks on North Korea's pledge to freeze its nuclear programme, reports AFP.

The North Korean new agency KCNA, monitored here, said the team was to discuss "technical matters" to be resolved between North Korea and the IAEA following a landmark Pyongyang-Washington nuclear accord last month.

In the agreement, the United States promised to replace North Korea's graphite-moderated nuclear reactors which produce much weapons-grade plutonium, with light water reactors financed by an international consortium.

Brundtland receives rifle bullet by mail

OSLO: Nov 23: Norway's Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland and other advocates of Norwegian membership of the European Union received rifle bullets in their mail, officials said today, reports Reuter.

The premier's press spokesman Oevind Oestang told Reuters the 6.5 mm bullet was contained in an envelope from an anonymous sender and was delivered to Brundtland's office on Tuesday. It was sent to police and nobody was injured.

Oestang said the envelope was addressed to Brundtland, but there was no letter to go with the bullet.

Police, who said they had no suspects, said Fisheries Minister Jan Henry Olsen received a bullet in the mail several days ago.

Myanmar has been shunned

by the world community for its crushing of a democracy uprising in 1988 and its subsequent refusal to recognise an election

Off the Record



British Delia Du Sol, was recruited after 20 hopefuls tried squeezing into a bottle 60cm high and 45cm wide. Delia, 17, a 170cm contortionist, proved the more flexible of those vying for a job with Gerry Cottle's Sister Circus in London.

Nettle soup - a Bronze Age diet

LONDON: Stinging nettles aren't everyone's cup of tea, but archaeologist Mike Corbishley says they make a pretty good soup, reports AP.

He studies the food that Europeans ate during the Bronze Age thousands of years ago. He gathers the raw ingredients cooks the dishes and eats them.

Nettle soup is delicious and tastes like spinach, but the bread made without yeast is rather bland," he said.

An intriguing aspect of the long-ago diet is that the ingredients are still around. The wild plants growing in prehistoric Britain are still here, like nettles, sow thistle, sorrel, dandelion and lady's smock.

Evidence about foods comes from the work of archaeologists digging up graves and settlement sites to study the Bronze Age people who inhabited Europe from the Caspian Sea to the Atlantic coast of Spain from about 2500 to 700 BC.

It's called the Bronze Age because in that period tin and copper were widely alloyed to make bronze for tools, weapons, pots and jewellery. The Bronze Age people had no writing so all we know about them is what comes out of the ground.

Another hazard of old age

CHICAGO: Researchers reported another hazard of old age on Tuesday - eating imbalances, reports Reuter.

They said a study involving 35 younger and older men, some of whom were underfed and others fed too much for three weeks, produced markedly different results in the way the men adjusted.

"Younger men did not experience a net weight gain following overfeeding or a net weight loss following underfeeding," the report from Tufts University in Boston said.

In contrast, older men as a group maintained a significantly elevated body weight nearly seven weeks after the end of overfeeding, and a significantly lower body weight following underfeeding," it added.

The younger men compensated for being fed too much or too little by adjusting their diets after the three-week period was over, but the older subjects did not, the study said.

The study, published in this week's journal of the American medical association, said "to our knowledge this study provides the first direct evidence of an alteration in the ability to accurately control energy intake and energy balance in older individuals."

UN accuses Myanmar of violating human rights

UNITED NATIONS: Nov 23: A new UN human rights report accuses Myanmar authorities of torture, rape, forced labour, destruction of property, looting and summary executions despite years of international protests, reports Reuter.

The report to the General Assembly, released on Tuesday by the special rapporteur, Yozo Yokota of Japan, shows scant improvement over the past year, although the government has been willing to negotiate with UN officials over refugees and other issues.

Such situations have frequently been reported in the process of attempts by the army to arrest and detain civilians for the purposes of forced portering and other labour," the report said.

Floods leave 30 dead in Djibouti

DJIBOUTI: Nov 23: Floods have claimed at least 30 lives over the past 24 hours in floods in Djibouti where a big rescue operation spearheaded by French forces is underway, local officials and French military sources said on Tuesday.

The toll could go higher as several people are still unaccounted for an more rain was forecast for Tuesday.

Twenty people drowned in the worse affected areas of Ali Sabieh and Dikhil in the south of the small Horn of Africa country and another ten people were swept away in the capital by the swollen Ambouli river, the Interior Ministry said.

A large number of Somalis refugees are housed in camps in southern Djibouti.



A young girl on her way to school on Tuesday walks past an anti AIDS bill board in Lusaka, which is a part of a large education campaign of the government against the spreading of AIDS in Zambia.

— AFP photo

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