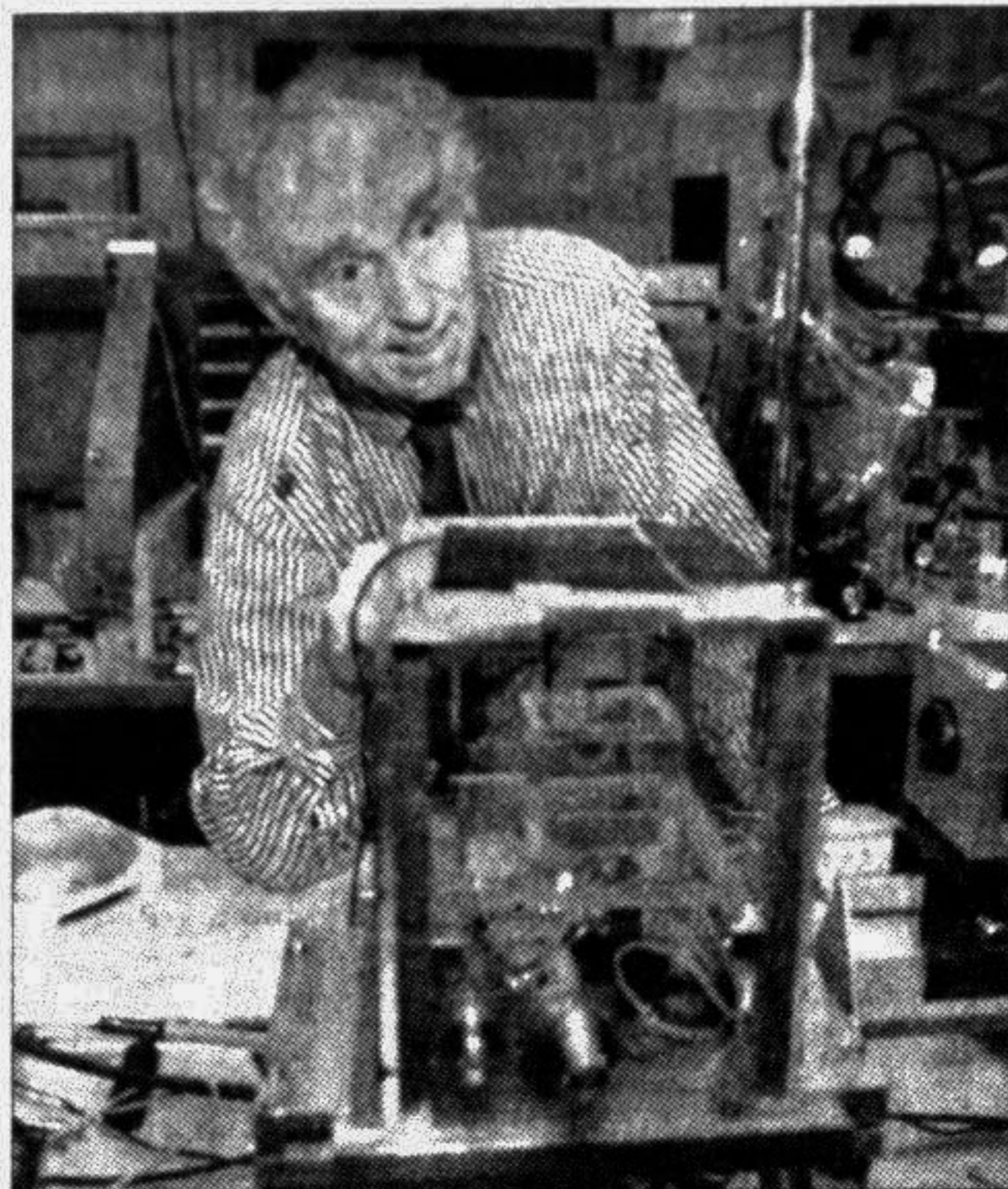


International

**BRIEFLY**



Martin L. Perl, a professor at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Centre at Stanford University in California, tries to explain a free quark search to reporters after he received news that he was awarded the 1995 Nobel Prize in physics on Wednesday in his lab in Stanford, California. Perl was awarded the Nobel Prize for 1975 discovery of a new elementary particle known as the tau lepton. — AFP/UNB Photo

**DPRK army col defects to ROK:**

A North Korean army colonel has defected to South Korea through a southeast Asian country, a spokesman for the Agency for National Security Planning said on Thursday. Reuter reports from Seoul.

Colonel Choe Ju-Hwal, the highest-ranking North Korean military officer to defect to the South, arrived in Seoul recently and was still being questioned by the agency, formerly called the Korea Central Intelligence Agency.

**Equador's VP resigns:**

Vice President Alberto Dahik resigned late Wednesday hours before the Supreme Court Chief Justice ordered his arrest as the High Court pursues a criminal case against him for misuse of state funds, AFP reports from Quito.

Dahik's attorney Walter Guerrero, said Dahik had submitted a resignation letter to the National Assembly hours before the arrest warrant was issued.

**3 Chinese pupils die in quicksand:**

Three Chinese primary and middle school students died during an outing to a river after drowning in quicksand as nearby fishermen looked on without trying to save them, the Nanfang Daily reported, AFP reports from Beijing.

The children were among eight students from Yunfu city in southern Guangdong province who went for a picnic to west river on September 24, the newspaper's Tuesday edition, seen in Beijing Thursday, reported.

**Time's Delhi publication resumes:**

The Times of India, one of India's oldest and most respected newspapers, hit the stands yesterday after labour unrest led to its closure in New Delhi 25 days ago, AFP reports from New Delhi.

The English-language daily's New Delhi edition resumed publication on Wednesday after its union told management it would avoid "disruption in the future," The Times said.

**Mother Teresa awarded:**

The Los Angeles-based Nobel Foundation, together with the United Nations Development Fund for Women, has announced a lifetime commitment award to Mother Teresa, PTI reports from Washington.

Proceeds from the Nobel Foundation Awards ceremony and fund raiser in Los Angeles on October 20 will go to various charitable causes, including the missionaries of charity, which will build a home for children and mothers afflicted with AIDS.

**Huge drugs seized in India:**

Police have seized heroin worth Rs one crore in the international market and arrested three men, including a head constable who were caught in their attempt to peddle the drug, PTI reports from Bangalore.

A team of policemen specially constituted to break the drug racket laid a trap, acting as buyers and nabbed the trio and confiscated 400 grams of heroin whose value in the internal market was estimated at Rs 50 lakh.

**Blast kills 6 in China:**

Six people, including a five-year-old girl, died and 15 others were seriously injured in a recent explosion in a light bulb factory in Haiyan in neighbouring Zhejiang province, a newspaper reported yesterday, AFP reports from Shanghai.

The Liberation Daily reported that leaking gas caused the explosion which blew up the 250-square-metre (2,560-square-foot) workshop belonging to Zhejiang Haiyan Jiada Lighting Industrial Company.

**26 killed in Tajik bus plunge:**

Twenty six people were killed and 14 injured when a bus plunged into a mountain ravine in Tajikistan, Foreign Ministry officials said on Wednesday, Reuter reports from Dushanbe.

The bus crashed on Sunday when its steering failed, but the incident was not officially announced until the upper house of parliament expressed condolences to the victims and the bereaved on Wednesday.

**US House rejects bid to soften immigration bill**

WASHINGTON, Oct 12: A Democratic effort to soften a Republican plan to reduce legal immigration by as much as 25 per cent was rejected Wednesday by the House Judiciary Committee, reports AP.

Twenty members — 18 Republicans and two Democrats — voted down an amendment that would have split the complex 364-page bill in two, separating most new restrictions on legal immigration from provisions designed to crack down on illegal aliens.

Republican Rep Lamar Smith who authored the bill, said "the nation's legal immigration system is broken and it no longer serves the national interest."

Berman said he thought some Republicans were using public sentiment against illegal aliens to make unneeded changes in the rules foreigners must follow to legally immigrate to the United States.

"I see no reason in the world to try and cut back on legal immigration," Berman told fellow committee members. "It's good for the country."

Democrat Howard Berman proposed the split, suggesting that the bill's illegal-immigration measures be sent

**Dostam launches attack on govt forces  
Taliban capture military base south of Kabul**

KABUL, Oct 12: Afghanistan's Taliban Islamic militia have captured Rishkor, the site of a major military base south of Kabul, and unconfirmed reports say some of their advance forces have already entered the suburbs of Kabul, reports AFP.

Abdullah, Defence Ministry spokesman for President Burhanuddin Rabbani's regime, admitted late Wednesday that the Taliban had captured Rishkor from presidential forces only hours after seizing the nearby strategic town of Charasyab, 25 kilometres (16 miles) south of the capital.

Rishkor, which is only 12 kilometres (six miles) from the centre of Kabul, opens

the way by road to the former royal palace of Darulaman and the south of the capital.

According to a Taliban spokesman, some of its forces have already reached Darulaman and Karte Se, another area south of Kabul, as well as Pul-i-Chareki to the northeast of the capital after a pro-Rabbani commander rallied to their cause.

But the reports could not be independently confirmed.

The Taliban also say the militia captured Darra-i-Ghaza, a village near Paghman, west of Kabul, and stronghold of the Ittehad-i-Islamification headed by Rasul Sayyaf, main ally of Rabbani in the Kabul coalition.

In the past year, the stu-

dent-led militia has taken control of the southern half of Afghanistan and vowed to take the capital by force if Rabbani does not step down.

Meanwhile, heavy fighting broke out today between the Taliban Islamic militia and troops loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani for control of strategic hills south of Kabul, witnesses said.

Both sides unleashed artillery fire in bids to control the strategic Khairabad Hills which appear as a rolling ridge line south of the Afghan capital.

Another report says, former communist General Abdul Rashid Dostam launched an attack on Afghan

government forces today in a bid to cut off access to the strategic Salang pass about 100 kilometres (60 miles) north of Kabul, a Dostam spokesman told AFP.

Sibghattullah Zaki, spokesman for the ethnic Uzbek leader, said he had no news on whether the attack on government positions in the pass, in the Hindu Kush mountain range, was successful.

He added that if the Uzbeks managed to gain control, they would then target the stronghold of President Burhanuddin Rabbani's defence chief, Ahmed Shah Massoud, at Jabul Saraj which is about 60 kilometres (35 miles) from Kabul.

**Iraq misled UN arms inspector**

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 12: Iraq tested biological toxins on sheep and dogs, clandestinely produced missile engines and misled UN monitors on the vast scope of its weapons programme the chief UN weapons inspector said in a report Wednesday, reports AP.

The report comes as weapons monitors sift through 680,000 pages of documents that Iraq handed over to the inspectors following the August defection of its weapons chief, Lt Gen Hussein Kamel al-Majid.

The report makes clear the vast deception effort that Iraq promulgated and shows how difficult it will be to establish compliance on Security Council resolutions on weapons of mass destruction, James P. Rubin, a spokesman for the US mission, said. "Clearly Iraq has a long, long way to go."



Palestinian children ride on a donkey and hold a portrait of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Wednesday as they celebrate the Israeli Army pullout from the Israeli civil administration compound in Kharbata, West Bank, 30 kms east of Tel Aviv. — AFP/UNB Photo

**Austria govt on verge of collapse over budget**

VIENNA, Oct 12: Negotiations between Austria's two ruling coalition parties on agreeing a budget for 1996 broke down today, a People's Party spokesman said, bringing the government to the verge of collapse, reports Reuter.

Attempts to agree on a budget have definitely failed, the spokesman for People's Party (OeVP) leader Wolfgang Schuessel told the Austrian news agency APA.

A hinting that the only alternative to the failed talks was a snap election, the spokesman said the situation over the budget has reached a very serious state of affairs.

Vice Chancellor Schuessel has been grappling for weeks with Chancellor Franz Vranitzky leader of the senior coalition partner, the Social Democrats over ways to reduce Austria's huge budget deficit by at least 50 billion schillings (5 billion).

**India rejects OIC statement on Kashmir  
Hurriyat to open office in Delhi to campaign against polls**

NEW DELHI, Oct 12: An alliance of Kashmir separatist groups is opening a propaganda office in New Delhi to campaign against India's proposed elections in the troubled state of Jammu and Kashmir, its officials said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The All-Party Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference will open a "Kashmir Awareness Bureau" next month to "try to educate people and political leaders of India that elections is no solution to the problem," said Hafizullah Makhdoom.

Makhdoom is the leader of a Hurriyat delegation which arrived in the Indian

capital recently to set up what would effectively be the first office belonging to a Kashmiri separatist group in the Indian capital.

The Hurriyat is a coalition of 30 political and religious parties in Kashmir demanding the implementation of a 1948 UN resolution to hold a plebiscite in the region.

India, which says the Himalayan state of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of it, opposes any referendum that could give its people a chance to say whether they want to remain part of a predominantly Hindu nation.

PTI adds, India on Wednesday rejected the lat-

est statement on Jammu and Kashmir by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) describing it as false and misleading and emphasised that there was no threat to peace and stability in South Asia from it.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman while regretting the statement said it was particularly inappropriate to refer to one group in Jammu and Kashmir as true representatives of the Kashmiri people when that group was not backed by a popular mandate. The statement was issued by the OIC foreign minister.

**DPRK eager to work with US to solve problems**

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 12: North Korea's deputy foreign minister said Wednesday his communist government was eager to work with the United States to resolve the problems on the divided Korean peninsula, reports AP.

"When both North Korea and the United States work together with mutual trust, they can resolve those issues that still remain outstanding on the Korean peninsula," Choi Su Hon told the UN General Assembly.

Choi said easing of tensions between North and South Korea would "prove helpful in stabilising the situation in Northeast Asia and the Pacific as well."



Nobel Prize winner for chemistry and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Professor Mario Molina (L) enjoys a champagne toast with his wife Luisa (R) after a press-conference at MIT on Wednesday. Professor Molina won the award for his research on the effects of man-made chemicals on the Ozone layer. — AFP/UNB photo

**Godmen abusing Indians' belief, myth**

NEW DELHI, Oct 12: India is grappling with a growing tribe of mainly Hindu "holy men" who are into sex, lies and crime, earning the wrath of a country where mystics are considered messengers of god, reports AFP.

Nearly a dozen Hindu gurus have been arrested in the past year on a variety of charges ranging from rape to murder, and last month a minister sparked a political storm by ordering his arrest for allegedly cheating a Hong Kong businessman.

Some two months back, the New Delhi police arrested an elderly Hindu mystic who allegedly plotted to kill a 25-year-old businessman so he could continue an affair with the victim's wife.

Another glob-trotting guru who had opened an orphanage for girls and a boarding school with public funds was arrested recently in the western state of Gujarat on charges of raping more than 200 inmates.

Police seized pornographic movies and books and share certificates at the commune of the "holy man," Swami Keshavanand, after a 14-year-old girl allegedly raped by him died following a clumsy abortion.

In November last year, another guru, Swami Prem-ananda, was arrested and an official dubbed his plush religious retreat in southern India "a facade for a litany of crimes" including rape, murder and hoarding of wealth.

Around the same time, a 48-year-old mystic suspected of raping hundreds of women and murdering 10 people across northern India in a blood-soaked career spanning a decade was taken into custody in New Delhi.

"It show the increasing

trend of criminalisation in the ranks of the self-proclaimed representatives of the faith," she said, calling for public vigilance against opulent religious retreats across India.

Police say people's faith in religion can make it easy for unscrupulous "holy men" — many of whom control real estate worth millions of dollars — to operate.

"Every individual has some weakness or the other which is easily exploited by so-called religious men," said New Delhi's additional Commissioner of Police Maxwell Pereira. "It could be for access to powers-that-be or money."

"These godmen take advantage of people's myths and beliefs," he added.

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**US sanctions unlikely to topple Tehran govt: CIA**

WASHINGTON, Oct 12: US economic sanctions against Iran are causing short-term disruption, but there is no sign the Islamic fundamentalist regime is losing its hold on power, a senior CIA official said Wednesday, reports AP.

"The current Iranian regime, despite its economic problems, has a much better chance of remaining in power over the next three years," John Gannon, the CIA's deputy director for intelligence, told the Senate Banking Committee.

Meanwhile, Iran handed world financial leaders meeting in Washington a report claiming general prosperity and not mentioning the embargo.

Senate Banking Committee Chairman A L D'Amato praised President Clinton for

his order last spring barring US firms from doing business with Iran. Until that order, US firms were paying nearly 4 billion dollars to buy about one-fifth of Iran's oil production.

But the New York Republican senator wants to give the president power to impose sanctions on foreign firms that continue to do business with Iran.

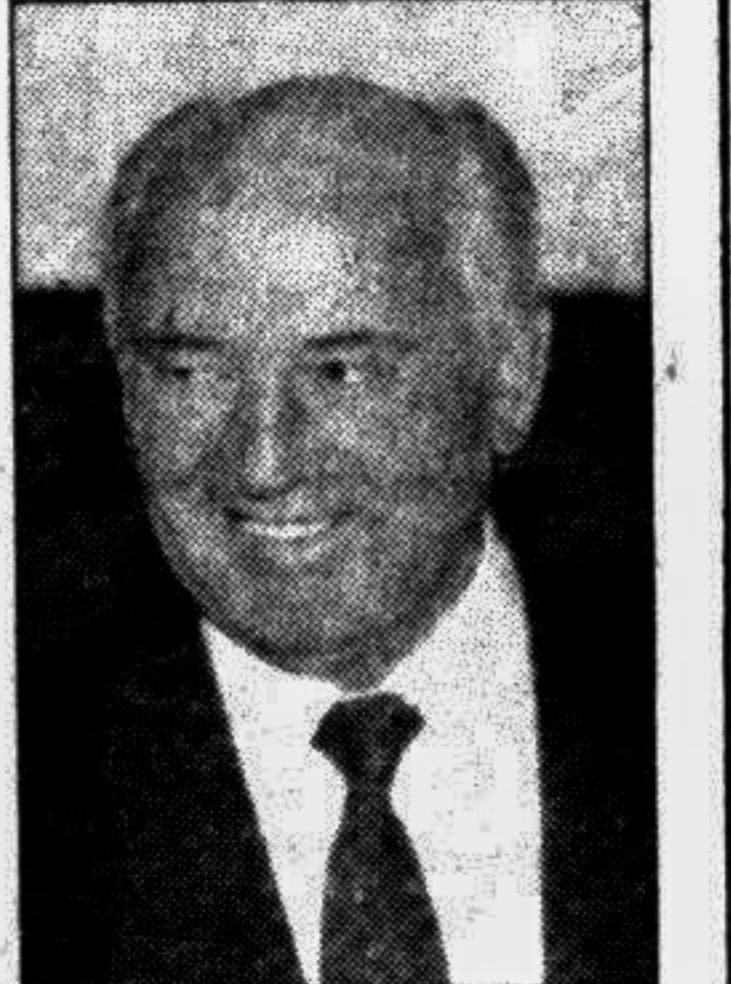
"Our allies must understand that oil is Iran's lifeline," said D'Amato. "If we're going to persuade the Iranian regime that its behaviour is unacceptable, the world must cut this lifeline."

Undersecretary of State Peter Tarnoff said the major industrial countries are cooperating with the United States to block sales of weapons and nuclear technology to Iran.

**Off the Record**

**Story of Gorbachev & his missing pants**

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky: A few wrinkles developed in Mikhail Gorbachev's recent visit — causing the unlikely scene of a former superpower leader waiting in a bathrobe while US Secret Service agents searched for his pants, reports AP.



The anxious moments began when Gorbachev, in town last Thursday to accept a University of Louisville Grawemeyer Award, decided he needed his pants pressed before giving a public lecture at Louisville Gardens.

Gorbachev wanted the dry cleaning service after getting caught briefly in the rain, said Paul Weber, a University of Louisville (U of L) professor who arranged his visit.

A member of the housekeeping staff at the Seelbach Hotel dutifully took Gorbachev's pants away. He didn't have a spare pair, so the former Soviet leader had no choice but to put on the bathrobe and stay in his room.

U of L President John Shumaker stood outside the room, waiting for the pants to be returned so Gorbachev could proceed to the lecture, which was scheduled to start in a few minutes a block or so away.

Time passed and still no pants appeared.

"There was a lot of foot-tapping going on out in the hallway," Shumaker said. "At one point, the Secret Service was out looking for his pants."

Gorbachev joked with his aides as he waited, Weber said.

"They were teasing each other back and forth," Weber said. "He was good-natured about the whole thing."

One member in his party speculated that the pants might have been stolen by someone who wanted a souvenir, Weber said. At one point, Gorbachev asked his interpreter if he could borrow his pants.

"Why wear any?" the interpreter said. "This is America."

"After about a half-hour, a bellhop emerged from an elevator and ran down the hall carrying a hanger with the neatly pressed pants in a plastic bag, Shumaker said.

A police officer met the bellhop in the hall and rushed the pants to Gorbachev's room.

"It was kind-of-like the passing of the Olympic torch," Shumaker said.

A few moments later, Gorbachev — clad in pants — emerged from his hotel room with a triumphant smile and his arms in the air, Shumaker said.

**China far from competing with US military**

WASHINGTON, Oct 12: China's military, the world's largest standing army, remains decades away from being competitive with the US military but already has the potential to cause problems for some of its neighbours, the Clinton administration said Wednesday, reports AP.

Senior members of the US Defence and State departments also told a congressional panel that Taiwan, which poses the biggest irritant in US-Chinese relations, remains able to defend itself against mainland threats.

"The question is not whether China will be a major player in global as well as regional security affairs, but rather when and how," said Winston Lord, assistant secretary of state for east Asian affairs. "China's rapid eco-

nomc development its growing military capabilities and its historic in international role will make it a major power in the coming century."

But Lord said due to the gap between China's military hardware and that of the United States and other developed countries, the Chinese "realise they've got an awful long way to go in the sense of technology and modernisation."

Domestically, he said the People's Liberation Army's experience in Tiananmen Square in 1989 gives its leaders motive to shy away from too much heavy-handedness despite growing behind-the-scenes power.

"One has to assume that the military, in particular, would want domestic stability," Lord said.

**UK to cut welfare benefits for asylum seekers**

BLACKPOOL, England, Oct 12: Britain announced Wednesday it will eliminate welfare benefits for asylum seekers, a move that could save up to 200 million pounds (315 million dollars) a year, reports AP.

"Britain should be a safe haven, not a soft touch," Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley told the annual conference of the governing Conservative Party.

The audience to Conservative stalwarts welcomed his proposals, applauding frequently, but immigrant groups condemned the government for trying to "starve out" asylum seekers.

Lilley said Britain will always continue its tradition of giving asylum to those fleeing

foreign persecution.

But of the 40,000 people a year who claim asylum, only one in 20 qualify for it, he said.

"The trouble is, our system almost invites people to claim asylum, to gain British benefits," he said.

Asylum seekers are now entitled to full welfare from the moment they make an application. They receive unemployment pay, income and child support, housing, full medical and dental treatment and free school meals.

The Department of Social Security said that under Lilley's proposals, people claiming asylum after entering Britain would not be entitled to any benefits.