

## BRIEFLY



Reproduction of an identity card of Akemi Fujiu, 25, a Japanese national. Fujiu was found killed in her Paris apartment Thursday. Fujiu was working for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). —AFP/UNB photo

**NAM summit begins Wednesday:** At least 48 heads of state will meet in Cartagena, Colombia, Wednesday and discuss development issues concerning the developing countries. Xinhua reports from Colombia.

Some 2,000 delegates are also expected to be present at the 11th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in this Caribbean coastal city. Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo Garcia-Pena said at a press conference Friday.

**Russia for peace in Chechnya:** Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said yesterday Russia would stick to its plan for a peaceful settlement in Chechnya despite provocations by supporters of rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev. Itar-Tass news agency said. Reuter reports from Moscow.

"Everything will be done to resolve the conflict in Chechnya by peaceful means.

**2 Hizbollah men killed in S Lebanon:** Israeli soldiers killed two guerrillas yesterday two days after pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) fighters killed three Israeli soldiers in South Lebanon, Israeli military sources said. Reuter reports from Marjayoun, Lebanon.

The clash took place in the Wadi Litani area just inside Israel's South Lebanon occupation zone, the sources said.

**Dr Rameshwar Shukla dead:**

Veteran Hindi litterateur Dr Rameshwar Shukla alias "Anchal" passed away at a hospital in Bhopal after a short illness. He was 80, PTI reports from Bhopal.

Anchal had gone to New Delhi for some personal work and returned to Bhopal only Thursday evening. Suddenly he fell ill and was admitted to a hospital and breathed his last Friday, family sources said.

**2 die as jet crashes in Jakarta:**

An Indonesian Air Force training plane crashed soon after take-off, killing its pilot and passenger, the official Antara News Agency said yesterday. Reuter reports from Jakarta.

It quoted air force spokesman first Marshal Atmajati as saying the Brave AS-202 light aircraft crashed on Friday morning at Jakarta's Halim Perdana Kusuma air force base, killing the pilot instructor and student.

## Arafat holds talks with 12 WB Hamas leaders

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip, Oct 14: PLO leader Yasser Arafat held his first talks with leaders of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) from the West Bank Friday seeking reconciliation with the militant group, reports AFP.

The meeting between Arafat and 12 West Bank leaders of Hamas lasted an hour and was held at the PLO leader's office in Gaza City in the autonomous Gaza Strip, both organisations said.

The two sides discussed efforts to achieve a reconciliation between Arafat's Palestinian Authority and Hamas whose leaders insisted they were serious about wanting to end their dispute Tayeb Abdel Rahim a senior PLO official said.

On Thursday, Arafat met Hamas leaders from the Gaza Strip regarded as more extreme than those in the West Bank after they returned from a meeting with exiled colleagues in Khartoum.

Abdel Rahim, secretary general of the self-rule authority, said the Hamas leaders had told Arafat of their wish to find an agreement.

They stressed their desire to preserve national unity and help build the Palestinian nation, he said.

Hamas which is hostile to the peace process with Israel, has been responsible for most of the suicide bomb attacks that have killed dozens of Israelis over the past two years.

# Bosnian Serbs vow to recapture lost territory

BELGRADE, Oct 14: The Bosnian Serbs vowed to recapture lost territory and government troops said they were "advancing defensively", as intense fighting in northwest Bosnia made a mockery of a two-day-old ceasefire, reports Reuter.

Bosnian Serb military authorities accused Muslim and Croat troops of firing thousands of shells at defences close to the Serb stronghold of Banja Luka, under greater threat than ever in the three and a half year war. They said fighting was continuing on Friday evening.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic issued a rallying call from the threatened neighbouring town of Prijedor for the Serbs to not only check the Bosnian government troops' advance but to turn it back.

"I am requesting the whole people to gear up towards defence," Karadzic said on local radio in Prijedor, from which UN aid workers said up to 40,000 civilians were fleeing.

"I am asking the soldiers to have a short break and then rejoin their units. There should be no retreat. They should only go forward. And we can liberate Sanski Most and certainly defend Prijedor."

Bosnian government forces captured Sanski Most, also in northwest Bosnia, on the eve of the ceasefire which was supposed to go into effect across the whole of the republic on Thursday.

Karadzic, in a report monitored by the BBC, said: "I even say that with small, insignificant forces the Mus-

lims have been able to break through our lines. We will organise a determined defence and we will recapture this territory."

Journalists allowed to visit Sanski Most said the town was almost empty of civilians and Muslim-led Bosnian government troops were firing heavy artillery, Howitzers and rockets towards Serb lines to the north.

"We are not attacking the Serbs. They are provoking us and we have to respond," said Major Muhamed Babic of the Bosnian government 5th corps. "We are advancing defensively."

Serb military authorities said Muslim and Croat troops had fired more than 3,000 shells during Friday. 100 of them landing in Prijedor, where they caused damage

but no casualties.

Bosnian government radio accused the Serbs of bringing fresh supplies and arms into the region and insisted the government army was strictly respecting the ceasefire agreement.

Meanwhile, the thunder of government artillery echoed around the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Banja Luka today as terrified Serb refugees trudged into the town aboard farm carts and tractors from the surrounding region.

International aid workers in Banja Luka reported shelling could be clearly heard and Kris Janowski, a Sarajevo spokesman for the UN Relief Agency, said: "The scene is not very good there."

The industrial town, built amid rolling agricultural flatlands, was not reported to be under direct attack.

## Gaddafi to suspend deporting Palestinians, says Egyptian FM

CAIRO, Oct 14: Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi will suspend a decision ordering 30,000 Palestinians to leave his country, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said on Friday, reports Reuter.

Moussa also told reporters that hundreds of Palestinians who are stranded in a desert camp between the Libyan-Egyptian border would return to their homes in Libya or go to the self rule area of Gaza within the next two weeks.

In August, Gaddafi ordered 30,000 Palestinians in his country to leave and return to Palestinian self-ruled areas to expose what he calls the sham peace between the

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel.

"Colonel Muammar Gaddafi will suspend a decree to deport 30,000 Palestinians who live in Libya. The Palestinian deportees will vacate the camp within a short period that will not exceed a week or two," Moussa said.

The Egyptian Minister met Gaddafi in Tripoli last Friday to discuss the fate of the Palestinians.

Libya has fired hundreds of Palestinians expatriates from their jobs and confiscated their houses, effectively expelling them. Anout 900 Palestinians are stranded at a makeshift Libyan-run camp

on the border with Egypt, waiting to return to PLO-ruled Gaza and Jericho, where entry is controlled by Israel.

An official source at the Egyptian-Libyan border said on Thursday Gaddafi would visit Egypt on Friday for talks with President Hosni Mubarak on the deported Palestinians.

But an official at the Libyan representative office in Cairo said Gaddafi was unlikely to visit Cairo within the next 48 hours because he was busy with the President of the Central African Republic who is in Tripoli on an official visit.

## Staff threaten to boycott UN anniversary

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 14: The 10,000 strong UN Staff Union on Friday threatened to boycott the world body's 50th anniversary celebrations that will draw about 140 heads of state or government to its New York headquarters, reports Reuter.

The union in a resolution and after a series of meetings is considering job actions such as slowdowns, that would disrupt work during the October 21-24 anniversary events. It has also recommended celebrations planned for them.

At issue are at least 200 planned reductions in staff, which the union says will be done within each department without any regard to seniority. Firings it said did not include any proper appeal procedures against department head who might take unfair action.

## India rejects CNN on-air debate with Pakistan

NEW DELHI, Oct 14: India on Friday rejected an offer by Cable News Network (CNN) to participate in a televised debate with Pakistan on thorny issues, saying the exercise would not address serious bilateral differences, reports AFP.

"A televised debate is no substitute for a sincere and meaningful bilateral dialogue," an External Affairs Ministry spokesman said here.

The Atlanta-based CNN recently invited Pakistani Foreign Minister Aseef Ali and his Indian counterpart Pranab Mukherjee for an on-air debate on differences over the disputed state of Kashmir which sparked two regional wars since 1947.

## India develops Stealth tech

NEW DELHI, Oct 14: India has developed the Stealth technology which allows aircraft to escape detection by a radar, local paper Business Standard said here today, reports Xinhua.

The technology was successfully tested on the Jaguar aircraft belonging to the Indian Air Force.

Stealth technology is a closely guarded secret among Western arms-exporting countries and companies which possess the know-how have been prohibited from selling it as part of the sales package.

## Off the Record



The wife of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Suha, holds her baby Zahwa at her home in Gaza City on Friday. It is the first photo taken in Gaza City of Suha Arafat and her baby since their return from France, where the child was born. —AFP/UNB photo

## Dieting makes people dumb?

LONDON: Dieting can damage mental sharpness, according to a study conducted by the Institute of Food Research in Reading, UK, reports Xinhua.

People on diet worry so much about food and their weight that they are too preoccupied to deal with other mental tasks," Dr Mike Green, psychologist, was quoted by a local press report as saying today.

The effects of the diet are about the same as in people who have just drunk two units of alcohol, according to the study.

Nutritional loss has little effect on mental sharpness. It is the anguish of not being able to eat what you want and the distress when the weight refuse to lose that impair concentrations.

"The effects on mental performance are most pronounced in dieters who reported not losing weight," Dr Green said.

## New way to claim insurance money

MANILA: Philippine police have arrested a Japanese man who reportedly faked his death so that his family could claim insurance money from a local firm, a police officer said Saturday, reports AFP.

Superintendent Samuel Pagdilao of the Criminal Investigation Service identified the man as Takashi Mori, 47, a used car dealer from Tokyo.

He was arrested Thursday following a complaint by the Japanese embassy here that his reported death was untrue and that it was done so his wife and son could collect on his six-million-peso (231,000 dollar) life insurance policy.

Pagdilao said Mori had arrived in the Philippines in October last year and set up a business. On January 9, his wife and son reported to the Japanese embassy in Manila that he was missing.

A corpse retrieved two days later from Manila bay was identified by the son as belonging to Mori through a ring and wristwatch.

But police, action on the Japanese embassy complaint, traced Mori to the house of his Filipina daughter in law in the Manila suburb of Valenzuela.

## Army foils Kashmir rebels' bid to blow up MLA hostel

SRINAGAR, India, Oct 14:

The Indian army said today it had foiled a bid by Kashmir separatists to blow up an apartment block for members of the Jammu and Kashmir state assembly and offices of two civil servants, reports Reuter.

Lieutenant General J S Dhillon, the highest-ranking officer in Jammu and Kashmir, told reporters his troops uncovered the attempt on Friday night when they captured four militants with explosives in the state's summer capital of Srinagar.

"These explosives were for blowing up the MLA (Members of the Legislative Assembly) Hostel, the secretariat and the DC's (Divisional Commissioner's) office in

Srinagar," he said.

The secretariat houses the offices of the state's senior civil servants while the Divisional Commissioner is the senior administrator in Srinagar.

Dhillon said the four belonged to the Hizbul Mujahiddin Group, who are campaigning for the territory's merger with Pakistan.

"One of the arrested said he was the divisional commander of the Hizbul Mujahiddin Group," Dhillon said, adding that the militant, Bashir Ahmad Lone, was an explosives expert.

Based on leads provided by those arrested, the army also identified and detained four other militants, Dhillon said.

## Contributions from Canadian Tamils prolonging Lankan war

COLOMBO, Oct 14: Sri Lanka has told Canada that contributions from Tamil expatriates there are prolonging a separatist war and reminding Ottawa that Tamil Tiger rebels are suspected drug smugglers, the Foreign Ministry said today, reports Reuter.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar met Canadian delegates to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Colombo this week and urged them to be wary of "constant misinformation" being spread by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"Discussing the impact of assistance flowing into LTTE coffers from Tamil expatriates, the minister observed that the Canadian Tamil ex-

patriate community was one of the biggest contributors," the ministry said in a statement.

"These contributions helped the LTTE perpetuate the war... Kadirgamar reminded the delegation that already clear evidence has surfaced on the LTTE's involvement in international narcotics smuggling."

The armed forces are believed to be about to launch the final push against the rebels' northern Jaffna stronghold in a bid to weaken the guerillas and give the devolution package a chance of success.

"The current military operations are not directed against the Tamil people, but are intended to liberate the people of Jaffna" and prepare

for the devolution package and a 39 billion rupee (750 million dollars) development programme, the statement said.

Sri Lankan and Indian Tamils make up about 17 per cent of the population of majority-Sinhalese Sri Lanka.

The Tigers are one of the world's best-equipped guerilla outfits, with their own makeshift navy, air wing, mobile radar, anti-aircraft missiles and suicide squads.

The rebels levy their own taxes in the north, but much of their financing comes from sympathisers living overseas.

US Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel said last month she had no hard evidence to support Sri Lanka's claim that the LTTE were involved in drugs smuggling.



A Chechen woman stands on Wednesday in the yard of her house that was destroyed on October 8 by a Russian air raid on the village of Roshni-Chu in the urus-Martian region. Eight people were killed, 19 wounded and 60 others lost their houses in the bombing. —AFP/UNB photo

## Pak troops seize huge arms from Afghan border

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, Oct 14: Pakistani paramilitary troops have seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition from a warehouse in the northwestern tribal town of Landi Kotal near the Afghan border, reports said Friday, reports AFP.

Quoting officials newspapers here said the weapons, recovered in a raid on the warehouse late Wednesday, were due to be shipped to the southern port city of Karachi where political violence this year has left more than 1,500 people dead.

The weapons included several hundred rockets and hand grenades as well as more than 400 mortar bombs and 25 kilos (50 pounds) of explosives, the Daily Jang said.

Officials said the raid was carried out after intelligence reports were received

# Rotblat first foresaw atomic threat to mankind

LONDON, Oct 14: Polish born Joseph Rotblat, probably the world's first nuclear protestor, worked on the atomic bomb to prevent a Nazi victory but quit the project because he was convinced it posed a terrible threat to mankind, reports Reuter.

The 86-year-old physicist, who was awarded the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday, went on to become one of the world's most vocal and effective opponents of the nuclear arms race.

Rotblat received the award jointly with the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs of which he was a founder member and is now chairman.

A British subject since 1946, he lives in London and is emeritus professor of physics at the University of London.

He was also a founding member of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), a leading "think tank" on security and disarmament issues, and Britain's campaign for nuclear disarmament.

Born in Warsaw in 1908, Rotblat moved to Britain for a one-year research project shortly before the outbreak of World War II and was there when Adolf Hitler invaded Poland. He never saw his wife again and she died in the Holocaust.

He first realised the potential of nuclear fusion while working in the radio-logical laboratory in Warsaw and during his research work at Liverpool University in 1939.

"My first reflex was to put the whole thing out of my mind, like a person trying to ignore the first symptoms of

fatal disease. But the fear gnaws away all the same. My fear was that would do it did not occur," he wrote in 1985.

Rotblat joined the group of British based scientists who worked on the top-secret Manhattan Project.

While he was based at Los Alamos, New Mexico, where the atomic bomb was developed that later devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki, he realised the potential consequences of a future arms race.

Once he realised Germany would lose the war and would not create its own bomb, he became in 1944 the only scientist to leave the project. "Until then I had thought that our work was to prevent a Nazi victory. Now I was told that the weapon we were preparing was really against Russia," he said.

After his departure, which

was officially said to have been because he wanted to return to Europe to search for his wife, he was forbidden to contact his former colleagues and was barred from the United States until 1964.

The intelligence chief at Los Alamos accused him of being a spy. Rotblat persuaded his superiors he was innocent but had no agreement to talk to anyone about his real reason for leaving.

Rotblat did not know the bomb had been completed until it was dropped on Hiroshima.

He was said to have been "devastated" by the consequences of its use on Japan in the dying days of the Pacific war and dedicated his life to campaigning against the nuclear arms race, urging other scientists to do so.

"The work on the Manhattan Project changed radically

my scientific career and attitude to my social obligations. It convinced me that even pure research soon finds applications and I wanted to decide for myself how my work would be used."

The small, white haired scientist who still speaks with an east European accent has devoted his life to stopping the arms race and encouraging peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Described by friends as energetic and single-minded and natural campaigner with his eye for a good "stunt," he became a public figure after World War II for his clear and precise explanations of the potential and problems of nuclear energy.

He earned international recognition for his work in radiation biology and once drank mildly radioactive liquid to prove that things nu-

clear did not always mean death.

He is the last survivor of the distinguished scientists who signed the Bertrand Russell-Albert Einstein manifesto against the H-bomb in the mid-1950s.

Rotblat won the Albert Einstein Peace Prize Foundation with German-born fellow physicist Hans Bethe in 1992.

Despite the end of the Cold War, Rotblat is still a campaigner against nuclear testing and condemns France's tests in the South Pacific.

A colleague of Rotblat's spoke of his courage and integrity and complete self-abnegation. "If ever these evils are eradicated... is name should stand very high indeed among the heroes," wrote Maxwell Bruce of the British Pugwash group.

## Rao removes Sharief from railway portfolio

NEW DELHI, Oct 14: Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao has stripped a cabinet minister of his post, allegedly on health grounds, after he refused an order to quit and help reorganise the ruling Congress (I) Party, reports AFP.

A communique from the presidential palace here late Friday said C K Jaffer Sharief, an influential Muslim leader in the Congress, would no longer hold the important railways portfolio.

"C K Jaffer Sharief will be minister without portfolio," the statement said, adding that Rao, who assumed control of the ministry after Jaffer Sharief went overseas for medical treatment on August 17, would retain charge "for some more time."