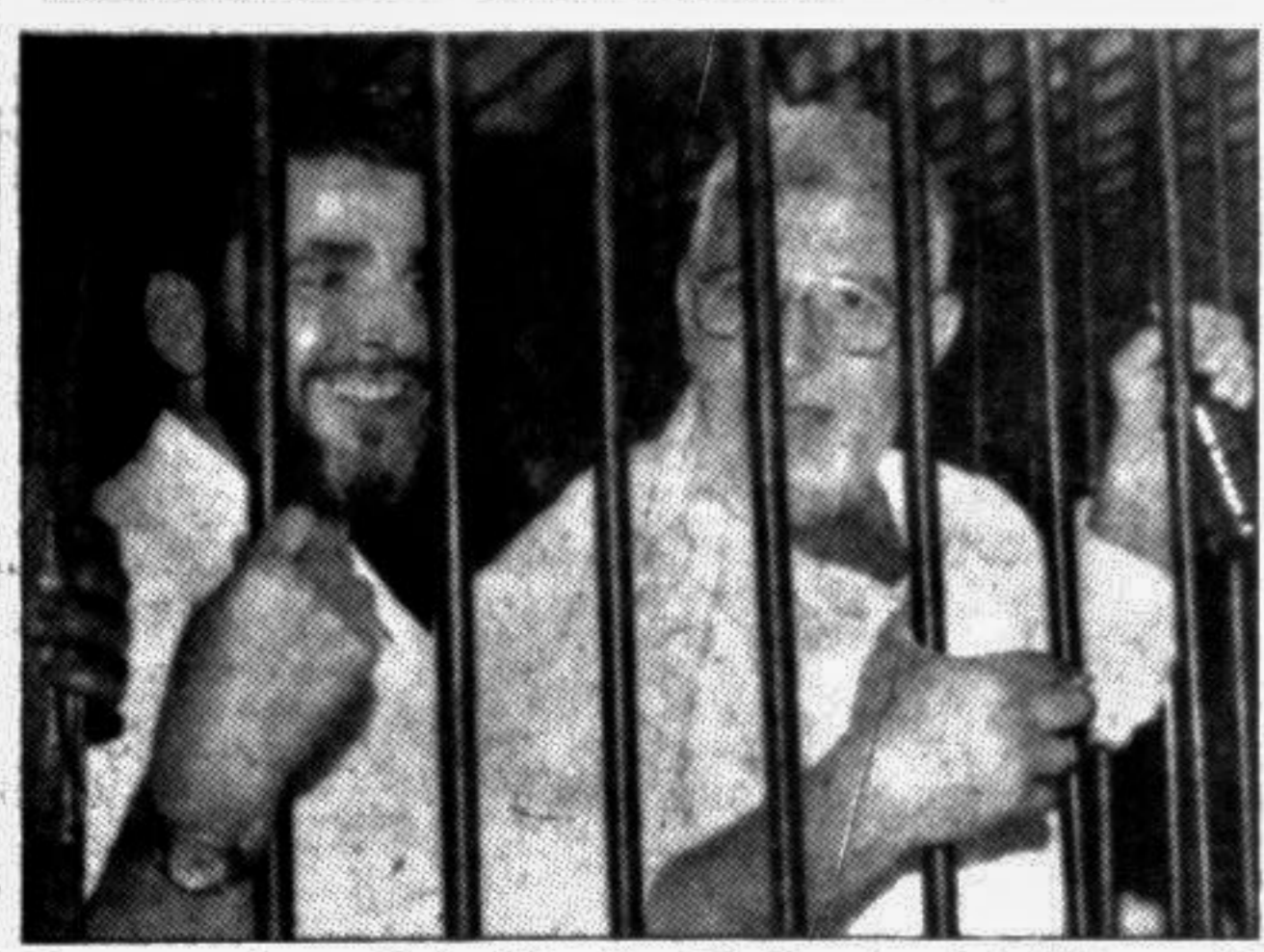


BRIEFLY



Two members of the Muslim Brotherhood holding soft drinks smile in the defendants' cage at Huckstep army base outside Cairo Saturday, where 49 Muslim Brotherhood members are on trial for forming a "secret organisation."

DPRK slams US-ROK wargame: The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) yesterday denounced a joint US-South Korean military exercise now underway in the southern part of the Korean Peninsula, Xinhua reports from Pyongyang.

The Rodong Sinmun, mouthpiece of the DPRK ruling party, described the five-day joint wargame, codenamed Bald Eagle, as a reproduction of the annual 'team spirit' joint military exercise which was scrapped for this year not long ago.

Madrid govt to defy court order: Spain's embattled Socialist government said it would defy a court order to hand over military intelligence files on a 1980s dirty war waged by security forces against Basque ETA guerrillas. Reuter reports from Madrid.

The government believes the request violates the current official secret law and other relevant laws, said an official statement on Sunday.

3 jailed for bribery in China: Three former factory managers have been sentenced to between two years and 15 years' imprisonment for accepting bribes amounting to 174,800 yuan (21,060 dollars), a newspaper reported yesterday. AFP reports from Shanghai.

The Liberation Daily reported that XU Daomin, the former manager of Shanghai Baibao Beverage Factory, accepted 82,500 yuan from a factory in neighbouring Zhejiang province to facilitate a joint venture negotiation.

Mrs. Gore's motorcade stoned: Demonstrators stoned Tipper Gore's motorcade on Sunday as it arrived at a health centre in a Haitian slum but US officials said her vehicle, was not hit. Reuter reports from Port au Prince.

Eyewitnesses said demonstrators stoned the motorcade of US Embassy vehicles breaking the windows of at least two, a US military officer's head was cut open and began bleeding, according to a Reuters photographer on the scene.

NASA cancels launch of Columbia: After waiting nearly three hours for thick clouds to clear, NASA on Sunday cancelled its sixth attempt to launch the Shuttle Columbia because of bad weather. Reuter reports from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

The countdown clock was halted at five minutes before liftoff when it became evident that the skies would not clear prior to the 1:35 pm edt (1735 GMT) end of the launch window.

5 UK students killed in S Africa: Five British medical students working in South African were killed when their car collided with an articulated truck in southern Swaziland, the Times of Swaziland reported Sunday. AFP reports from Mbabane.

The four women and one man who worked at a hospital in New Bethesda in South Africa's eastern Cape province were returning Friday from a visit to Swaziland when the accident happened, the newspaper said.

China opens longest city tunnel: China's longest city tunnel was opened to traffic yesterday in Nanjing of east China's Jiangsu province. Xinhua reports from Nanjing.

The Gulou Tunnel, built under the Gulou Square of the city, has a total length of 1,152m, including 402m-long approach ways at both ends of tunnel.

Storm 'Ted' leaves 7 dead in China: Tropical storm Ted has left seven people dead in southern China's Guangdong province, reports said yesterday. AFP reports from Hong Kong.

More than 380,000 people were affected by torrential rain and floodings brought by the storm, which swept across 35 towns around Maoming in the south of the province last week, newspapers said.

Science confce opens in Beijing: The '95 International Conference of Public Understanding on Science opened in Beijing yesterday. Xinhua reports from Beijing.

Some 100 delegates from 17 countries, including the United States, Britain, Japan and Canada, attended the opening ceremony. More than 100 papers have been submitted to the conference, sponsored by the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST).

6 babies burnt to death in Hanoi: Six babies were killed and two others injured in a kindergarten fire in Kim Mon district, northern Haihung province in Vietnam, as the babysitter who was supposed to look after them was absent, a news report said yesterday. AFP reports from Hanoi.

Russian jets bomb Chechen villages, 17 killed

MOSCOW, Oct 16: Russian warplanes have bombed villages in southeastern Chechnya killing 17 people, in what Chechen separatists said Sunday was a show of "cruelty" by the new Russian military commander, a week after a bomb attack which maimed his predecessor, reports AFP.

Chechen independence fighters quoted Sunday by Moscow echo radio station said the raids carried out on Saturday against the villages of Dargo and Belgatol had also left at least 23 people wounded.

Movladi Udugov, spokesman for the self-proclaimed Chechen independent government, said eight warplanes and six Mi-24 helicopter gunships took part in the sequences of three raids on the villages which lie in an area which Russian troops have so far failed to conquer

Students storm S Korea's ruling party office

SEOUL, Oct 16: Dozens of students stormed the building of South Korea's ruling party today, demanding the government prosecute two former presidents for the bloody crushing of a 1980 uprising, witnesses said, reports Reuter.

"We think there are about 20 students. They have occupied all the sixth floor," said a spokesman at the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP).

He said riot police were standing by to break in.

About 100 students also rallied outside the DLP office denouncing a decision by prosecutors in July that ex-presidents Chun Doo-Hwan and Roh Tae-Woo would not be indicted over the brutal crackdown, witnesses said.

About 200 people were killed in the 1980 uprising against military rule in the southern city of Kwangju by official counts.

"Down with the government," students chanted as they struggled with riot police.

Anti-N protest outside French submarine base

LE FRET, France, Oct 16: About 10,000 protesters gathered outside France's main submarine base on Saturday in one of the country's biggest anti-nuclear demonstrations, reports Reuter.

Protesters from environmental left wing and pacifist groups chanted "stop the tests, stop nuclear weapons and Chirac, Juppe you are murderers and we are all Polynesians."

France's controversial nuclear weapons tests in the South Pacific are largely aimed at testing warheads for new missiles to equip the submarine fleet.

The protest took place in Brittany outside the Ile Longue submarine base, headquarters of France's submarine fleet which is the backbone of the country's nuclear deterrent.

Saddam gets cent per cent votes

BAGHDAD, Oct 16: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein received 100 per cent support on Sunday in a referendum to give him seven more years in power, Izzat Ibrahim, the official in charge of supervising the ballot said, reports AFP.

Ibrahim, vice-chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council told state television, one of a my-assistants didn't want me to announce these figures, but I must do it, because it is a fact."

But a short time later he gave a few results in Baghdad constituencies showing a handful of votes had been cast against Saddam.

Algerian forces kill 60 militants

PARIS, Oct 16: Algerian security forces have shot dead 60 Muslim guerrillas over the last week in an operation in seventeen villages and towns, the Algerian official news agency APS said on Sunday quoting an official statement, reports Reuter.

Nine among the 60 rebels killed between Monday and Sunday were killed in the capital Algiers said the statement.

The others were killed in separate operations.

The statement made no mention of a huge 12 day military operation reported on Saturday to have been launched in the eastern region of Kijel.

Brother-in-law of Benazir held

KARACHI, Oct 16: Police here arrested Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's brother-in-law, Nasir Hussain on a charge of murder, officials said Sunday, reports AFP.

Hussain, husband of the Prime Minister younger sister Sanam Bhutto, was taken into custody at the Karachi airport before he could board a Dubai bound flight, they said.

Officials said he was detained on suspicion of involvement in the murder of Ahmed Ali Somro, a former adviser to the chief minister of southern Pakistan's Sindh Province of which Karachi is the capital.

Somro, 40 was gunned down by masked men outside his house in the city's posh defence society area late Saturday.

Police said a case had been registered against Hussain on a complaint lodged by members of Somro's family.

Karachi violence leaves 12 dead in 24 hours

KARACHI, Oct 16: At least 12 people were killed in the latest bout of unrest in Pakistan's commercial capital, police and hospital officials said today, reports AFP.

Among the dozen killed over the previous 24 hours was deputy police superintendent Bashir Ahmad Khan, gunned down at his home late Sunday.

Police said unidentified gunmen entered the house in the city's central district and sprayed bullets at the officer and his family. The dead man's 20-year-old son was critically injured.

The violence resumed today as militants targeted police officials and paramilitary rangers and fired at least two rocket propelled grenades (RPGs) at the rangers' headquarters in the city centre.

A captain and two others were wounded, police said.

The other dead included two policemen killed late Sunday, whose bullet ridden bodies were later retrieved by colleagues. A fourth police officer was shot dead in a separate incident Sunday.

City residents reported gunshots throughout the night in several parts of the city, with sniper-fire in the central and western districts claiming the lives of a fifth policeman and seven civilians.

Security forces stepped up patrols today, setting up new checkpoints in the city.

The violence followed the deaths of five members of a senior police official's family shot dead Saturday.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) of

former prime minister Nawaz Sharif called for a "black day" to be observed on Thursday in protest at the performance of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government.

More than 150 policemen have been killed here this year. Officials have expressed concern over the trend in which the families of law enforcers are being targeted.

They blame the city's powerful Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) opposition grouping for the latest attacks, saying they were in retaliation for police operations against militants.

The MQM represents Urdu-speaking Mohajir migrants, a community which came from India after the sub-continent's partition in 1947 and largely settled around Karachi.



US First Lady Hillary Clinton (R) receives Sunday a rose from a child who lives in the streets during her visit to "Projeto Axe," an organisation that attempts to assist and rehabilitate such children, in Salvador, Brazil. Hillary Clinton is on scheduled to attend a meeting of first ladies from the Iberoamerican Summit Monday in Asuncion. The man at left is unidentified.

Row over US bases in Okinawa tops Murayama's action agenda

TOKYO, Oct 16: Japanese Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama today put the mounting row over US military bases in Okinawa at the top of his action agenda, but had no immediate answer to anger over last month's rape of a schoolgirl, reports AFP.

"We want to tackle the issue as the most urgent task facing this cabinet," Murayama told Members of Parliament MP ahead of a huge anti-US rally to be held in the Southern Island on Saturday.

Murayama told the Upper House Budget Committee he understood the "anger, sadness and fear" of residents

over the rape of the 12-year-old girl, allegedly by three US servicemen. The prime minister said it was an "act beyond description."

Murayama faces increasing pressure to take a tough stance over US military bases in Japan when he meets President Bill Clinton next month. But the government is also desperate to preserve the US-Japan military accord that is the cornerstone of its defence policy.

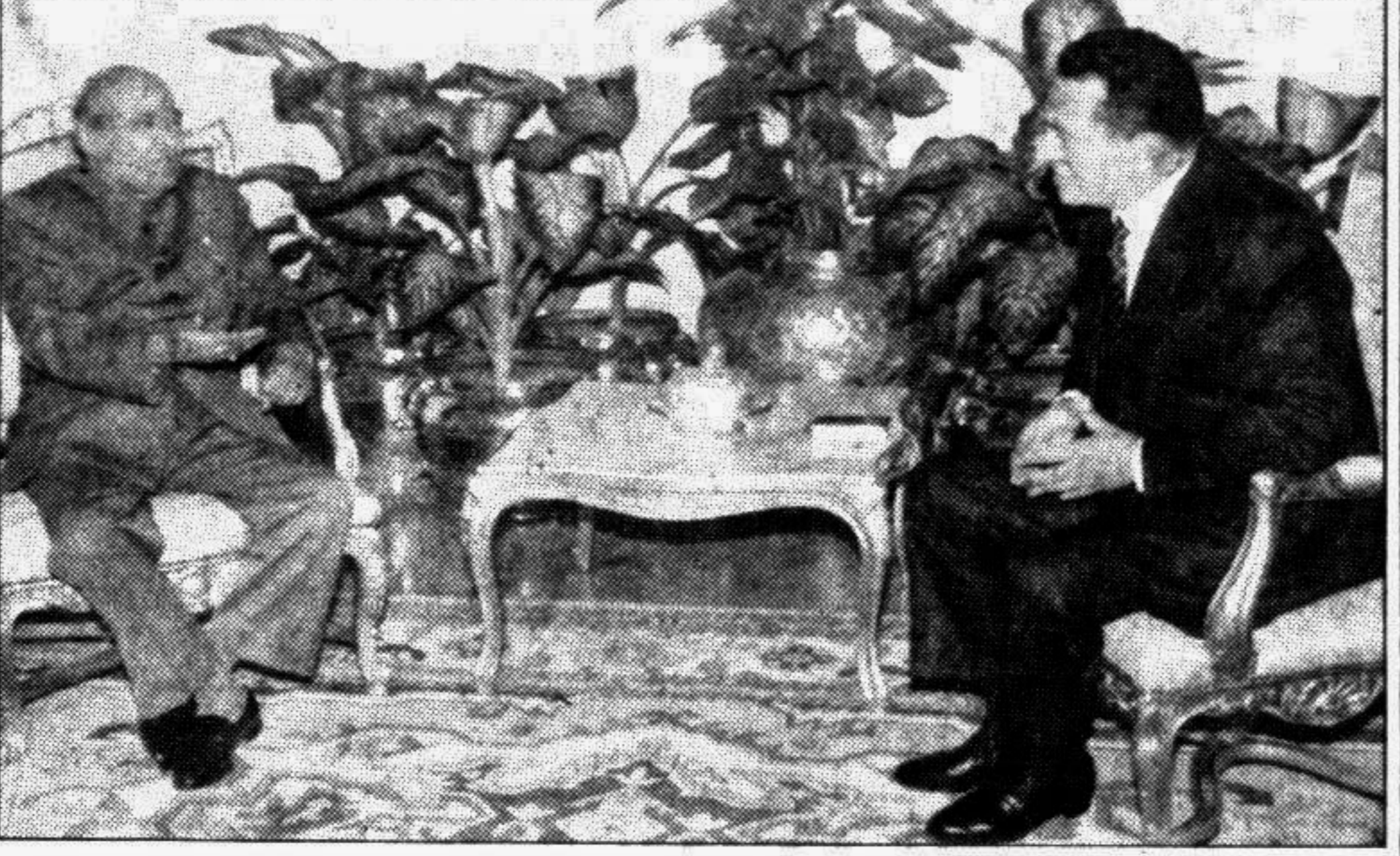
"The situation is becoming unbearable for Okinawan people", said one opposition lawmaker who demanded results from the meeting with Clinton.

Murayama said he would negotiate with the US government with respect for the sentiment of Okinawans and the position of its governor, Masahide Ota.

But he announced no specific measures from talks with Washington to review criminal jurisdiction for US soldiers who have committed crimes in Japan.

His administration is also struggling to persuade Ota to end his refusal to force Okinawa landowners to renew leases for US military bases.

Murayama told reporters he hoped to settle the land issue before meeting Clinton.



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (R) starts official talks with Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao Sunday, during which they discussed bilateral relations between their two countries as well as the recent developments in the Middle East. Prime Minister Rao is in a 24-hour official visit to Cairo.

Bhutto family feud takes a new twist

KARACHI, Oct 16: A feud within Benazir Bhutto's family took a new twist today as the brother of the Pakistani prime minister suggested the arrest of a family member on a murder charge was politically motivated, reports AFP.

Nasir Hussain estranged husband of the prime minister's younger sister, Sanam Bhutto, was taken into custody at Karachi Airport Sunday as he went to board a Dubai-bound flight, police said.

Senior officers said Hussain was arrested because he had been named a key suspect in the murder of Ahmad Ali Somro, 40, a former adviser to a previous chief minister of Sindh province and one-time activist in Benazir's Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

Somro was gunned down by masked men outside his house in Karachi's posh Defence Society area late Saturday. Police officials said the dead man's relatives had filed

the case against Hussain.

In an interview with AFP today, Benazir's estranged brother, Murtaza Bhutto, alleged that the arrest was linked to a running feud within the family, in which Hussain had sided against the prime minister.

"Nasir had to be taught a lesson because he was becoming too prominent," said Murtaza Bhutto, 41, who has formed his own breakaway faction from the PPP.

"Nasir was targeted because we held the central committee meeting at his home where was decided to contest upcoming by-elections," he continued.

The prime minister's brother said, however, he hoped Hussain would be released soon.

claiming that he and Hussain were in a meeting with another politician at the time of Somro's killing.

Hussain, who is in his early 40's was prevented from leaving for London on a trip to see his children, who are living in Britain with their mother, family members said.

The couple married in 1981 but have been effectively separated for two years.

The split within the family goes back over two years. In elections in October 1993 Murtaza's group fielded candidates against those from his sister's party, Hussain campaigned for Murtaza in the latter's absence.

Murtaza returned to Pakistan in November that year after 16 years' exile in Afghanistan and Syria and was jailed on arrival on charges of terrorism, although later bailed. He has since publicly criticised his sister's role in politics.

Delhi denies charge of backing Rabbani

NEW DELHI, Oct 16: Indian officials denied today charges by Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto that New Delhi was fuelling Afghanistan's bloody war but admitted Indian planes had carried food and medicine supplies there.

Indian officials told Reuters that Benazir's claim that Indians planes were landing regularly at Kabul's Bagram Airbase was exaggerated.

Islamic Taliban fighters advanced to the gates of Kabul last week in a major offensive against Afghan government forces. Both sides traded artillery fire near Kabul on Sunday, but the battle for the capital seemed temporarily deadlocked, witnesses said.

"We do, sometimes, send medicines and food supplies,

but there is certainly no intention of providing military hardware," a senior Indian official said.

Televised excerpts of Benazir's address to Pakistani editors on Saturday, monitored in New Delhi by Reuters on Sunday night, showed her accusing the government of Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani of having lost its legitimacy.

"It only has a nuisance value," she said, adding that Kabul controlled just five of Afghanistan's 32 provinces which it would lose despite India's alleged involvement.

"India is helping the Kabul administration in its bid to flare up the conflict. For this purpose, India has a regular aerial contact from New Delhi to Kabul's Bagram Airbase," Benazir charged.

Off the Record

Gen Powell distant cousin of Queen Elizabeth & Di!

LONDON: Retired US General Colin Powell is a direct descendant of the warrior King Edward I of England and a distant cousin of both Queen Elizabeth and Princess Diana, a British genealogical authority said on Monday, reports Reuter.

Powell, the son of Jamaican immigrants, rose from a New York city ghetto to become the first black to serve as the United States' top military officer and is now considering whether to run for the White House.

Harold Brooks-Baker, publishing director of Burke's Peerage, a recognised authority on the family trees of British royalty and nobility, said that in addition to royal ties Powell can claim kinship with US presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and George Bush.

"If the general is nominated for the presidency, but not elected, he will become the only candidate in 200 years with these connections not to have gained the White House," Brooks-Baker said in a news release.

He said research showed Powell, who comes from six generations of Jamaicans, to be a direct descendant of the Coote family, a distinguished line of Irish military baronets.

While he was governor of Jamaica, General Sir Eyre Coote (1762-1824) had a child by his black slave girl, Sally.

The child, born around 1807, was Powell's great great great grandmother, according to Burke's Peerage.

Through Sir Eyre, who was eventually dismissed from the army in 1815 for sexual impropriety, Powell is related to most of the great ancient families of Britain, including the royal family, and to many noble and royal families throughout Europe.

"Distant cousins of General Powell include Queen Elizabeth II, the Princess of Wales and the Queen Mother, and all British Dukes, with the exception of the Duke of Westminster," Brooks-Baker said.

In a telephone interview, he said European royal families had so much mixed blood they were "a walking United Nations".

But he said it was very unusual to be able to prove a royal link as conclusively as in the case of General Powell.

Decision should be mothers'

BANGKOK: The Thai Communicable Disease Control Department has proposed an amendment to the Criminal Code to allow AIDS-infected women to abort their pregnancy, reports Xinhua.

AIDS-infected mothers in Thailand give birth to 17,000 babies annually and the number continues to grow, said Vichai Chokeviat, deputy director general of the department.

One-third of the babies, or about 6,000 are infected with AIDS and live no longer than three years.

Moreover, most of the surviving babies are deserted by their parents.

Mothers should be allowed to decide whether to keep infected babies or not, Vichai said.

He proposed that an article of the Criminal Code be amended to allow abortion in cases where mothers are proved to be about to give birth to babies who would be disabled or carry a harmful disease.

Travel through time possible!!

LONDON: Physicist Stephen Hawking, who once doubted man could ever travel through time, now concedes time travel is a possibility, the Sunday Times reported, reports AP.

The newspaper said Hawking's forward to a new book, "The Physics of Star Trek" by Lawrence Krauss, indicates he has reconsidered.

"One of the consequences of rapid interstellar travel would be that one could also travel backward in time," Hawking is quoted as saying.

"If you combine Einstein's general theory of relativity with quantum theory, it does begin to seem a possibility," he was quoted as saying Saturday.

Hawking had dismissed the idea of time travel, the newspaper said, because it would allow people to alter their own pasts and, "the best evidence that time travel will never be possible is that we have not been invaded by hordes of tourists from the future."

Hawking, Lucasian professor of mathematics at Cambridge University, is the author of the international best-seller "A Short History of Time."

Turkish President postpones US trip Demirel takes centre stage in search for stopgap govt

ANKARA, Oct 16: President Suleyman Demirel took centre stage today in the search for a stopgap government to take Turkey to early general elections, reports Reuter.

He was expected to call party leaders to the presidential palace for take on filling a power vacuum first created when Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's coalition government collapsed in mid September.

Ciller then cobbled together a right wing minority government but it lost a parliamentary vote of confidence on Sunday and early polls ahead of the scheduled date next October looked certain.

Members of parliament voted 230 to 191 against Ciller. Turkey's first woman prime minister with 13 of the 177 deputies of her True

Path Party (DYP) deserting her.

A key left wing party undecided until the last minute voted no when she refused to make further concessions to 350,000 public workers who went on strike on September 20 to demand higher pay.

Ciller finally conceded that early elections should be held. "We find it appropriate to bring elections on to Turkey's agenda on December 24 as the earliest possible date, she told reporters after a meeting of her True Path Party.

Ciller had steadfastly refused to go to the polls saying they would disrupt plans for a customs union with the European Union and Caspian oil pipeline across Turkey as well as jeopardising an economic austerity plan begun in 1994.