

BRIEFLY



A Bosnian refugee from Srebrenica carrying a blindfold to hide his identity gestures during a press conference in Bonn Friday, reporting his escape from the Bosnian Muslim enclave after it was captured by Bosnian Serb troops in July '95. Survivors from Srebrenica on their press conference accused troops of the Dutch UN contingent "DutchBat" of not having protected the civilian population of the Muslim enclave and withdrawn too early from the advancing Bosnian Serb forces. — AFP/UNB photo

Attack on Haitian official's home: A gunman in a pickup truck opened fire Friday on the home of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's Chief of Staff, Leslie Voltaire, witnesses said, AFP reports from Port-au Prince. Voltaire was not at home at the time of the attack, but a housekeeper was seriously wounded in the leg and was in hospital late Friday.

Woman to die for bribery in China: The deputy general manager of an engineering company in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen has been sentenced to death for pocketing nearly 700,000 dollars in bribes, reports said yesterday, AFP reports from Beijing. Ceng Lihua, 40, was convicted by the Guangzhou Intermediate Court of abusing her post at the Shenzhen Engineering Co. and accepting a host of bribes between April and December, 1992.

Floods kill 40 in Turkey: Floods have killed at least 40 people, including many children, in the western port town of Izmir after five hours of heavy rain. Izmir Governor Kutlu Aktas said yesterday, Reuter reports from Ankara.

Aktas told Turkish television most of the dead were children carried away by floodwater and people electrocuted because of power faults. Others died when the minarets of two mosques in Karsiyaka district collapsed, he said.

NATO naval exercise begins: Partnership for peace naval manoeuvres involving three NATO countries and Romania have begun in the Aegean Sea and will continue until November 10, the Greek Navy Headquarters said Friday, AFP says from Athens. Dubbed "yoklos 95," the week-long exercise that began Thursday involves nine ships from the Greek, Italian, US and Romanian Navies six of them — two frigates, two missile launching patrol boats, a submarine and a supply boat from Greece.

Fire claims 4 in Bangkok: Four workmen were killed during a fire at a Central Bangkok department store, police said yesterday, Reuter reports from Bangkok. Police said they were still investigating the cause of the fire late on Friday.

Iraq invites Israeli Arab poets: Iraq has invited a number of Israeli Arab poets to participate in a poetry festival in Baghdad from November 24 to December 1, Reuter reports from Jerusalem. Kol Al-Arab newspaper, an Israeli Arabic weekly based in Nazareth, on Friday published a copy of an invitation sent by the Iraqi Minister of Culture and Information to its chief editor, poet Samih al-Qassem.

9 cops drown in Delhi barrage: Nine policemen drowned overnight when their boat capsized midstream in Okhla barrage in New Delhi, newspapers reported yesterday, AFP reports from New Delhi. The incident occurred as 21 members of the provincial armed constabulary were making a trial run in a fibre-glass boat when it overturned, police said. Twelve police swam to safety.

6 guerillas killed in Philippines: Six communist guerillas were killed in two separate clashes with government troops, reports issued at the Regional Military Headquarters in Zamboanga city said yesterday, AFP reports from Zamboanga, Philippines. Five guerillas of the communist New People's Army (NPA) were killed and another was captured when troops attacked a communist plenum being held in the town of San Fernando in nearby Bukidnon province on Friday. Two rifles and hundreds of rounds of ammunition were also captured although several NPA members managed to escape.

US to conduct tests involving N-material

WASHINGTON, Nov 4: The United States will conduct several experiments in Nevada involving nuclear material but not a nuclear chain reaction or explosion, the Department of Energy said Friday, reports AFP. Two experiments are scheduled in June and September 1996 at the Nevada test site and should be followed by others soon after the department said. The new experiments have been specially designed not to reach nuclear criticality that is there will be no nuclear chain reaction.

Balkan leaders take time for recreation to clear heads

DAYTON, Ohio, Nov 4: Balkan leaders, sequestered at a US air force base in the American heartland, on today were to discuss the core of a peace plan but took time to clear heads from the arduous talks by shopping and dining, reports Reuter. On the third day of the talks at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, leaders of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia "focused on the core documents that we hope will ... turn into a comprehensive peace agreement among the parties in a week or two or three," US State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters in Washington on Friday.

Documents on refugees, human rights and police and other functions in the future Bosnia would be presented by mediators later on Friday or on Saturday, he said. Burns described the peace proposals made by US, Russian and European Union mediators on Thursday as the core work of the talks. A Western source close to talks said Friday was marked by "tedious discussions." "Everything and nothing is happening" he said when asked about the events at the base on Friday. While the talking would continue, negotiators would

have a chance for recreation on the sprawling base, including moves, bowling and swimming. A soccer match was planned, Burns said. On Friday the leaders attended dinner at the air force museum nearby. Earlier in the day, Milosevic, flanked by heavy security, also found time to buy two pairs of American shoes at a shopping mall in nearby Fairborne. The talks were still overshadowed by the issue of justice for those accused of war crimes. The Bosnian government is pushing to have Bosnian

Serb President Radovan Karadzic and military commander General Ratko Mladic turned over to the international tribunal in The Hague and barred from taking part in post-war elections. None of them are at the summit after being indicted war criminals by the tribunal. Burns said Tribunal President Antonio Cassese had asked the United States to ensure that the war crimes issue was raised at the summit, but did not request that a promise by the rival factions in hand over indicated suspects on their territory be made part of any agreement.

Complicating matters further, Bosnian Serb authorities said they were holding US journalist David Rohde who has been missing for nearly a week. "David Rohde of the Christian Science Monitor was detained in Zvornik for illegal border crossing and staying on the territory of the (Bosnian Serb self-styled) republic of Srpska and for falsifying documents," the Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA reported. The report quoted the press centre in Pale of the separatist Serbs' self-proclaimed republic. It said the Bosnian Serb authorities had

submitted charges against Rohde "to the competent court" but gave no further details. Zvornik is about 80 miles (129 km) northeast of Sarajevo and Pale, near Bosnia's border with Serbia. Rohde headed on Sunday across the lines in his car, apparently to follow up stories he had written earlier this year about alleged Serb atrocities committed when the eastern enclave of Srebrenica was overrun in July. Some 5,000 people were reported killed in Srebrenica in the worst single atrocity in Europe since World War II.

Probe into Kim's corruption demanded
SEOUL, Nov 4: More than 10,000 South Korean demonstrators demanding a corruption probe into President Kim Young-Sam over a slush fund scandal clashed with riot police in Seoul today, reports Reuter. Students and citizens, some armed with iron bars and bricks, fought running battles around a park in central Seoul. They demanded the arrest of ex-president Roh Tae-Woo, who has admitted to raising a 654 million dollar slush fund, and a probe into whether Kim has corrupt links to the money

**Tigers blow up oil tanker in E Lanka
Delhi urged to hold talks with Colombo to stop killings**

MADRAS, India, Nov 4: The Chief Minister of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu on Friday urged the Indian government to hold talks immediately with Colombo to stop the killing of Tamil civilians in Sri Lanka's Jaffna Peninsula, reports Reuter. "The Tamil Nadu government cannot accept the killing of innocent Tamils," Chief Minister J Jayalalitha told the state legislative assembly. "New Delhi should hold talks with the Sri Lankan government on this question at the earliest." The state is home to 50 million Tamils who have close cultural, ethnic and linguistic links with Sri Lankan Tamils. Nearly half a million Sri

Lankan Tamil refugees have been displaced by battles raging between rebel and Sri Lankan forces in Jaffna, diplomats say. Sri Lanka's top government administrator in Jaffna has said 42 people were killed when the air force bombed refugees in Chavakachheri, Nunavil, Mainpala and Annalacoddai, near Jaffna on Sunday. Jayalalitha said she would write to the Indian government seeking an Indian initiative to protect the lives and property of Tamils on the peninsula. She was responding to comments in the assembly by the opposition Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) Party expressing its anguish over the violence.

The Indian government has made no official comment on the war in Sri Lanka or on demands from Tamil Nadu political parties for Indian intervention. Former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who sent 50,000 Indian troops to Sri Lanka in 1987 to quell a Tamil Tiger insurgency, was assassinated in 1991 by a suicide bomber believed to be from the organisation. AFP from Colombo says, Tamil guerillas today blew up an oil tanker in Sri Lanka's east but there were no casualties as the blast failed to set off three other tankers and a fuel storage depot nearby, police said. The rebel attack came as the United Nations appealed for urgent relief for hundreds of thousands of civilians flee-

ing fighting in the island's north. Guerillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) set off the explosion before dawn at the railway station in the eastern town of Batticaloa. Analysts said the rebel move indicated that the Tigers were hoping to cut their losses as thousands of troops were consolidating in newly-captured areas, and were only 4.5 kilometres (three miles) from the LTTE-held Jaffna town. The Tiger move came as UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali appealed for massive assistance for up to 400,000 people fleeing bitter fighting between the LTTE and advancing troops in Jaffna.

US won't lift ban on Cuba

WASHINGTON, Nov 4: The White House voiced regret Friday at the UN General Assembly's vote urging an end to the US embargo on Cuba, but insisted that even if alone in the policy, the United States was leading the world, reports AFP. "It's the right policy," White House spokesman Michael McCurry said. "The United States doesn't feel isolated from anything in the world, because we lead it." For the fourth year running, the UN General Assembly voted late Thursday to approve a resolution citing the need for lifting the economic, trade and financial embargo the United States has had on Cuba since 1962. The vote was approved by 117 countries with 38 abstaining. Only three voted against — the United States, Israel and Uzbekistan.

25 opponents of Tajik president killed in clash

DUSHANBE, Nov 4: Twenty five Muslim opponents of Tajik President Emomali Rakhmonov have been killed in a clash with Russian guards at the Tajik-Afghan border, the Tajik Foreign Ministry said Friday, reports AFP. The group was spotted by the border guards Thursday when it crossed the Pyandzh river — which marks the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan — in the central Kalaykhum region, said ministry spokesman Zafar Saydov. The 25 Islamic fighters were "eliminated" after two hours of fighting he said adding that no Russian guards died in the incident. Another Islamic fighter was killed and a second man wounded, also Thursday when they tried to cross the border illegally in the eastern Khorog region.

Okinawa governor rejects renewal of leases to US

TOKYO, Nov 4: Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota today rejected Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's request to sign documents that would force unwilling landowners to renew leases with US forces, news agencies said, reports AFP. "I maintain my stance of refusing to sign," Ota told reporters as he emerged from four-hour talks with Murayama. Ota was in Tokyo for talks with the premier aimed at ending the impasses over the US base leases row. The landowners' refusal to renew the leases follows the alleged rape of a 12-year-old girl by three US servicemen in Okinawa in September which provoked outrage among the local population and fuelled demands for cut-backs in the US bases.



Police arrest a demonstrator who displayed placards in front of the Parliament building protesting against the leader of the Government, Edward Shevarnadze Friday. The protesters were asking for a boycott of the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections today. For the first time since their independence in 1991 Georgians will go to the polls. The actual leader, Shevarnadze, is running as favourite in the presidential elections. — AFP/UNB

Indian cabinet fails to decide on early polls in Kashmir

NEW DELHI, Nov 4: The union cabinet today failed to take a decision on the holding of early elections in Jammu and Kashmir, reports PTI. Emerging from an hour-long meeting, the Cabinet Secretary, Surendra Singh, told the waiting newsmen "no decision." Sources said a decision might now be taken after the Prime Minister, P V Narasimha Rao, returns from his foreign tour on November 10, cutting short his visit by three days. A decision on the political package including the autonomy issue has also been deferred, the sources said.

An earlier AFP report says, the Indian government was determined to hold elections in strife-torn Kashmir by mid-December and was expected to make a formal cabinet decision later today, Home Secretary K Padmanabhaiah has said. He made his comments in an interview with the Times of India published today. The three election commissioners, who constitute the poll watchdog, will visit the troubled state "soon" to make a "first hand assessment of the situation" and to work on the logistics of carrying out the poll. "The Prime Minister P V

Narasimha Rao has cut short his 11-day foreign tour by three days to deal with the matter," the paper said. The Jammu and Kashmir administration has cancelled all official leave for civil servants, the newspaper added. Rao's Congress (I) Party wants to hold elections in Kashmir by December despite a threat by Muslim militants to boycott the polls. The rebels are fighting for self-determination. The National Conference Party of Kashmir has set out conditions for taking part in the poll which include demands for greater autonomy for the state.



Thick smoke rises Friday from a state munitions plant in Rio Tercero, Argentina, 700kms (420 miles) northwest of Buenos Aires. Authorities report three people dead and 200 injured. Argentine Defence Minister Oscar Camilion denied that sabotage caused the early morning explosion. — AFP/UNB photo

EC calls for educating Europeans about Islam

CAIRO, Nov 4: The President of the European Commission (EC), Jacques Santer, called for a programme to educate Europeans about Islam to ease relations between the two cultures in an interview with an Arab daily published yesterday, according to AFP. "We need a wide ranging awareness-raising programme in Europe to acquaint Europeans with the truth about Islam as one of the world's three monotheistic religions," Santer told the London-based Al-Hayat, received in Cairo. The programme should show the difference between Islam and "the extremist phenomenon of fundamentalism which exploits Islam to achieve its political ends," Santer said. The EU president said "civil society" in the Arab world and Europe should take responsibility for educating their peoples about

the other's culture. Egypt's news agency MENA reported Wednesday that Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa would attend a two-day conference on "Europe and the Arab world" to be held in Bonn starting November 15. Foreign ministers from Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Indonesia also plan to attend the conference organised by the EC. MENA said. Santer said he hoped the Barcelona conference set for late November on a Mediterranean partnership would find ways to "increase the cultural exchange between average citizens" in European and Arab nations. "That of course means treating matters such as human rights, democracy, security, economic modernization, and reducing the barriers to the exchange of goods, services and capital and the movement of people," he said.

Off the Record

Jessu's face in the star!
WASHINGTON: Calls from people convinced they saw the face of Jesus in photographs of stars taken by the hubble space telescope flooded CNN television switchboards Friday, reports AFP. Hubble photographs of stars being born in a 9.6 trillion-kilometre (six-trillion-mile) gas cloud in outer space were released by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Thursday. "All day long viewers have been calling," said a CNN reporter after a hubble picture was shown on the cable network. "Most often they have seen the face of Jesus." The upper section of the picture contained what appeared to be the shadowy face of a young man.

Story of a grateful man
LONDON: A Nepalese man, who is heir to an 18th century English castle and a 1.5-million-pound (two-million-dollar) fortune, is facing deportation from Britain, The Times reported Saturday, says AFP. Jay Khadka, 19, was taken to Britain from Nepal by Richard Morley, a millionaire businessman, to honour a pact with the boy's father, the paper said. Khadka's father Basu, a policeman, helped save Morley's life after the British businessman punctured a lung in a climbing accident in Nepal in 1984. Khadka senior trekked for three days through the mountains to find a telephone to seek help. The policeman refused to accept money for his services but asked Morley to care for his son should anything happen to him, The Times said. When Basu Khadka died in 1990, Morley returned to Nepal and found Jay living in a mountain village and working in a stone mine. He brought the then 15-year-old boy to England and brought him up as his son. But to enable him to get the boy out of Nepal, he had to tell the authorities there that Khadka was 18. This subterfuge is cause of Khadka's present difficulties, because the British Home Office has ruled that he was too old to be adopted and his current visitor's visa has expired. Morley has said that if Khadka is deported, he will leave Britain with him, according to The Times.

Computer games help cure elderly senility
JAKARTA: An Indonesian neurologist has said that computer games, the bane of parents world-wide, could help the elderly ward off senility, the Jakarta Post said Saturday, reports AFP. "Use it or lose it," said the head of the Indonesian Centre of Brain Studies, Sidiarto Kusumoputro. "Stimulation programmes for the elderly help to maintain the functions of the brain which are vital to survival." Speaking during discussions here on the brain and its functions organised by a local health magazine, Kusumoputro said that video games and other games usually favoured by children, could actually help provide necessary brain stimulation for the elderly.

Anti-communists plan to oust Hanoi govt
PHNOM PENH, Nov 4: At least one small group of anti communist ethnic Vietnamese has established itself here and is planning the overthrow of the Hanoi government, senior government sources said today, reports AFP. The sources confirmed in part of a report in the most recent issue of the fortnightly Phnom Penh Post newspaper which said several groups of well-armed, anti-communist Vietnamese were plotting to topple the communist government from their headquarters in Phnom Penh. The Post, citing diplomats and Cambodian officials, said the groups, led by former South Vietnamese government officials and Vietnamese-Americans and funded by ethnic Vietnamese and others in the US, had as many as 2,000 members and had established a network of "front" businesses" to disguise their activity. However, several government sources told the news agency that they were aware of only one group, known as "Free Vietnam" (Vietnam Tudu), and said it had only several hundred members and lacked any significant organisational structure or weapons. "They say they can recruit up to 20,000 men, but we have no evidence of that," a senior Interior Ministry official said. Meanwhile, the official said the Cambodian government has requested the US Embassy here to remove six Vietnamese-Americans thought to be the leaders of the Free Vietnam movement. A US Embassy official declined to comment on the existence of such a request.