

# China marks 47th founding anniversary

**BELJING, Oct 1:** The People's Republic of China today celebrated the 47th anniversary of its founding with its propaganda machine stirring up nationalist passion, reports Reuters.

Thousands of people thronged Tiananmen Square in central Beijing to attend a flag-raising ceremony at dawn. A band played the national anthem and a flag-bearing, bayonet-carrying honour guard marched out of Tiananmen — the gate of heavenly peace.

October 1 is among the most important holidays in the Chinese calendar, marking the anniversary of the day in 1949 when revolutionary leader Mao Zedong stood on the gate of heavenly peace overlooking the square and proclaimed the birth of the communist state.

"Patriotism and cooperation should be advocated," said a national day commentary in the official China Daily newspaper.

In recent months, nationalism has become the ruling communist Party's most effective ideological weapon, after almost two decades of market reforms have sapped revolutionary fervour to leave and

ideological vacuum.

"These are the moral stimulants that have helped our nation survive numerous natural and man-made disasters over the centuries," the commentary said.

Modern man-made disasters include the great leap forward campaign launched by Mao in 1958 in which 28 million people starved to death in a famine after farmers heeded Mao's call to abandon their fields and make steel in backyard furnaces, and the 1966-76 ultra-leftist Cultural Revolution.

Today, police formed human walls to maintain order in the square, where a portrait of Sun Yat-Sen, who overthrew China's last imperial dynasty in 1911, was set up.

The portrait was flanked by two huge traditional Chinese lanterns to mark the forthcoming return of the British colony of Hong Kong to Chinese rule in mid-1997.

Many onlookers had camped out overnight at the 40-hectare (100-acre) square, the world's largest public plaza, where the army brutally crushed student demonstrations for more democracy in June 1989.

In a front-page editorial, the People's Daily, mouthpiece of the Communist Party, said nationalism would make the people selfless and create a China able to stand on its own feet, strong, firm and indomitable, and able to surmount 10,000 difficulties to win victory.

AFP adds, a weak and divided China would be a major threat to regional and global stability.

A top Chinese academic argued today in an article that stressed the importance of a strong national military.

"If China were divided, poor, weak and unable to be self-sufficient, it would bring sufferings to the entire population and become an unstable factor in the world," said Hu Sheng, President of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Hu's remark were carried in the National Day issue of the influential bi-monthly magazine "Seeking Truth".

For China to constitute a positive force for stability in Asia and the world in the 21st century, Hu stressed that 1.2 billion people needed to enjoy a "relatively comfortable life" so as to avert any popular unrest.



An Israeli borderguard watches the Jerusalem Old City from Mount of Olives, on Monday. A Jerusalem tunnel and a long-delayed Israeli redeployment in the West Bank town of Hebron are the major issues overshadowing an Israeli-Arab summit due to be held in Washington this week.

# Attorney quits as CBI asks him not to oppose Rao's plea for bail

**NEW DELHI, Oct 1:** An Indian attorney has quit in protest after the government told him not to oppose the bail application of former premier P V Narasimha Rao in a 100,000-dollar fraud case, newspapers said today, reports AFP.

Gopal Subramaniam resigned in disgust on Monday after a written request was made by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), The Times of India said.

"Subramaniam refused to accept the CBI directive and reportedly informed the agency that the condition was not acceptable to him," The Times said. He told the newspaper it was a "sad" affair.

The Times and other newspapers said the request by CBI Director Joginder Singh quoted Law Minister Ramakant Khilap as saying Rao's plea for bail at a hearing on October 9 should not be objected to.

Subramaniam's resignation came soon after Rao, 75, got a temporary reprieve when the Supreme Court ruled he should

not appear in court because of security fears.

The former prime minister, named as co-accused in the case on September 21, was to appear before judge Ajit Bharihoke Monday to face charges of cheating and criminal conspiracy. Newspapers and lawyers had predicted he could be jailed the same day.

But hours before his scheduled appearance, the Supreme Court accepted a police petition that Rao could be the target of an assassination attempt at the crowded Tis Hazari court complex.

Judge Bharihoke later said he would hear the case October 9, two days after the Supreme Court rules whether the case should be heard at a safer venue.

Rao, prime minister from 1991 until May, has been accused by an Indian businessman of colluding with a Hindu mystic, Chandraswami, and defrauding him of 100,000 dollars in a business deal in 1983.

# Billionaire offers \$50m to help legal immigrants US Senate okays tough measures against illegal immigration

**WASHINGTON, Oct 1:** The US Senate on Monday passed a bill that contains tough measures against illegal immigration but that dilutes proposals on legal immigration passed by the House of Representatives last week, reports AFP.

Following negotiations with the White House, the Senate on Monday threw out several proposals. One sought to bar federal health care benefits to legal and illegal immigrants infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Another sought to expel legal immigrants who had obtained welfare for more than 12 months during their first seven years in the country.

Last week, an amendment to expel children of illegal immigrants from public schools was stricken from the proposal.

The Senate version, debated in Congress for two years and expected to be signed by President Clinton, calls for:

- Doubling within five years the number of border patrol guards to 10,000 and hiring 1,200 immigration service officials.

— Erecting a fence some 22.4 kilometers (14 miles) long at the US-Mexico border near San Diego, California.

— Speeding up the process of expelling illegal immigrants, immigrants who commit crimes, or immigrants with forged papers.

— Tightening conditions under which immigrants can claim refugee status, especially those without documentation.

— And creating a pilot programme to verify the status of immigrants seeking work in the United States.

The United States is home to some 10 million legal immigrants and an estimated four million illegal immigrants.

Another AP report says: Upset by what he calls a "mean-spirited" welfare overhaul that denies food stamps and other federal aid to legal immigrants, billionaire George Soros is offering \$50 million dollars to help lawful newcomers harmed by the law.

"There are real people out

there being hurt, that is what I am responding to," the Hungarian-born financier told a news conference as he announced his Emma Lazarus Fund. It is named for the poet whose words are inscribed on the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

The idea, he told reporters, is to provide direct assistance for services that help people qualify for citizenship — payment for English-language instruction, civic education, even the 95 dollars fee required for naturalisation. Citizenship, which takes a minimum of five years of residency, brings with it access to assistance denied to noncitizens under the Republican-drafted bill that President Clinton reluctantly signed into law in August.

"We want to spend the bulk of the money on the people themselves," he said, noting that the money will be available immediately and that community-based groups helping legal immigrants can apply for grants.

# Dostam willing to join Taliban to form govt Afghan violence sends tremors across Russia, Central Asia

**MOSCOW, Oct 1:** The violence in Afghanistan is sending tremors across Russia and the former Soviet Central Asian Republics, with officials worrying Monday the bloodshed might spread to engulf the volatile region, reports AP.

Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service said Monday it has made Afghanistan a priority issue.

Of particular concern to Russia is the Tajik-Afghan border, the site of frequent clashes between the fundamentalist Tajik rebels, their Afghan allies and the Kremlin-backed government.

Russia, fearing the spread of drugs, weapons and militant Muslim ideology toward its "underbelly," has about 25,000 troops stationed in Tajikistan to help guard the border against armed incursions.

AFP adds from United Nations: General Abdul Rashid Dostam, who heads a powerful Uzbek faction in northern Afghanistan, is reportedly willing to join the Taliban to form a government, UN sources said in New York Monday.

The sources claimed Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller apprised UN Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali of the news Dostam was prepared to cooperate with the Taliban, who recently consolidated their control of Afghanistan.

The Turkish mission to the United Nations declined to confirm or deny the claim.

Pakistani sources say the Taliban do not bear any grudge against Dostam.

Najibullah buried in his home town

**KABUL, Oct 1:** Afghanistan's last communist president, who was shot and hanged by the Taliban militia when they seized Kabul four days ago, was buried in his home town east of here Monday, sources said, reports AP.

Najibullah's mutilated body was handed over to the head of his Ahmedzai tribe in Kabul on Sunday and taken to his home town of Gardez in Pakhtia province, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) southeast of here, a relative and aid agency officials and family friends said.

India, Pakistan accuse each other of abducting officials

**NEW DELHI, Oct 1:** India and Pakistan on Monday traded charges of kidnapping embassy officials in each other's capital, reports AP.

In New Delhi, a foreign office statement accused Pakistan's intelligence agencies of abducting an Indian embassy official from outside his house in Islamabad, the Pakistani capital.

The ministry has conveyed its most serious concern at this unacceptable action of the Pakistani agencies," the statement said and demanded immediate release of the official.

There was no immediate reaction by the Pakistan government to New Delhi's claim.

In Islamabad, state-run Associated Press of Pakistan news agency said a Pakistani embassy official was abducted by Indian intelligence agencies in New Delhi and released after 16 hours.

On Monday, the Indian foreign ministry asked Pakistan to withdraw and embassy official in New Delhi accusing him of spying.

# Off the Record Battle for baby

**LONDON:** A 30-year-old woman said Monday she was going to the High Court to seek permission to conceive a child with the sperm of her husband, who died after falling into a coma from meningitis, reports AP.

The regulatory Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority has said it is unlawful for her to be inseminated artificially with sperm taken from her husband because she does not have his permission in writing.

The husband, 30, died in March 1995 after falling into a coma.

At his wife's request, doctors took samples of sperm while he was on a life support machine at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital in Sheffield, central England.

Her case is due to be heard in the High Court on Wednesday.

The woman, whose identity is being withheld to protect the anonymity of any future child, said she and her husband had been trying to have a child when he contracted bacterial meningitis.

"Really what it boils down to is that me and my husband had a life planned. We had decided exactly what we wanted," she told BBC-TV on Monday. "I know what his feelings were and I lost my husband, I lost part of that life."

"But I didn't lose the ability to have his child and that is still there. That is what I'm fighting for. I want the rest of my life back," she said.

**Bid to match a lesbian**

**PAINESVILLE, Ohio:** It's not a same sex wedding, yet. But a judge issued a marriage license Monday to a man who plans a sex change after he marries a lesbian, reports AP.

Since Ohio law specifies marriage as a partnership between a man and woman, Lake County Probate Judge Fred V. Skok asked for a doctor's note specifying that Paul Smith of Willoughby still has male sex organs.

Smith agreed to the request and got the license to marry Debi Easterday of Medina, said Smith's attorney Les Evan Rockmael.

Smith dresses in women's clothes, except for work, and expects to complete his sex change within three years. The two say they are lesbians.

The license issued to the couple is good for two months. Rockmael said the wedding date is October 12 but might change.

Smith, who began counseling five years ago over his feeling more like a woman, has applied in the same court to change his name to Denise.

Smith and Easterday are in their 30s and have children from previous marriages. Smith has boys ages 9 and 12 and Easterday has three adult sons and a 16-year-old daughter.

Two weeks ago, President Clinton signed a law denying federal recognition of same sex marriages.

# BRIEFLY

**DPRK, UNC to hold meeting:** North Korea and the United Nations Command (UNC) are to hold a meeting at the truce village of Panmunjom Wednesday, at the request of the North, a UN spokesman said in Seoul Tuesday, reports AP.

UNC spokesman Jim Coles said North Korea was expected to raise a demand for the return of a submarine that ran around in the South "because that's what they have been demanding since Thursday."

**Labour Party opens annual confce:** With an election no more than six months away, the Labour Party opened its annual conference on Monday buoyed by yet another opinion poll showing it ahead of the governing Conservatives, AP reports Blackpool, England.

Labour is preparing for government," Gordon Brown, the party's spokesman on taxation and spending, told delegates. But few in the party believe they are as far ahead as the polls say. The last election, which Labour won in the opinion polls and lost at the ballot box, proved how fickle opinion can be.

**Panchen Lama meets Li Peng:** The 6-year-old boy China's Communist leaders picked to lead Tibet's restive Buddhists wished unity for all ethnic groups on Monday, the eye of China's National Day, AP reports from Beijing.

The Panchen Lama visited Premier Li Peng on Monday at Zhongnanhai, the high-walled compound in Beijing that houses offices of senior officials, state run media reported. The boy, looking self assured and dressed in traditional burgundy robes, handed Li and other senior leaders white, ceremonial scarves, a traditional form of greeting for Tibetans.

**Fresh graves discovered in Liberia:** UN officials discovered dozens of fresh graves Monday in western Liberia, evidence that rebels may be violating a ceasefire signed last week, AP reports from Monrovia.

More than a dozen other cease-fires also have failed to halt the 7-year-old civil war, which has killed more than 150,000 people. Liberia's six warlords are still jockeying for power before they disarm their 60,000 combatants. Villagers in Sijne in western Grand Cape Mount County said between 25 and 42 people — mostly women and children — were slaughtered Saturday by unidentified men.

**ANC leader expelled:** A young populist leader expelled for misconduct from the governing African National Congress said Monday he would seek a court interdict against the appeal he had just lost, AP reports from Johannesburg.

Bantu Holomisa was expelled from the party last month for saying a top party official had been bribed to give resort magnate Sol Kerzner exclusive gambling rights in the former apartheid homeland of Transkei. He also said Kerzner may have bribed ANC officials to prevent prosecution on bribery charges.

# Voting in UP ends peacefully

**LUCKNOW, India, Oct 1:** Balloting got off to a brisk, peaceful start Monday as voters in India's largest state began choosing a new state assembly, reports AP.

The Uttar Pradesh elections were being watched closely across India because voter sentiment here is often seen as an indication of how the rest of the country feels. The state balloting was the first electoral test for the national governing coalition since it came to power in May.

Nearly 55 per cent of potential voters cast ballots in the first phase of the election that ended Monday evening, United News of India news agency said. It covered 30 per cent of voting districts in the state.

There have been no immediate reports of the election violence that has plagued Uttar Pradesh state in the past.

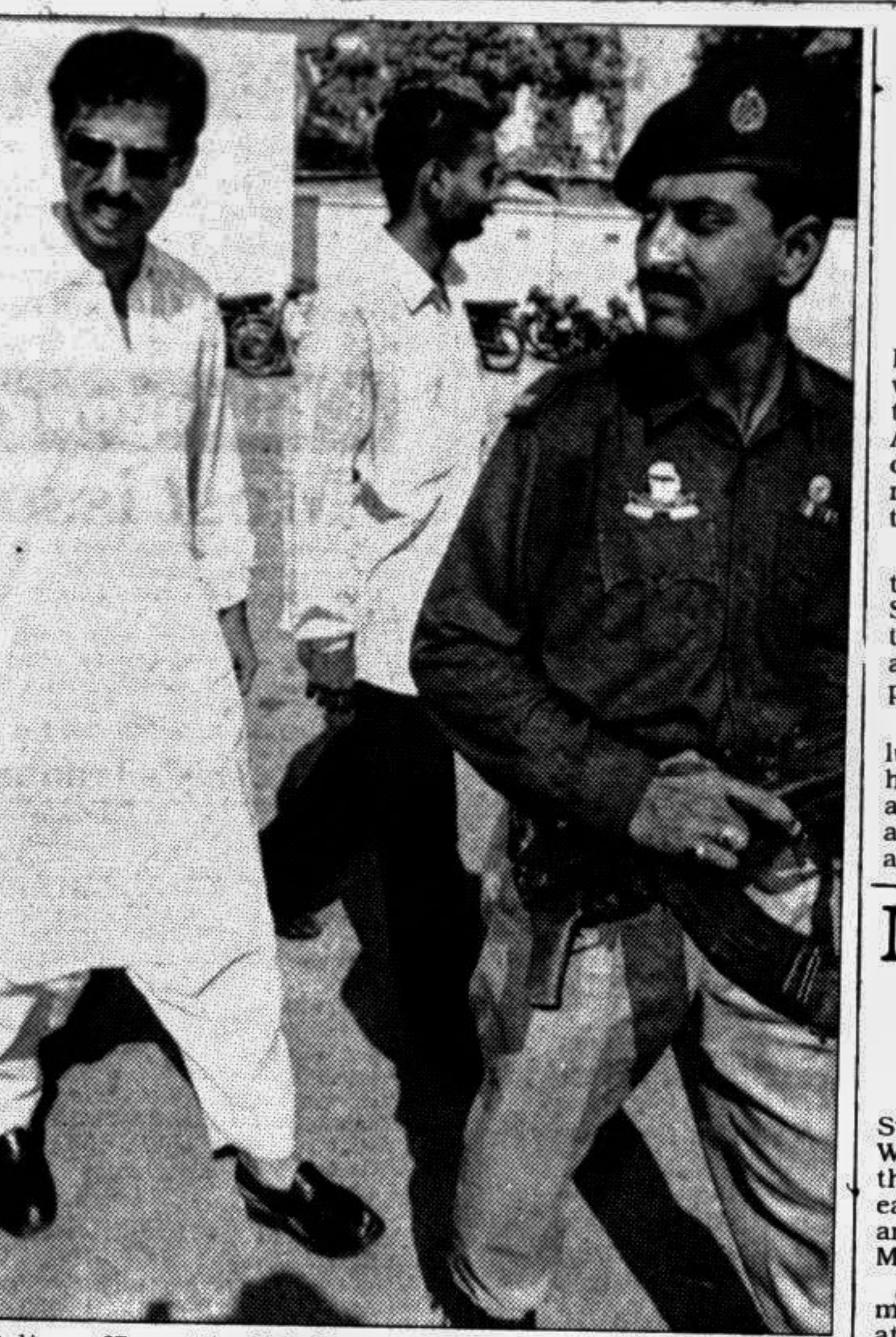
# N-disarmament plan presented to UNGA

**UNITED NATIONS, Oct 1:** Australia presented a nuclear disarmament plan to General Assembly that calls on states to immediately take their nuclear forces off alert, reports AP.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer presented the plan Monday to members of the 185-state General Assembly.

"A window of opportunity in arms control and disarmament is open to us," Downer told the General Assembly. "If we do not take it soon, it will close."

The plan proposes six immediate steps. It calls on states to take nuclear forces off alert, remove warheads from weapons, end the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons, cease nuclear testing and agree on a non-first use policy.



Police officer Shahid Hayat (L) leaves hospital after a medical board hearing on Monday to determine whether injuries he sustained during a shooting incident 10 days ago, in which Murtaza Bhutto and his six companions, died, were self-inflicted. The board ruled last week that another police officer's injuries that night were self-inflicted. That officer was shot and killed two days ago under unexplained circumstances. The board's findings for Hayat have been sealed by a court order.

# Benazir seeks int'l mediation over Kashmir dispute

**LONDON, Oct 1:** Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, warning that Kashmir was a potential flashpoint in South Asia and a threat to regional security, called for international mediation on the disputed territory, reports Reuters.

In a speech to the International Institute of Strategic Studies she said it was not a territorial problem, but part of an unfinished issue from the partition of India in 1947.

"I urge you to help find a solution to this problem which has brought untold suffering and which has so deeply and adversely affected the social and economic development of

both India and Pakistan," she told the think tank.

"We regard it as an unavoidable aspect of our own destiny that we do not accept the denial of the right of self-determination to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and its continued occupation by India," Benazir said.

When asked how her government would react to the new Taliban radical Islamic militia in Afghanistan which executed former President Najibullah last week, Benazir said she hoped to have a "positive exchange of views."

"It is our hope, our attempt, our endeavour to be a moderating influence in Afghanistan," she said.

# ME summit is doomed to fail, says Iran

**TEHRAN, Oct 1:** The United States and Israel will fail at the Washington summit to quell the new Palestinian uprising in east Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza, Iran's state radio said Monday, reports AFP.

"This summit is designed to make sure that the incumbent at the White House wins the presidential election and aims to adopt a strategy to repress the new Intifada," said Tehran Radio.

"If the summit goes ahead... it will be doomed to fail."

US President Bill Clinton, running for re-election in November, called the summit for early this week to rescue the Middle East peace process, sponsored by Washington, after

the deadly Israeli-Palestinian clashes of last week.

Newspapers in Iran's Gulf Arab neighbours made similar comments on Monday over the aims of the summit, called after the clashes sparked by Israel's opening of a new entrance to a Jerusalem tunnel near Muslim and Jewish holy sites.

"The goal of the summit, according to Clinton who is conducting his election campaign, is to save peace," the Saudi newspaper Al-Madina said. But it feared the summit was "simply designed to save the American presidential campaign."

The Qatari newspaper Al-Watan said the summit might be only an electoral card used by President Bill Clinton.

# Tigers escalate attacks on troops: 9 killed

**COLOMBO, Oct 1:** Tamil Tiger guerrillas escalated their hit-and-run attacks and killed nine security personnel in northern Sri Lanka after the fall of their final bastion, officials here said, reports AP.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ambushed three police buses in the northern peninsula of Jaffna Monday, killing four constables and wounding 37 others, the Defence Ministry said.

"One of the buses took the full impact of the Claymore mine attack," a ministry spokesman said.

He said the Tigers also carried out another ambush against an army patrol in the Jaffna Peninsula on Monday,

killing five troopers and wounding two civilians.

Security forces in the Jaffna Peninsula raided a suspected Tiger safe house and killed four rebels and recovered four automatic weapons, two radio sets and several maps from the victims, the Defence Ministry said.

The upsurge in violence came after the LTTE lost its final bastion of Kilinochchi, in the northern mainland, to government forces on Sunday.

The battle for Kilinochchi lasted just over a week and claimed the lives of 269 troopers and 760 guerrillas according to officials figures.

Tiger guerrillas are leading a protracted campaign for independence in the island's northern and eastern regions.

# Izetbegovic's quest for Bosnian Muslims' survival nearing victory

**SARAJEVO, Oct 1:** Bowed but unbroken by war, the man picked for Bosnia's top political office is finally nearing a major victory in his often-misunderstood fight for Muslim survival, reports AP.

President Alija Izetbegovic was elected on September 14 over a Bosnian Serb to chair his country's collective presidency. Now, fresh from a presidency meeting Monday in which even the radical Bosnian Serb member pledged his cooperation, he is preparing to reconcile with a man who can make or break Bosnia.

That man, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, bankrolled Bosnian Serb efforts to break up Bosnia, sparking 3 and a half years of war. Turned peacemaker under Western pressure, he is scheduled to meet Izetbegovic for

their first one-on-one meeting Thursday in Paris.

At that meeting, Milosevic seems set to recognise Bosnia, putting on ice Bosnian Serb dreams of splitting away and joining their territories with Serbia.

That will mark a victory in Izetbegovic's lifelong struggle for Muslim survival in Bosnia, a fight exploited by Serb and Croat nationalists to drive wedges into the country.

"Izetbegovic started this war to create a pure Islamic state," said Marko Radenkovic, a resident of the Serb stronghold of Banja Luka, echoing the view of most non-Muslims. "Under his leadership, there is no life for non-Islamic people."

Izetbegovic's struggle twice landed him in jail — in 1946 and in 1983. But his writings reveal a devout Muslim with ex-

emplary tolerance for other creeds.

Known as "dedo" — grandfather — to many Muslims, the frail 71-year-old with the thin smile and a history of heart trouble has nonetheless given ammunition to his enemies.

Threatened by Serb and Croat nationalism, Izetbegovic had little choice but also to play the nationalist card. For Bosnia's Muslims, nation and religious identity are inseparable.

Izetbegovic's presence at military parades featuring radical Islamic troops chanting Arabic slogans and dressed in Arab garb seemed an endorsement of fundamentalism.

Last year, he greeted a military parade with "esellam alekum," Arabic for "peace be with you." Islamic fighters were heartened — and Serbs and

Croats in the ranks infuriated.

His government's welcome of Islamic fighters from the Middle East to fight Serbs enhanced fears that Bosnia would become Europe's bridgehead for Islamic fundamentalism. Although Izetbegovic assures worried American backers that all foreign Islamic warriors have left, NATO says a few hundred remain.

Izetbegovic also fostered ties with more moderate Islamic powers like Turkey and Pakistan, and argued that his country could not afford to reject any offer of help. Iran was among the few Islamic nations offering men and weapons with no strings attached.

Izetbegovic says he did not envisage his Party of Democratic Action as a purely Muslim group. But its message was always oriented toward Mus-

lims, and war strengthened its call for unity.

In time, Bosnia might develop into a civic society, but for now the party must focus on the rights of Muslims in a unified Bosnia, Izetbegovic said.

"Being multi-ethnic is a good thing, but we have to protect the interests of the Muslims first," he told an election rally.

Once elected, he emphasised moderation.

"We are not creating an Islamic state here," he said. "There are women with scarves, but in short skirts as well. We want a normal state, where Islam, as well, will have freedom."

That harks back to his early drive for Muslim rights that landed him in jail in 1946 for membership in the banned Young Muslim movement.

Prosecutors argued that his

Islamic Manifesto sought a pure Islamic republic. But its main thrust was a philosophical critique of the corrupt communist system's attempts to impose virtue.

"It is necessary to stop introducing laws and begin educating people," the treatise said. He even argued that imposing Islamic control on ethnically mixed Bosnia would result in "tyranny."

Muhammed Filipovic, co-founder of Izetbegovic's party, later split with him, but stresses his tolerance.

Filipovic recalled a 1990 banquet, where musicians said local party leaders had told them they couldn't drink around Izetbegovic.

I said: "How about it, Mr President? Alija said: 'It's not forbidden.' I said: 'Serve the drinks.'"