# Pakistan mediating between Taliban, Dostum to prevent military showdown

ISLAMABAD, Oct 8: Pak istan is mediating between Afghanistan's new Islamic Taliban rulers and northern Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostum to prevent any military showdown, a Pakistani Foreign Ministry official said on Monday, reports Reuter.

"So far they are not agreeing to talk to each other." said the official, who asked not to be

A delegation from Dostum's mainly Uzbek Jumbish-I-Milli faction was in the Pakistani city of Peshawar, but had not proceed to Kabul to meet Taliban leaders, he said

Pakistan has denied accusa tions that it supports the Tal iban, saying it has no favourites among Afghan fac-

The official said Dostum. who controls six northern provinces, wanted to be recognised as an "equal partner" by the Taliban and left alone to govern his territory.

The Taliban were saying they were now the central government and wanted to control the whole of Alghanistan, he

The official said Pakistan's efforts to mediate between the Taliban and Dostum, whose forces face each other near the vital Salang tunnel 90 km (60 miles) north of Kabul, were running on similar lines to those of UN special envoy Nor bert Holl

"The only difference is that Holl is trying to promote wider national reconciliation, while we are focusing on preventing a conflict between Dostum and the Taliban," the official said.

Holl has been shuttling between Kabul and Dostum's territory in an effort to head off a military confrontation.

AFP from Kabul adds: The Taliban militia Monday warned its main rivals in the Afghan fictional war not to team up with each other or fight the Islamic warriors.

instead, it said northern warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum should join the Taliban government, while ex-government strongman Ahmad Shah Masood should lay down his arms and end hostilities with the militia.

The call by acting foreign minister Mullah Mohammed Ghaus came as Taliban troops were locked in a stand-off with Dostum's men and were also attempting to push into Masood's stronghold north of here.

Ghaus, reacting to reports that Dostum was planning to join forces with his one-time ally Masood, strongly warned the northern warlord against that course

"If Dostum (does this) it will be a great mistake," he said. He should avail himself of this opportunity and put an end to fighting and not take any hostile actions against the Taliban We maintain that it would

Taliban administration to preand with the cooperation of the 51-nation Organization of Ispare the ground for a strong central government," he said. lamic Conference.

> His speech came as Taliban troops fought soldiers of former military chief Ahmad Shah Masood in the northern valley where they have fled.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on Monday told UN agencies to respect equal rights for women in Afghanistan and warned the country's radical Islamic militia. Taliban, that discrimination could seriously affect relief programmes.

"We have decided to restate our single, system wide policy on the question of gender equality." he said in a statement sent to the many UN agencies operating in Afghanistan.

He said that the agencies had to respect any requirements from donors as well as recipients providing they "do not conflict with our stated princi-

159 more NLD men freed

## Barricades from access to Suu Kyi's home removed

YANGON, Oct 8: Myanmar's military authorities have removed barricades blocking access to the home of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, eye witnesses reported today, says

"Access to the area is now apparently free," one eyewitness

The lifting of the barricades followed an announcement on state-run Radio Yangon Monday that all 159 members of Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) detained in the past 10 days had been freed.

The last 34 NLD members were sent back to their homes on Monday, the radio reported.

Military authorities put up the barricades and detained 573 NLD activists or supporters in the days surrounding a planned NLD congress on September 27 which the junta banned because of fears of "street disturbances."

Radio Yangon said that 63 people were still being held in various police stations in the Myanmar capital. It gave no de-

# US threatens to reimpose sanctions against Serbs

WASHINGTON, Oct 8: The United States is "furious" with Bosnian Serb officials who skipped their own inauguration rather than swear allegiance to a unified Bosnia. a State Department spokesman said Monday, reports AP.

The Bosnian Serbs have been notified that sanctions could be reimposed against them if they continue boycotting joint Bosnian government institutions and "everything else that's got to be done to make this state a unified state." said spokesman Nicholas

Burns. The United Nations last month abolished economic sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs, following elections within Bosnia's two entities and a vote for a joint three-man presidency and national par-

Punitive sanctions against neighbouring Serbia, whose leader Slobodan Milosevic is blamed for igniting the Bosnian

war, were also formally lifted. But Momcilo Krajisnik, the Serb representative on the new Bosnian presidential troika, and 11 parliamentarians refused to travel to Sarajevo the attend Saturday's inauguration. The Muslim and Croat

members of the presidency and 31 deputies of the republic's House of Representatives took the oath of office without the

The boycott is seen as a serious blow to the unsteady peace process and to US-led efforts to re-establish a united Bosnia af-

ter 3 and half years of warfare

among its three ethnic groups.

## Mystery illness or God's grace?

HONG KONG. Oct 8: A mystery illness left a 91-year-old man in southwestern China looking years younger, it was reported today, says AFP.

Lan Riren, a Yao from Bama county. Guangxi province, sprouted new teeth and found his white hair had turned black after the illness in July which left him unable to eat for nearly 20 days, the Hong Kong branch of the China News Service said.

Lan, whose staple diet is corri. can now gather wood and farm like an able-bodied young mar, the report said.

Lan's sole vice is smoking the occasional cigarette, but he never drinks hard liquor, the report said.

## 

## Dengue fever death toll in India now 85

An epidemic of dengue fever raging in the Indian capital has killed seven more people, pushing the death toll to 85 in one month, officials said vesterday

The seven deaths and nearly 130 fresh cases of the mosquitoborne disease were reported Monday from various hospitals in the city of 10 million, with officials saying the epidemic was spreading to previously unaffected areas. A health official said more than 1,400 people, mostly young people, had been hospitalised with dengue fever, which can lead to fatal hemorrhaging and shock if not diagnosed and treated promptly AFP reports from New Delhi.

## DPRK urged to free US citizen

The United States called Monday on North Korea to immediately release a US citizen arrested there in late August and charged with spying for South Korea, AFP reports from Washington:

Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Sweden, which represents US interests in the reclusive communist country, had been allowed two visit with the detained US national in mid-September. The State Department has also taken up the issue directly with North Korea's mission to the United Nations and "will continue to do that," Burns said.

### 2.6 m children abandoned in Venezuela

More than 2.6 million Venezuelan children are living in a state of what the government called "abandonment" Monday, hard hit by poverty drug abuse and often wandering the streets, AFP reports from Caracas. The troubling figure that came from the central statistics office amounts to 13.2 per cent of the South American country's population. Half of all Venezuelans are under the age of 19. "This abandonment is accepted with resignation," said psychologist Nancy Montero. This is not a normal situation." A recent study of children who are not being cared for, written by educators Rhaiza Chacon and Yignara Rojas, found that the government is equipped to handle the cases of only about 600,000 such youths at a time.

## Clashes leave 17 killed in

northwestern Kayah state over said yesterday, Reuter reports from Mae Hong Son, Thailand.

Rebels of the Karenni National Progress Party (KNPP), which wants autonomy from Yangon for small pockets of area under its control, clashed with the Myanmar troops while escorting Karenni refugees to a camp on the Thai border, the sources told Reuters.

### Russian minister to visit India

Russian Defence Minister lgor Rodionov will visit India a the end of October, Interfax News Agency reported Monday. AFP reports from Moscow. The would discuss military-technical cooperation between the two countries during the visit, bu did not say how long the trip chiefs of staff Roi Choudri

### auspices of the United Nations be better for Dostum to join the Protesters tear gassed in Lahore

# Marchers demand ouster of Benazir as PM

Pakistani police fired tear gas and shots in the air on Monday to break up a big opposition march in Lahore after protesters hurled stones at the Punjab provincial assembly building, witnesses said, reports Reuter.

Up to 40,000 people joined the march staged by 14 opposition parties campaigning to force Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to step down to make way for mid-term elections. After stoning the assembly

bly's security officer, witnesses They said police first fired tear gas canisters and then

building, demonstrators ran-

sacked the office of the assem-

report of any injuries. Today it is the verdict of the

she has completed her days." he said. "I warn her that she should herself give up power or this nation will make her go.

paign against Benazir's threeyear-old government, which they accuse of corruption.

and accuses opposition politicians of campaigning against her to escape prosecution for their own alleged wrongdoings committed when Sharif was prime minister for 32 months until July 1993.

An AP report from United

Nations adds: The ousted gov-

ernment of Afghanistan, lash-

ing out at the new Taliban

rulers, called Monday for a

transitional government to

take control of the war-rayaged

ernment of national unity

would be able" to bring the

country back together. Abdul

Rahim Ghafoorzai, the deposed

government's vice minister for

foreign affairs, told the UN

would allow the launching of

struction and rehabilitation of

Taliban as a mercenary army.

called for the warring Afghan

factions to negotiate under the

Ghafoorzai, who derided the

the major task of the recon-

He said such a government

General Assembly

Afghanistan.

Only a transitional gov-

We will bring Nawaz Sharif and make Benazir run away. the demonstrators chanted as they marched about three km (two miles) from Lahore's Neela Gunbad marketplace to the assembly chambers.

tolerate you any more. Sharif said addressing himself to Benazir. "In three years Benazir has ruined the country."

- AFP/UNB photo

leg wounds. The less seriously

wounded included an 8-year-old

girl who was treated for shock

Army forensic scientists es-

timated that the two bombs

contained a total of 250 to 500

kilograms (500 to 1,000 pounds)

of homemade explosive. Each

left a deep crater in the pave-

now, had been Northern Ire-

land's most untouchable army

installation deals an embar-

rassing blow to the British

forces. Thiepval lies in Lisburn,

a predominantly Protestant

suburb southwest of Belfast.

and is home to the army's se-

nior commanders, key officers

families and its elite bomb

The attack inside what, until

and released.

# Hamas calls new uprising against Israeli forces

BEIRUT, Oct 8: The Islamic fundamentalist group called on Monday for a new intifada (uprising) against Israeli forces in the Palestinian territories after the "failure" of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, reports AFP

We consider that the failure of the Washington summit and the negotiations at Beit Hanoun (Erez), which did not satisfy the just demands of our people. constitutes a green light for our masses and Mujahedeen brigades to resume resistance with all available means against the crime of the tunnel and the other crimes of the evil occupier." Hamas said in a statement in Beirut.

I criticised Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority (PA) for "holding to the peace accords. repressing the intifada of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, queiling the anger of our heroic people against the tunnel and

pursuing the sterile talks taking place under conditions imposed by the Zionists.

Israel's decision to open a new entrance to an archaeological tunnel near the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, Islam's third holiest site, sparked bloody Israeli-Palestinian clashes late last month in which more than 80 people

An emergency peace summit was held in Washington last week after which Israel and the PA opened non-stop peace negotiations at the Erez Crossing on the Israeli-Gaza border on Sunday

The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) said the ongoing talks represented a "failure because they were taking place under Israeli-imposed conditions and were aimed at "distracting our people with more false premises."

# 5000 Khmers defect to Phnom Penh govt

BATTAMBANG. Cambodia.

divisions in the area around the former hardline Khmer Rouge base of Samlot which fell last

The move is a severe blow to the guerilla movement which is now left with virtually no troops south of Cambodia's northernmost frontier.

"All the work in that area has been finished completely said general Keo Heng Pong, the former commander of Khmer Rouge division 18 who defected this year and is now the deputy commander of Phnom Penh's

army," he told reporters.

36. 91. 695, 919 and 19 The strength of divisions 919 were not immediately clear but the other three have 700 guerillas and 2,828 civilians they said. The divisions have fully de-

fected to the government and have not joined a renegade faction led by former Khmer Rouge Deputy Premier Ieng Sary which split from the hardline leadership in August, the offi-

Another unit front 250 is believed to have joined the renegade faction, they said.

'The reason we decided to defect is to end the war as soon as possible," the 26-year-Khmer Rouge veteran said in this northwest town where he and representatives of the other divisions were flown to meet re-

Kim Po. commander of division 91, said efforts were still underway to convince others still loyal to the hardliners to stop the war

# Lankan war: Censorship on media reporting goes

COLOMBO, Oct 8: The government on Tuesday lifted military censorship on Sri Lanka's media reporting the war against Tamil rebels in the north, reports AP.

The censorship was critcised by editors and human rights activists as an attempt by the military to hide its defeats and human rights abuses.

was spared from censorship. Reporters are still barred by the government from entering the north.

April.

restrictions on the media before, especially during major offensives in the 13-year-old

Government had imposed

Local reporters submit their stories for vetting by military officials who delete whatever they considered to be sensitive information. Newspapers often left blank spaces on their pages as a form of protest.

Government forces captured Kilinochchi, 280 kilometres (170 miles) north of Colombo. the Sri Lankan capital, September 29. Nearly 900 combatants were killed in the 8-day offensive, by official count. Surviving guerillas with-

drew deeper into the northern jungles. The rebels are battling for a separate homeland for minor-

# Off the Record

## Mystery snooper filmed Di's secret love



LONDON: A mystery snooper filmed Princes Diana frolicking with her former riding instructor James Hewitt during their fiveyear affair, according to a news report Tuesday, reports AP.

The London tabloid The Sun said the 80-second tape shows Diana stripping down to her sports briefs and bra, passionately kissing Hewitt, riding on his back and playfully fighting with cushions.

black-and-white video recording, the lens zooms in on them embracing and kissing on a sofa. It does so again as Diana clambers onto Hewitt's back and he crawls around the floor on all fours, the paper added.

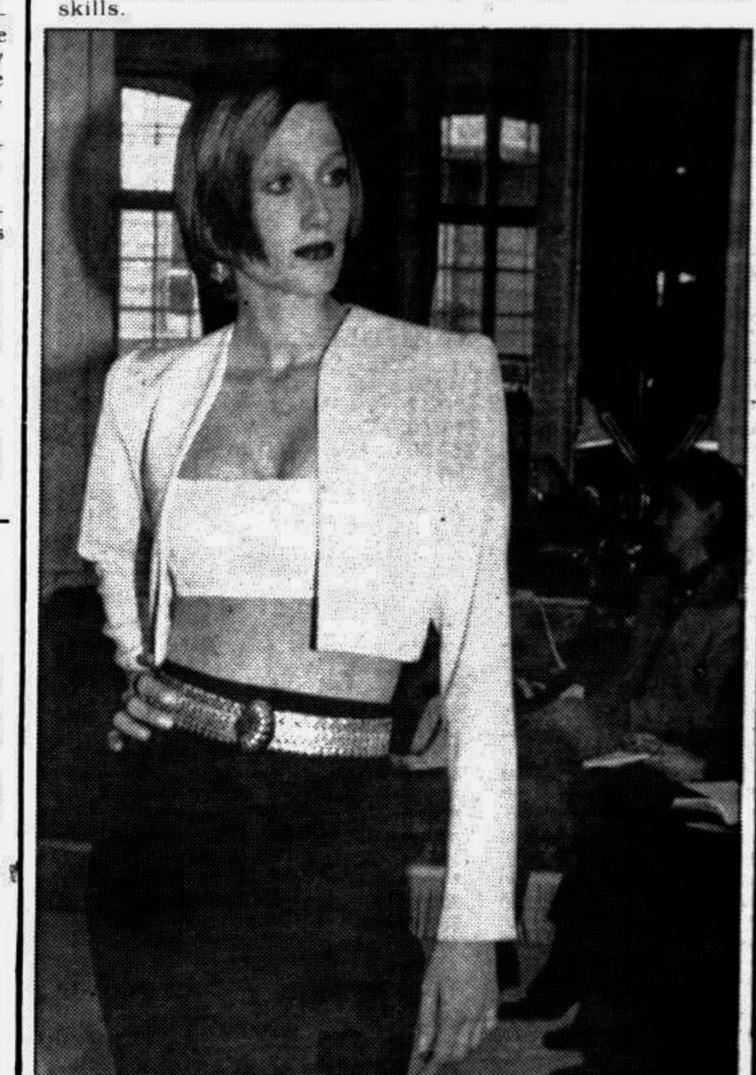
It said that during the silent

It said the video is shot through what appear to be the French windows of a white-walled, ivy clad house. It said that in the video. Diana does a tantalising semi-striptease, lifting her sweatshirt over her head to reveal a dark sports bra.

The Sun, which printed pictures if said were from the video. said the quality of the heavily-edited tape is poor. It said it is

clear neither Diana nor Hewitt knew they were being filmed. The Sun said an investigation by the paper pointed to the film being made on security cameras at Highgrove, Prince Charles' country mansion 100 miles (160 kilometres) west of London.

But it said the recording also appears wobbly in parts, sug-gesting the camera was hand-held at a considerable distance. Hewitt, 38, has admitted spending weekends at Highgrove while Charles was away, helping Charles and Diana's two sons, Prince William, 14, and Prince Harry, 12, improve their riding



A model displays an evening gown, cinched with a golden belt as part of the Spring-Summer 1997 Ready-to-Wear fashion collections from French Couturier Yves Saint Laurent shown in Paris on Monday. - AFP/UNB photo

20 civilians.

LISBURN, Ireland, Oct 8: The

explosion of two car bombs in-

side the British army's heavily

defended headquarters in

Northern Ireland has raised

fears the province could again

become a battleground between

the IRA and pro-British

sponsibility for the attack on

Monday, which wounded 31

people. Whether it was carried

out by the Irish Republican

Army or by another anti-

British group might determine

Northern Ireland back into re-

The first bomb went off

without warning in a parking

lot inside Thiepval Barracks,

taliatory violence.

There was no claim of re-

paramilitaries, reports AP.

Myanmar whether the province's pro-At least 17 people, including 12 Myanmar soldiers and five British paramilitaries call off Karenni rebels, were killed in I their own ceasefire - and send heavy clashes in Myanmar's the weekend, Thai army sources

agency said that Rodionov would last. The report coincides with a visit to Russia by ar Indian military delegation, led by the head of Indias joint which arrived in Moscow for a five-day visit Monday.

## shots in the air to disperse the Benazir denies the charges crowd. There was no immediate

people of Lahore that Benazir should quit," opposition Leader Nawaz Sharif earlier said in a speech to the marchers. "Nothing is left for Benazir:

The march was the biggest anti Benazir demonstration since Sharif's mainstream Pak istan Muslim League (PML) and 13 other groups formed the Pak istan bachao" (save Pakistan) movement in August to cam-

Soldiers evacuate a casualty from the scene of the blast at the British Army's main base

and headquarters on the outskirts of Lisburn Monday. Two huge bombs exploded injuring

Blasts raise fears of clash

between IRA, British troops

the main camp for the 18,000

army troops in the British-

utes later near the base's hospi-

tal, apparently to ambush pass-

ing soldiers, medical staff and

people wounded by the first

billowed from the blast site.

off the wounded on foam mat-

tresses. Some of the people in-

jured in the second blast in-

cluded medical staff attending

The army said 21 of the in-

jured were soldiers and 10 were

civilians — including the three

most seriously hurt. One man

was critically wounded and four

received serious head, chest and

to the victims of the first.

soldiers and paramedics hauled

As flames and black smoke

A second detonated 20 min-

ruled province.

This nation is not ready to

Oct 8: Five Khmer Rouge divisions with nearly 5.000 soldiers and civilians under their control have defected to the Phnom Penh government, military officials and defectors announced today, reports AFP.

The defections were from

military region three.

What we are going to do next is to push forward the integration of the forces with the Military officials identified

The restrictions were withdrawn after the army captured Kilinochchi, a Tamil stronghold, last week, Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte said in Parliament.

The international media

Censorship, which has been periodically imposed during the 13-year war, was renewed last

ity Tamils.

## US presidential debate: Dole pushes trust, Clinton woos business Meanwhile, Reform Party Dole was somewhat subdued campaigns something of a Meanwhile by now, the ver-

the debate.

help turn the race around. Later, Dole joked during his New Jersey bus trip: "I felt good last night when an impartial observer told me I won the debate. And Elizabeth generally knows what she's talking

Elizabeth Dole campaigned in her own bus tour across Connecticut, telling a business group in Waterbury that her husband had "known the struggle to make ends meet," a reference both to his recovery from near-fatal World War 11 wounds and his current lagging

trademark. Monday's tour through New Jersey was the first time Dole has campaigned by bus since winning the Republican nomination.

experience, and likened it to Whitman's bus tour during her winning gubernatorial race.

moving. We're moving. We're going to move him right out of the White House! Faulting Clinton for raising unfounded fears about Republican plans for medical care and other programmes. Dole told a

Toms River audience, "Don't let Bill Clinton scare your. That's all they have. They're trying to frighten senior citizens and veterans and everyone in Amer-

dict is in. Both US President Clinton and challenger Bob Dole held their own in their

"No clever one-liners," said Michael Corgan, a Boston his-

torian. "No memorable moments. No galles." In Rediands, California, nine freshmen enrolled in a

course called "Debating for the Presidency" watched in a class room. They went in split: five supporting Bill Clinton, four supporting Bob Dole. They came out 5-4, too; same five, same "The general reaction." sai

their professor. Bill Soul

worth, a debate coach, "wa it was pretty boring." "Clinton was obviously playing it safe and did a pretty good

### Corazon Aquino to get Fulbright Prize UNDATED. Oct 8: The 1996

J. William Fulbright Prize of International Understanding will be awarded to Corazon Aguino, former President of the Republic of the Philippines, the Fulbright Association announced recently. President Aquino, the first woman to receive the prize, will be presented with the award on October 11 in a ceremony at the State Department, "President Aquino has em-

boldened others in her region and around the world to believe that honesty, determination nd adherence to constitutionalism are the means to achieve social and political tranquility," said Dr Stanley N Katz, president of the American Council of Learned Societies and chairman of the international prize selection committee convened by the Fulbright Association.

### Oct 8: Bob Dole pressed his election effort Monday by insisting he's the candidate voters can trust, while President Clinton

publican, reports AP. Both candidates were trying to build on momentum they claimed from Sunday's debate in Hartford, Connecticut, although early polls suggested the debate had produced little movement in the race.

pursued business support in

states that normally vote Re-

in a bus caravan, an energised Dole underscored a line of attack he had sounded in the de-"When people think of Bob

Traveling across New Jersey

Dole, I want them to think of the word trust. Trust. Trust. And when they think of the word Bill Clinton, I want them to think of the word fear," Dole told supporters gathered on a high school football field. "I

Dole pressed his plan for a

15 per cent tax cut by campaigning with Republican Gov. Christie Whitman, who upset Democratic incumbent James Florio in 1993 largely on the promise of a big tax cut. Clinton, for his part, all but

ignored the debate in remarks to a business audience in Hartford, where he accepted the endorsement of 2,500 corporate leaders, many of whom already were known as Clinton sup-"I have wondered for years

why the Democratic Party shouldn't have at least as much support in the business community as the other party." Clinton said. If the president was publicly ignoring the debate, not all his supporters A sign hanging from the bal-

cony read, "One Down. Congrat-

ulations, Mr President!"

ticipated in the 1992 debates but was excluded from this years' showdowns, derided Sunday night's debate as a "theatrical event. If you listened last night, it was confusing because they were both playing pingpong.

candidate Ross Perot, who par-

and the numbers," Perot told a business audience in San Francisco. Both campaigns unleashed new ads to complement the candidates' messages. Dole's casting Clinton as "a real spend-and-tax liberal," and Clinton's promoting his presidency as "moving people from

welfare to work. Meeting our

challenges.

and denying what the other

said, and not getting to the facts

The President, with the luxury of a big lead, was also campaigning in normally Republican Maine and New Hampshire.

polling found neither candidate scored much of an advantage in "I don't know," he told reporters when asked if he thought his performance would

on Monday after overnight

about.

presidential campaign.

While Clinton and Vice President Al Gore have made bus

Dole seemed to revel in the

"We've got the momentum on our side," Dole declared. "We're

"This election is between a stealth liberal and a common sense conservative," he said.

first debate. It was play it safe against play it nice.

job in that vein." Southworth