

BRIEFLY

Emir's brother appointed PM of Qatar

The emir of Qatar, who ousted his father to take the throne, appointed his younger half-brother prime minister Tuesday and asked him to form a new cabinet. AP reports from Doha.

It is the first time Qatar's emir has not held the prime ministership himself. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani asked his brother Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Thani, 36, to start cabinet consultations, the official Qatar News Agency said Tuesday.

Fire destroys part of Delhi airport

A fire destroyed the main departure terminal of New Delhi airport Wednesday, forcing cancellation of dozens of domestic flights out of the Indian capital, police said. AP reports from New Delhi.

It is a major fire and the damages will be extensive, said airport police officer Rajinder Singh. The cause of the fire was not immediately known. Over 250 firemen with 35 fire engines were trying to control the blaze.

24 drowned in China

A teacher and 23 of his pupils drowned when their boat capsized on a lake in southeastern China's Fujian province, it was reported yesterday. AFP reports from Hong Kong.

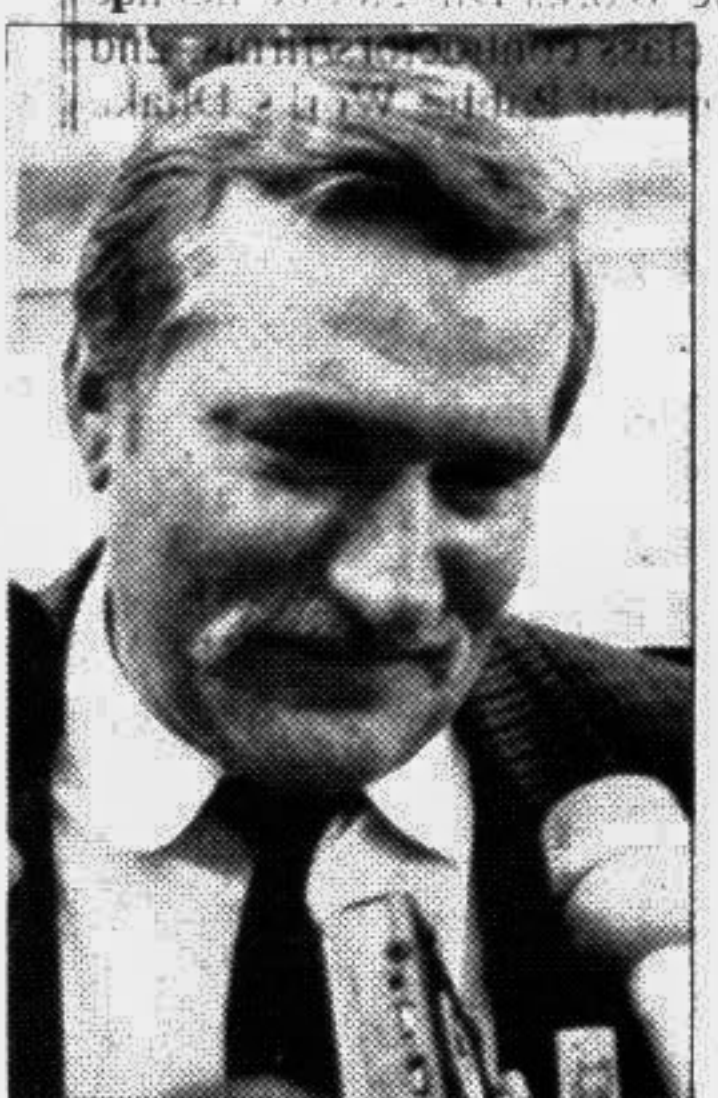
The group from Shandu elementary school, Zhangpu county, was touring a lake in Yanmei reservoir on October 26, the Sing Tao daily said in a report.

2 rescued from Cairo bldg rubble

For 36 hours, Samantha Miksche was entombed in the darkness of a collapsed 12-story apartment building. The teen-ager heard the cries of other survivors, the barking of search dogs and the rumble of equipment boring through the ruins. AP reports from Cairo.

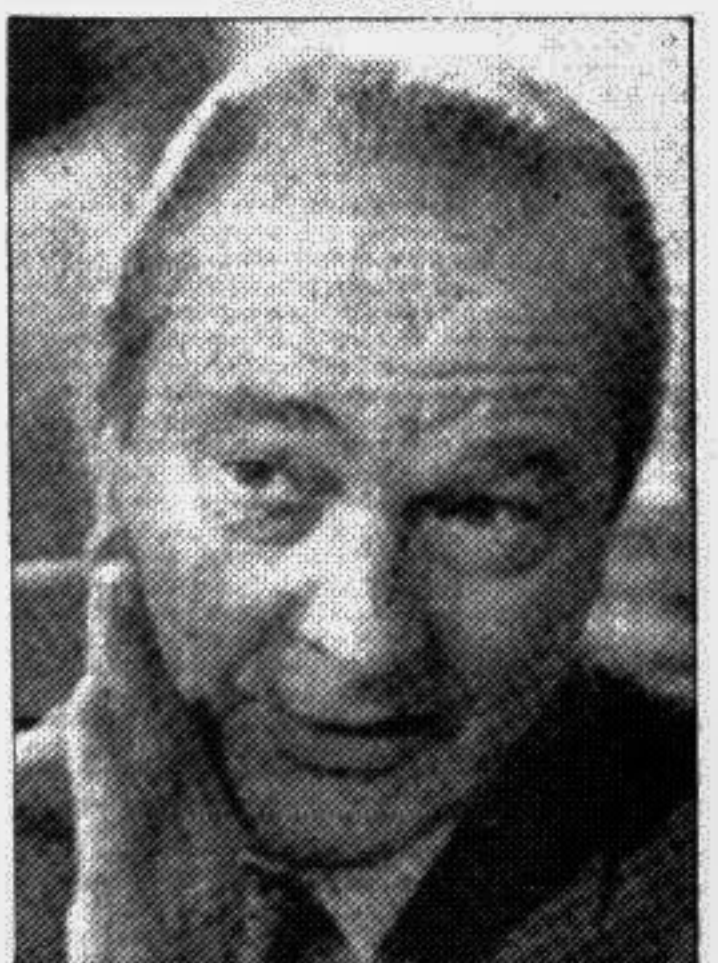
On Tuesday, exhausted rescue workers pulled her and a friend from the rubble — bruised and bleeding, but alive.

Walesa risks 3 yrs prison terms



WARSAW, Oct 30: Former Polish President Lech Walesa risks three years in prison for holding on to secret state documents after losing power last year, prosecutors here announced Tuesday, reports AFP.

Tiny Jacques Chirac



GAZA CITY, Oct 30: The name of a baby Jacques Chirac was recorded Tuesday at the Palestinian registrar general's office in Gaza city, his family said, reports AFP.

UN set to appoint new envoy to Zaire Crisis pushing Zaire, Rwanda closer to war

CYANGUGU, Rwanda, Oct 30: A lethal mix of ethnic rivalry and power struggles in the heart of Africa is pushing hundreds of thousands of refugees further into crisis Tuesday and drove two nations closer to war, reports AP.

Set on opposite sides of their border, Rwandan and Zairian troops bombarded each other with mortar fire.

If the Zairians continue to shell Rwanda, then we will have to do something, Rwandan Maj. Wilson Rutayisira said.

The fighting stems from Zaire's attempt to expel ethnic Tutsis whose ancestors immigrated to eastern Zaire at least 200 years ago. The Tutsis have taken up arms against Zairian troops and on Tuesday were fighting for control of Bukavu, a provincial capital in Zaire on the south end of Lake Kivu.

Although Rwanda insists it is not at war with Zaire, its Tutsi-dominated army fired on Zairian positions for more than an hour Tuesday. At least 100 rounds were fired and the lush green hills around the volcanic lake echoed with the thud of mortars.

From a vantage point near Cyangugu on the Rwandan side of the Ruzizi River overlooking

much of Bukavu, it was not possible to determine whether there were any casualties.

The battles, rooted in ethnic hatred, greed, fear and rampant insecurity, have turned a stretch of eastern Zaire along the western rim of Africa's great Rift Valley into a vast humanitarian disaster zone.

AFP adds: The Zairian army has recaptured a large refugee camp from unidentified gunmen who had seized it in a mortar attack over the weekend, re- lief officials said today.

Zairian troops retook the Kibumba Camp, on the border between Zaire and Rwanda, on Tuesday, the officials said.

Reuter adds: The United Nations is set to appoint Canada's ambassador to Washington as its new representative to deal with war and the refugee crisis in eastern Zaire. UN sources said on Tuesday.

But the envoy, Raymond A.J. Chretien, nephew of Canada's Prime Minister Jean Chretien, will only serve for a month as an interim representative until a more permanent mission can be established. He leaves for the region on November 6, reportedly on a nine-seater jet supplied by Canada.

Top Chinese dissident gets 11-yr prison term

BEIJING, Oct 30: Chinese dissident Wang Oan plans to appeal an 11-year prison sentence after being found guilty by a Beijing court of plotting to overthrow the government, family members said today, reports Reuter.

"Wang dan told us the decision to appeal after a half-hour meeting with him," a family member said.

The family were allowed to meet the 27-year-old former student leader for 30 minutes in a detention centre shortly after he was convicted by the Beijing number one intermediate people court, the relative said.

An earlier report says Police cordoned off the courthouse in the early morning to enforce a blanket of tight secrecy around the case. They confiscated videotapes from at least two foreign cameramen and threatened an Associated Press reporter with expulsion from China if he returned.

Wednesday morning, a court official would say only that the trial had begun. He would not give his name.

The court has refused to provide more information, and the government declined to let international observers attend.

"Every country handles cases according to its own national laws," Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang told reporters Tuesday.

Wang, 27, helped lead the protests in Tiananmen Square in 1989, which ended in a bloody military crackdown. After serving 3 and half years in prison, he resumed his calls for political change and tolerance.

He faces at least 10 years in prison for writing essays critical of the government that were published abroad, aiding other dissidents in financial straits and accepting aid from overseas groups.

INS releases last report of '96 fiscal yr Clinton admn surpassed its goal by deporting 5,000

WASHINGTON, Oct 30: The Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) released its last report of fiscal year 1996 on the removal of illegal aliens from the United States, announcing at an October 29 press conference that the Clinton administration had surpassed its fiscal year 1996 goal by more than 5,000 deportations, reports AP.

In the past four years, the INS has removed over 205,000 illegal aliens from US streets and prisons — an increase of 58 per cent since fiscal year 1992.

This reflects that the administration's "determination to remove criminal aliens and other removable aliens has produced record results," she said.

Meissner attributes this success to recent administration

initiatives, including: — The Institutional Hearing Programme (IHP), which identifies and processes for deportation criminal aliens serving sentences in state and federal prisons; — Projects in county jails to identify and deport criminal aliens to ensure they are not returned to the streets; and — Port Courts in California and Florida, which process for exclusion and removal individuals who attempt illegal entry at land and air ports.

Under IHP provisions, criminal aliens can be deported immediately upon completion of their sentences. INS recently ordered a centralised processing facility in Huntsville for deporting criminal aliens in Texas state prisons.

US, Russia should abandon lingering Cold War fears

WASHINGTON, Oct 30: Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott said on Tuesday Russia and the United States should abandon lingering cold war fears about each other, saying it could undermine future cooperation, reports Reuter.

In a speech to the Harriman Institute at Columbia University in New York city, the top US policymaker on Russia laid out an updated vision of Washington-Moscow ties one week before the US presidential elections.

It also comes at a critical time for Russia, where an intensive Kremlin power struggle is under way as President Boris Yeltsin faces major — and possibly life-threatening — heart surgery.

Talbott is expected to receive another key appointment — he is most often mentioned as the next national security adviser

— if President Bill Clinton, his old friend, is re-elected over Republican Bob Dole, as many predict.

While Russia over the past five years had moved in the right direction from communism and totalitarianism toward a free market democracy, "there is still plenty of suspense about what will happen in the next act and the one after that," Talbott said.

"It will take time, it will take patience and persistence on their part and on ours" for a decades-old Russian political culture to change, he said.

Talbott faulted self-described American "realists" for continuing to view Russia as the Soviet Union of 15 years ago and for disparaging democracy there "as an engine of expansion, fuelled by deep-seated neo-imperialist urges."

producer of a literary program on state-run radio. One sister lost her teaching position and the other had to give up her unfinished university degree.

"During the years of war, Afghans lost almost everything. But this is worse, it's a war on our minds," says Forooz. She and her sisters have not left their home since the Taliban stormed into the city.

The Taliban have brought a version of Islam more puritanical than anything found elsewhere in the Muslim world.

They have ordered men to grow beards and wear turbans, like Islam's 17th century prophet, Mohammed. And they want women to be neither seen nor heard.

Gun-toting Taliban guards, who roam the city, have whipped women for stepping

EU backing sought Arafat won't renegotiate '93 ME peace accords

DUBLIN, Oct 30: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said on Tuesday he would not renegotiate 1993 Middle East peace accords with Israel because they were an international agreement, reports Reuter.

It is not in my authority to change this international agreement, Arafat said on a visit to Ireland, the current European Union president, to seek the bloc's backing for the implementation of the troubled 1993 peace pact.

There is no doubt that the position of the EU is very important and can push forward the peace process, we need all the international pressure we can get to do that, and I am sure we can do it, Arafat said.

The Palestinian authority leader said the accord, which were brokered by Norway, were also supported by Egypt, Jordan, the United States, Russia, the then EU president, Spain and the Israeli Knesset and could not be altered.

Arafat was speaking after talks with Irish Prime Minister John Bruton and Irish Foreign

Minister Dick Spring, who is spearheading an EU drive to match US influence in the region.

Arafat broke off talks with the Israeli government to carry out a brief European tour as part of efforts to put pressure on Israel to implement the peace accords including an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied town of Hebron.

Bruton said Spring planned to go to the Middle East in the next 10 days as head of an EU fact-finding 'troika' of ministers which intends to hold talks with the Palestinians in Jerusalem, much to the annoyance of the Israeli government.

Irish officials said Spring would stand by an EU decision to visit the Palestinian political offices at Orient House in East Jerusalem.

The Israeli government has told Spring it would frown on such a visit. Irish officials declined to discuss media reports that the Israeli government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu might refuse to meet Spring if he went to Orient

House. "We are at present working out arrangements in detail," Spring said before attending a working dinner with Arafat and Bruton.

A Reuter reports from Jerusalem say clashes with Palestinians and the threat of war with Syria provide grim backdrop for Israel's talks with the PLO on a partial withdrawal from the West Bank town of Hebron with an agreement still out of reach.

Israeli and Palestinian leaders said after talks on Tuesday they were still determined to reach a deal but there was no sign they had narrowed their differences.

In Jerusalem, thousands of right-wing Israelis rallied to block any agreement, blasting US mediation efforts as a pressure tool on Israel.

"We hope the government will stay strong and have the courage not to turn over parts of the city of our father to the hands of terrorists," said Dov Lior, rabbi of the Kiryat Arba settlement near Hebron.



Visiting Queen Elizabeth II (L) and Thai Princess Sirindhorn smile at cheering students at Chulalongkorn University on Tuesday. Queen Elizabeth is on a five-day official visit in Thailand to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Thai king's throne. — AFP/UNB photo

US blames Bosnian Serbs for violating Dayton peace pact

WASHINGTON, Oct 30: The United States accused the Bosnian Serbs on Tuesday of committing a major violation of the Dayton peace accords by failing to report all the weapons they possessed, reports Reuter.

State department spokesman Nicholas Burns said the Bosnian Serbs had violated the Dayton accord by failing to report all the weapons they possessed, reports Reuter.

This meant, he said, that the Serbs were a "major violator" of the Dayton accords. The United States was attempting to make them abide by the agreement, he added.

Burns said he was unable to give precise details of the numbers or types of weapons involved.

He said Norwegian general Vigleik Eide, who is in charge of the arms control programme,

portedly having to scrap some 400 tanks and 1,000 artillery pieces.

But Burns said the Serbs "have exempted hundreds of pieces of equipment through abuse of the counting rules and they have declared a reduction liability that, in fact, entails very few reductions on their part."

The contact group consists of officials of the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Russia.

AFP from Salonica, Greece adds: Bosnian Serbs will not extradite Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic for trial on war crimes and genocide charges. Serb President Biljana Plavsic vowed Tuesday.

Speaking after a meeting with Karadzic's Athens-based lawyer, she said the two indicted war criminals would not be handed to a UN tribunal in the Hague, which was set up to investigate war crimes in the former Yugoslavia.

had met several times recently with the contact group on Bosnia to ask for support in pressing the Republika Srpska to comply.

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Libyan leader Moammar Gaddafi arrives at the Tunisian Parliament in Tunis on Tuesday on the second day of his official visit to Tunisia. Gaddafi is followed by his now famous woman bodyguard. — AFP/UNB photo

Off the Record

Dinosaur still a darling to scientists

WASHINGTON: Don't blame the Carcharodontosaurus family for showing no sign of appreciation that University of Chicago paleontologist Paul C. Sereno, his Moroccan colleagues and international team worked so hard to make one of them a world-class celebrity. The poor Sahara monsters are known for their tiny brains, vicious impulses — and have, been totally extinct since the end of the dinosaur era — some 90 million years ago, reports AP.

Yet, despite the major drawbacks, Carcharodontosaurus and other Saharan dinosaurs suddenly drew attention this summer when "Africa's Dinosaur Castaways," a 14-page study by Sereno, was published by the National Geographic Magazine. Later, to the delight of inquisitive science fans and confirmed dinosaur lovers, the National Geographic Society hosted a unique dinosaur exhibit to herald the scientific and historical significance of the Saharan dinosaurs.

The centerpiece in the exhibit was a Carcharodontosaurus 5 and half foot skull — the biggest ever discovered so far — reconstructed from 400 bone chips collected by Sereno and his research team. Right beside it was a life-size, clay model which showed in vivid details the predator's frightening eyes and blade-shaped teeth, as well as the colour and texture of the flesh that used to encase the skull of the 50-foot-long Carcharodontosaurus. Surrounding objects included, among other things, samples of tools and clothes Sereno used in his Moroccan excavations and the skeleton of the smaller Delgadomimus (agile Delta runner), also discovered by Sereno in the same place and time.

Sereno's latest endeavor nearly a year ago in the Moroccan Sahara, he said in a "Washington File" interview, would not have been possible without Morocco's full understanding of his mission and the close cooperation of its scientists from the Ministry of Mines and Energy.

Dole trailing Clinton by 15-20 points in most polls

DENVER, Oct 30: Bob Dole ended a four-day scramble for California's 54 electoral votes and headed east after blistering attacks on President Clinton's foreign and economic policies, reports AP.

The Clinton administration is more like a wrecking crew than a bridge builder, Dole told a breakfast gathering on Tuesday in Orange County, California, normally one of the most Republican areas in the United States.

He asserted that a win in California would make capturing the presidency a "piece of cake" and said he'd be back this weekend pursuing that goal.

Later, he told a rally in Denver's Convention Centre: "Something is happening across America. The people are beginning to focus."

As Dole combed America for a comeback, his strategists were setting his schedule day by day,

even hour by hour. It was not an easy task for Dole, trailing by 15 to 20 percentage points in most polls with just a week to go. A poll in Tuesday's Los Angeles Times found Clinton leading Dole 51 per cent to 34 per cent nationally, with 12 per cent for Ross Perot.

Before leaving California, Dole renewed his assertion he would win the state and promised to return gain this weekend.

Dole proclaimed that "our core states are in good shape" and that he already had 138 electoral votes in the bag.

Dole's strategists were improvising a schedule as he trailed in the polls in nearly every region of the country, despite his upbeat forecasts.

Dole was to campaign in Tennessee, Louisiana and Florida on Wednesday, all last-minute destinations.

Nawaz Sharif demands arrest of Zardari

ISLAMABAD, Oct 30: Pakistan's top opposition leader Tuesday demanded the arrest of the husband of Prime minister Benazir Bhutto after he was accused before a tribunal of involvement in the killing of Bhutto's brother, reports AFP.

Nawaz Sharif also demanded the "immediate dismissal" of Bhutto by President Farooq Ahmed Leghari.

A lawyer representing Ghinva Bhutto, widow of the Prime Minister's brother Mir Murtaza Bhutto, made the accusation in Karachi on Monday.

Mujeeb Pirzada told the tribunal that Murtaza's killing was the result of a "conspiracy" involving Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari, Interior Minister Naserullah Babar and provincial Chief Minister.

"Since nobody is above the law, justice demands that the three should first be sacked

from the important offices they are holding and they should also be immediately arrested," Sharif said in a statement.

Sharif, who leads the main opposition Pakistan Muslim League (PML), Party also accused the Bhutto government of trying to "cover up the serious crime."

The former Prime Minister flayed Bhutto's decision to call foreign investigators to probe the incident as an "unprecedented" act at "great cost to the national exchequer."

It showed that she had "no confidence in her own government and its various investigating agencies," he added.

Murtaza and seven colleagues were killed on September 20 in a police shooting near his Karachi home. Officers went there to serve a summons and claimed his bodyguards opened fire.

World population to climb 7,800m in next 25 yrs

WASHINGTON, Oct 30: During the next 25 years world population is projected to expand by 1,800 million people to 7,800 million — an increase equivalent to adding three more sub-Saharan Africa's to the present world total, according to a joint report by the US Department of Commerce and the Agency for International Development, reports AP.

The human development and economic implications of this increase are profound since 95 out of every 100 persons added to world population in 1996 live in less-developed countries, the report "World Population Profile: 1996" said.

The report was released in July. The rate of population increase has been slowing from an historic peak of about 2.2 per cent annually between 1962 to 1964 to about 1.5 per cent during the first half of the 1990s.

and should slow further to an estimated 1 per cent or less during the first quarter of the next century. In different regions, however, the pace of growth varies considerably.

Sub-Saharan Africa's growth rates are the highest of all major world regions. Total population for that region is expected to rise from fewer than 600 million persons in 1996 to just over 1,000 million in the year 2020, the report said. Growth rates, just over 2.5 per cent annually since the mid-1980s, are expected to remain above 2 per cent through 2020, it said.

Between now and the year 2000, the developing countries of Asia will contribute 176 million persons to world population growth, with 44 million of these being added in China. During this period,

Women in Afghanistan suffering from new Taliban edicts

KABUL, Oct 30: Weeks ago when Kabul's new fundamentalist Muslim rulers closed down schools for girls and banned women from holding jobs, poet Khalil Forooz wrote a poem entitled "Dagger in my Mind," reports AP.

Like Forooz and her two sisters, life for thousands of women in this war-torned capital has changed drastically since the ragtag Taliban militia drove government forces from the capital last month and imposed a strict version of Islam.

One day after the Taliban took over the city, Forooz and her family heard two important announcements on the radio that changed their lives: working women were advised not to report to work or university classes, and parents were told to keep schoolgirls home.

Forooz, 28, lost her job as

producer of a literary program on state-run radio. One sister lost her teaching position and the other had to give up her unfinished university degree.

"During the years of war, Afghans lost almost everything. But this is worse, it's a war on our minds," says Forooz. She and her sisters have not left their home since the Taliban stormed into the city.

The Taliban have brought a version of Islam more puritanical than anything found elsewhere in the Muslim world.

They have ordered men to grow beards and wear turbans, like Islam's 17th century prophet, Mohammed. And they want women to be neither seen nor heard.

Gun-toting Taliban guards, who roam the city, have whipped women for stepping

out of their homes unaccompanied by their husbands or close male relatives.

Violators of the hejab, the Islamic dress code that requires women to be covered from head to toe in public, also have received public beatings.

Nevertheless, the Taliban — former seminary students turned fighters — insist they are not against women. They say they are enforcing Islamic teachings that women must be modest.

"You can see our respect for women by the fact that we have pledged to pay working women, even though they don't have to work anymore," says Taliban Information Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi.

Educated Afghans say the Taliban are zealots twisting re-

ligion into a weapon of tyrannical rule.

"When Islam talks about education it does not distinguish between men and women. It encourages knowledge for mankind," says Forooz.

As it is, most of the doctors, teachers and other professionals in Kabul are women, in part because nearly 20 years of war has left a good portion of the male population uneducated, except in the art of war.

As a result many boys schools in Kabul also have remained closed because there are not enough male teachers to keep them open.

Hospitals have been particularly hard hit. When they lost their female nurses they lost the majority of their staff, yet the wounded only increased as fighting continued north of Kabul.

The few women who have been allowed to return to work in the hospitals have been forced to wear the full covering and treat only women.

In the female wards, even the sickest woman wears the traditional Islamic head scarf.

Several international aid groups have pulled out of Kabul saying it is impossible to work without their female staff.

Some, like the British charity Oxfam, had suspended their programme because of the restrictions on women.

The United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross have called on the Taliban to change their policies on women.

But Muttaqi said that's not possible. "Islam is not changeable," he said.

The new rules are an outrage

to educated women, and even their uneducated sisters are sneaking past Taliban guards to their jobs as domestic workers, too desperate to give up the 300,000 Afghans (10 diris) a month they earn cleaning homes.

Bibi Gul has never been to school but she wants them reopened so her daughters can attend.

"I feel like I have always lived in darkness because I don't have much of an education," she said. "I don't want the same for my two little girls. I want them to study as much as they can."

At the city orphanage where most of the staff had been women, the older children now care for the younger ones.

They have grown up quickly in a city ravaged by war, but now they also have grown up

jobs to do. Most of the women workers have stayed home since the Taliban edict, but a few have resisted.

Dil Jan, her wrinkled face beaming with kindness, refuses to leave her charges. "How can I answer God if I abandon these children, who have nowhere to go, who can't run like we can?" said Jan, who cannot read or write.

War widows suddenly found themselves out of desperately needed work. The United Nations estimates 30,000 war widows have lost their jobs.

The Taliban say the widows should stay home and rely on the charity of others.

But the charity isn't there and some of the widows are getting increasingly desperate and angry.