

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 minister 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

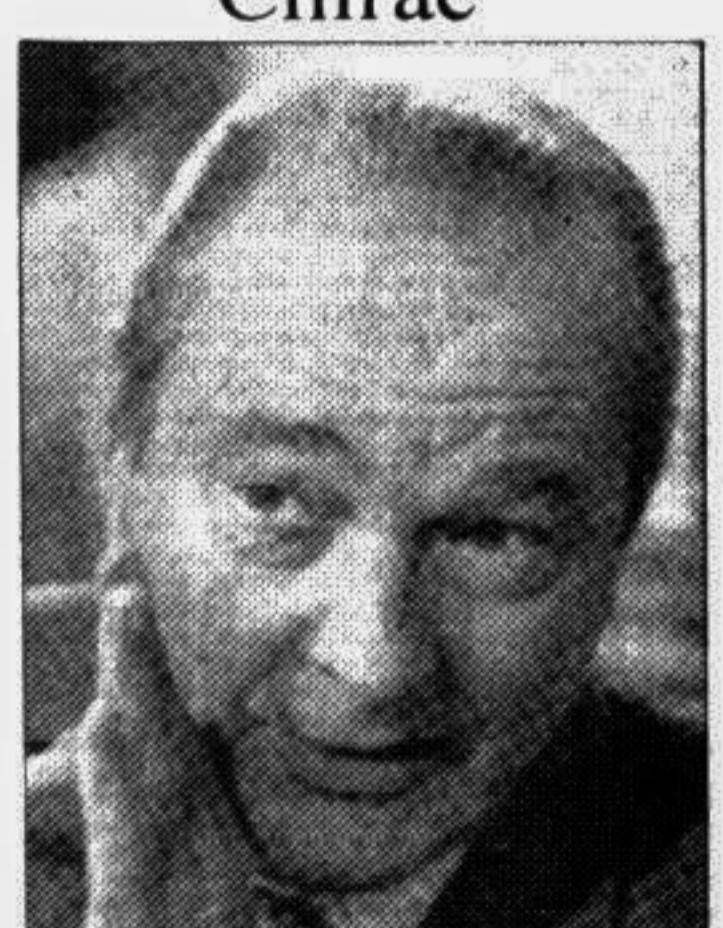
For 36 hours, Samantha Miksche was entombed in the darkness of a collapsed 12-story apartment building. The teen-ager heard the cries of other survivors, the barking of search dogs and the rumble of equipment boring through the ruins. AP reports from Cairo.

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.

Ryszard Kucinski, a spokesman for the Warsaw prosecutor's office, said the intelligence service had complained that Walesa had not handed back documents it and the interior Ministry had given him during his 1991-1995 term of office. Kucinski refused to give detail what was contained in the documents, saying the matter was "top secret."

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.

Born a week ago, just before the visit of French President Jacques Chirac to the Palestinian territories, the tiny Palestinian Jacques Chirac, son of Salah Jibril Abu Hamad, weighs 2.05 kilograms (4.5 pounds) and is in good health.

His mother, Saebra Jibril, who comes from a conservative Muslim family, decided last week to name her new-born after the French president.

She was charmed by Chirac's statements and warm behaviour toward the Palestinians" during his visit to the Palestinian territories.

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 Rutayisera 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, relief 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 warfare 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 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

BELJING, Oct 30: Chinese dissident Wang Qian 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 Qian told us the decision to appeal after an 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's 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.

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.

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.

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INS releases last report of '96 fiscal yr Clinton adminn 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."

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

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

Like Forooz and her two sisters, for thousands of women in this war-ravaged capital, life 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 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.

They have ordered men to grow beards and wear turbans, like Islam's 17th century prophet, Mohammed. And 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-

International**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 the 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 of a stretch of eastern Zaire along the western rim of Africa's great Rift Valley into a vast humanitarian disaster zone.

A Reuter report from Jerusalem says 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, 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.

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.

"Yet, despite these 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 Deltadromus (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.

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 improving 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 Ghina Bhutto, widow of the Prime Minister's brother Mir Mumtaza Bhutto, made the accusation in Karachi on Monday.

Mujeeb Pirzada told the tribunal that Mumtaza's killing was the result of a "conspiracy" involving Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari, Interior Minister Naseerullah 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."