

BRIEFLY

China detains 2 dissidents

Chinese authorities detained two dissidents starting the trial of pro-democracy leader Wang Dan a human rights group said yesterday. AFP reports from Beijing.

40 Kurd refugees arrive in USA

Some 40 Kurds evacuated from northern Iraq have already arrived in the United States, and an additional 2,100 Kurdish refugees are expected next week the State Department said Wednesday. AFP reports from Washington.

62 executed in China

Sixth two people, including one who was tied to a stretcher after jumping from a two-storey high building to avoid facing the firing squad, have been executed in China's southern Guangdong province, press reports said in Hong Kong yesterday. AFP reports from Hong Kong.

Saudi Crown Prince meet MNLF chairman

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz on Wednesday met the leader of a Muslim separatist movement in the Philippines, the Saudi official news agency SPA said. Reuter reports from Dubai.

Drugs worth \$2.1m seized in Jordan

Jordanian authorities announced Wednesday the seizure of 10 kilograms (22 pounds) of heroin and 160,000 hallucinogenic capsules, valued at a total of 2.1 million dollars, in two separate operations, AFP reports from Amman.

Small plane crash kills 9 in Ethiopia

A military training aircraft crashed Wednesday into a crowded marketplace in this central Ethiopian town, killing nine people and injuring 90 others, AFP reports from Mojo, Ethiopia.

Floods claim 2 in Thailand

Two people were killed and a boy was missing after flash floods swept southern Thailand, cutting road and rail links, an Interior Ministry official said yesterday.

US jet crash claims 4

Four people were killed Wednesday when a twin-engine corporate jet caught fire and crashed into the parking lot of an apartment complex north of Chicago shortly after takeoff, authorities said. AFP reports from Chicago.

Clinton in non-stop blitz, Dole still firing back as election nears

YPSILANTI, Michigan, Oct 31: President Clinton is in a non-stop blitz to Election Day, with 20 stops in 13 states, while rival Bob Dole declared he could still win and save America from "economic collapse," reports AP.

For most of his adult life, the 50-year-old president has lived and governed with the next campaign in mind. He thrives on public approval, craves the handshake-to-handshake contact many politicians dread and measures himself against a never-ending flow of poll numbers.

UN reform inching forward

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 31: The tide of reform is inching forward, the UN's chief watchdog said Wednesday, reports AP.

about very limited administrative expertise with many people who have to handle sizable amounts of money.



An unidentified Afghan widow weaves a turban for an aid agency project in suburban Kabul aimed at making the capital's poorest widows economically self-sufficient, on Wednesday.

Blistering assault on Taliban positions north of Kabul

TUTAKHON, Afghanistan, Oct 31: Forces loyal to the ousted Afghan government launched a blistering assault on Taliban troops today north of the capital Kabul, reports Reuter.

He said Taliban heavy weapons were firing on their positions from the other side of the mountains. Several shells and rockets were landing each minute.

One of the previous bombs landed in a city centre park. AP adds: In some of the worst fighting since its soldiers seized Kabul a month ago, the Taliban Islamic army has been battling an alliance of its enemies north of the capital.

The situation is very confused. We have reports of many wounded," Paladins said.

Int'l Press Freedom Awards declared

NEW YORK, Oct 31: An India-based reporter who was targeted by assassins, a jailed Turkish newspaper editor, a Palestinian journalist and a Mexican editor who has crusaded against corruption and drug traffickers have been honoured by the Committee to Protect Journalists, reports AP.

Chirac urges African states to call confce on Zaire-Rwanda

PARIS, Oct 31: French President Jacques Chirac on Wednesday urged heads of east and central African states to call a conference quickly over the rapidly deteriorating situation in the Zaire-Rwanda border, reports Reuter.

for minorities in Rwanda and Burundi and international aid for the countries involved.

should be handled internationally. AP adds from Arusha, Tanzania: The first trial of a defendant in the 1994 massacre of half a million Rwandans opens Thursday, overshadowed by new ethnic violence and an investigation of the UN tribunal for alleged mismanagement.

Dean of US medical school, his wife missing in Nepal

SEATTLE, Oct 31: The dean of the University of Washington School of Medicine and his wife have been missing for about a week in Nepal after becoming stranded in a snowstorm during a hiking expedition, the university said Wednesday, reports AP.

Netanyahu hails Syria's 'no war' declaration with israel

JERUSALEM, Oct 31: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday welcomed Syria's declaration it had no intentions of starting a war with the Jewish state, reports Reuter.

Allegations that Syria is escalating the situation and massing troops to launch a surprise attack are baseless," Shara said.

Israeli security sources said this week that Israel's defence chiefs have told Netanyahu the army needed more than 1 billion dollars because of an increased chance of war with Syria.

UNIFEM honours 3 women's groups of India, Somalia, Peru

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 31: Three leading women's groups from India, Somalia and Peru, received a special 20th anniversary achievement award from the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and its US Committee at a UN ceremony October 29, reports USIS.

powerment for themselves and people in their communities. They are women of substance."

of opportunity like education, health care, jobs, and credit and political and legal rights.

sons are a father's property, and thrown out of her family house with her infant son. With the help of the centre, she learned about her rights, was trained to support herself and in time re-gained her children and property.

work to revitalise the traditional food source of grains and flour and in doing so, brought food security to a region, created jobs for women, and built a model business that can be copied in other rural areas.

Created in 1976 by the UN General Assembly as the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, UNIFEM became an autonomous organisation in 1985.

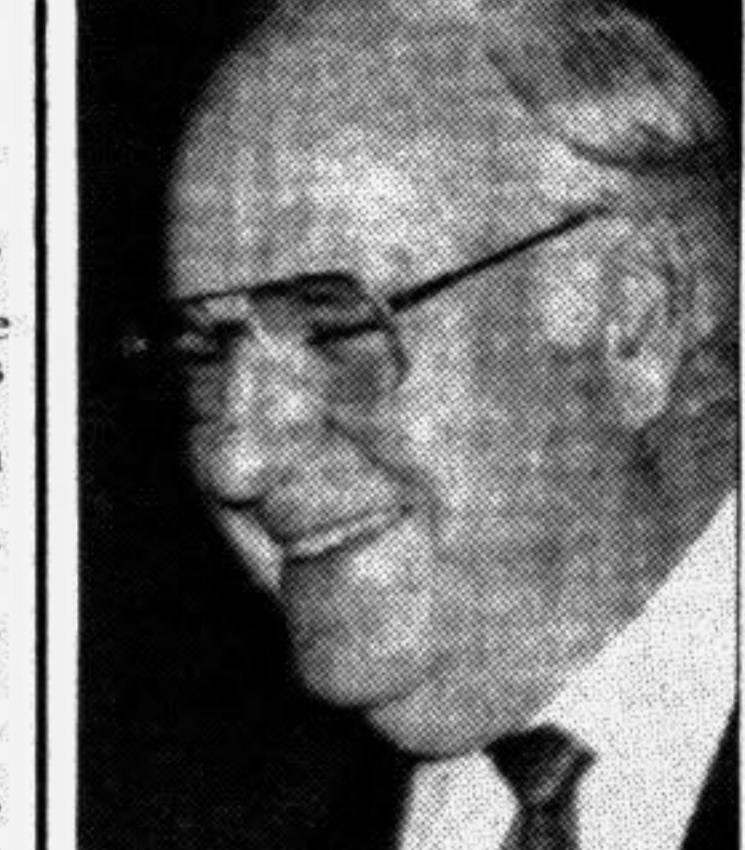
60 students sicken as mysterious fumes spread thru Tokyo school

TOKYO, Oct 31: Mysterious pungent fumes spread through classes at a junior high school in downtown Tokyo today, causing 60 students to be taken to a nearby hospital, fire department officials said, reports Reuter.

Suspected Tamil Tigers escape from jail

COLOMBO, Oct 31: Suspected Tamil Tiger guerrillas escaped from a high-security jail in northeastern Sri Lanka after killing a military guard and losing three of their own inmates, officials said, reports AFP.

Off the Record



Most imaginative statesmen'

WASHINGTON: President Bill Clinton considers German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who marks 14 years in power Thursday, as one of the world's "most imaginative statesmen," said White House spokesman Michael McCurry, reports AFP.

Kangaroo defends his harem of females

SYDNEY: A large male kangaroo, probably defending his harem of females, attacked a 13-year-old boy on a golf course, reports AP.