

International

Clinton sails into 2nd term — distinctly different from the 1st

WASHINGTON, Nov 6: President Clinton sailed into a second term that is distinctly different from the first. His initial task shake up his administration, perhaps with a Republican or two in his Cabinet. Then, try to build momentum for a modest agenda built around limited tax cuts, reports AP.

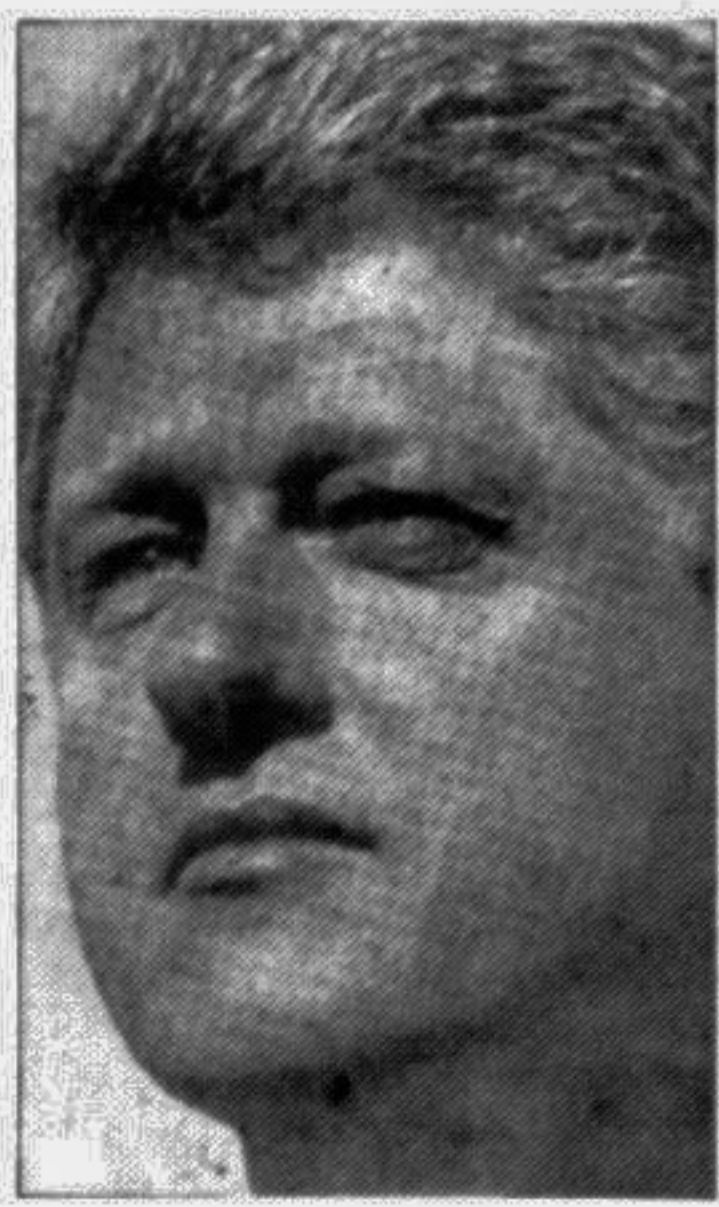
Both the president and the Republicans felt obliged to move toward the centre," said Thomas Mann, presidential scholar at the Brookings Institution think tank. "The public sent a signal and they listened."

Congress will be divided too, whatever the final vote margins, the president said. He said voters are sending us a message: work together, meet our challenges, put aside the politics of division and build America's community together.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, a Republican, read the message of divided government differently. He said voters wanted to make sure that the president "doesn't return to the old Bill Clinton of big government and big taxes."

There was no mandate in the election for big change. Clinton did not seek one. The president and Congress seem inclined toward more gradual problem-solving. Clinton will move swiftly to make a gesture of bipartisanship toward Republicans disappointed over Bob Dole's overwhelming defeat.

A Cabinet reshuffling is afoot with Defence Secretary William Perry, Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary said to be ready to leave. Clinton might find room for a Republican official high in his administration — something he considered but rejected four



Clinton in Congress, a top priority will be campaign finance reform. Both sides claim they want changes but it will be an explosive issue.

litigations of the Democrats questionable fund-raising among foreign donors. The administration is ready to accuse Republicans of foot-dragging if they balk at legislation to ban political action committee contributions to all federal candidates and end unlimited "soft money" donations to political parties.

Even with impressive victories in Republican states such as Florida, Clinton cannot claim a mandate to take big steps. There was no burning issue in the campaign, no single problem that troubled the nation — as the sagging economy did four years ago.

Now, with America at peace and the economy growing, the message of the election was: slow and steady as she goes.

The future holds no grand schemes like the massive health insurance programme that Clinton attempted in his first term, or the fiery Republican revolution promised when he captured control of Congress.

The president's agenda is built around modest proposals, including tax breaks to send people to college, help them buy their first homes and encourage

employers to hire welfare recipients. Clinton's first move will be to reach out to the hand of bipartisanship — relatively soon" to Congress, said senior adviser George Stephanopoulos. "I think the president has shown he can work with a Republican Congress."

Even in the heat of the campaign, Clinton and Congress found it was in their mutual self-interest to get some things done, such as increasing the minimum wage, overhauling welfare and guaranteeing that workers can carry health insurance from job to job.

With a second term Clinton has to move swiftly before his power ebbs.

Second terms are notoriously unsuccessful. It's hard to find a second term that is as good as the first.

Moreover, midterm elections in second terms are usually a disaster for the president's party. That increases pressure on Clinton to try to build his record before the next election — or then search overseas for a legacy in international affairs.



Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole gets a hug from his wife Elizabeth after conceding the election to President Clinton at a party at a Washington hotel on Tuesday.

India's N-standoff Delhi unsure about Clinton's reaction during 2nd term

NEW DELHI, Nov 6: India, unsure how US President Bill Clinton would react to New Delhi's global nuclear standoff during a second term in office, played down his re-election today, reports Reuters.

But officials said the defeat of Republican Senator Larry Pressler in Tuesday's national polls gave them at least one reason to mourn the verdict. Pressler was regarded as a key ally because of his opposition to US arms sales to New Delhi's arch foe Pakistan.

"Pressler's defeat will be felt seriously in India," a senior Indian diplomat told Reuters, "as for President Clinton, we have to see how he approaches our ties in his second term."

Indian officials said apart from the expected formal official greetings to Clinton, there was little that Indian leaders were expected to say on his victory.

"We'll have to take a positive view, India never took sides in any US election," a Foreign Ministry official said. "So we'll hope for the best."

"We have our problems with the US, much of which arose during the run-up to the US election."

BRIEFLY

Chandrika postpones visit to Pakistan: Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga has indefinitely postponed an official visit to Pakistan because of the prevailing situation in that country, presidential secretariat officials said Tuesday, AP reports from Colombo.

Kumaratunga was scheduled to leave on Friday to hold bilateral discussion. But the dissolution of the Pakistan government forced the postponement.

ROK FM submits resignation: South Korean Foreign Minister Gong Ro-myung has offered to resign, the presidential office said Tuesday, after allegations that he once served in the North Korean army during the Korean War, AP reports from Seoul.

The state KBS-TV said President Kim Young-sam was expected to accept Gong's resignation and announce his replacement as early as Wednesday. "Minister Gong might have thought that he can no longer serve in the post, probably because of health problems," chief presidential spokesman Yoon Yeo-joon said.

Flood kills over 200 people in Vietnam: More than 200 people have been killed in floods in central and southern Vietnam in the past month, adding to one of the worst death tolls for natural disasters in recent years, press reports said yesterday, AFP says from Hanoi.

Property damages was estimated at 200 million dollars, newspaper reports said. In the Mekong river delta in southern Vietnam, 162 people, including 129 children drowned in serious floods prompted by heavy rains in the river's vast catchment area.

Gas blast kills 5 in Ukraine: At least five people were killed and dozens were trapped under rubble after a gas explosion ripped through an apartment building in southern Ukraine Tuesday, AP reports from Kiev.

Rescuers were searching through the partially collapsed building in Melitopol for 42 people believed trapped inside, said Oleh Bykov, spokesman for the Emergency Situations Ministry. Four people were in the critical condition in a local hospital in Melitopol, a city 500 kilometers (300 miles) southeast of Kiev. The cause of the explosion was not immediately clear. The blast occurred just after 2 a.m. (2400 GMT) on the fifth floor of a nine-story building, causing the top five floors to cave in, Bykov said.

China tightens safety rules for mining: To counter a calamitous rise in the number of mining accidents, the government has enacted regulations outlining safety requirements for mines, the official newspaper China Daily said Wednesday, AP reports from Beijing.

The new rule is intended to provide local governments the legal means to police China's free-wheeling mining industry, the reports said. China also must train more safety officials to oversee the nation's 238,000 mines, said Liu Guangyi, director of the Labor Ministry's Mining Safety Bureau.

Appeal for \$11.2m help for Kabul: The United Nations on Tuesday issued an urgent appeal for 11.2 million dollars to help Kabul residents survive the rigorous of an early winter, AFP reports from United Nations.

UN Spokeswoman Sylvana Foa, speaking at a news briefing said that the department of humanitarian affairs needed the extra funds to ensure the Afghan capital's emergency winter relief needs.

Plane makes urgent landing in Japan: A northwest airlines jumbojet with 352 passengers and 19 crew members made an emergency landing at Tokyo's Narita Airport early yesterday after the pilot reported smoke inside the plane, airport officials said, AFP reports from Tokyo.

A female passenger injured her leg slightly but no serious injuries were reported, the officials said. Northwest flight 16 left Kansai International Airport at Osaka, western Japan late Tuesday for Honolulu, but smoke emerged some two hours after the take off.

Israeli FM to visit Egypt: Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy will visit Egypt Thursday at the invitation of Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa, ministry source said Tuesday, AFP reports from Jerusalem.

Levy and Mousa will discuss Monday's meeting of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafez al-Assad in Damascus, the same source said. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said "peace with Egypt is the key to Israel's Middle East policy despite the high and lows in the two countries' relationship."

Release of Serb detainees demanded: The Serb member of the joint Bosnian presidency demanded Tuesday that all Serbs arrested by Muslim-Croat authorities over the past year be released immediately, AP reports from Pale.

In a letter to his Muslim and Croat colleagues in the presidency and international officials, Momcilo Krajcinovic said the detention of five Serbs who crossed into the territory of the Muslim-Croat federation this autumn was a violation of last year's Dayton peace accord.

SPLA holding 3 foreigners

KHARTOUM, Nov 6: A Sudanese pro-government faction said Tuesday they were holding three foreigners, a Canadian, a Kenyan and an Australian woman after seizing a Red Cross plane, reports AFP.

In a statement sent to AFP in Khartoum, the group led by Major Kerbino Kuanyen, which is a breakaway from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), confirmed that it had taken the plane on Friday.

It said the aircraft was carrying five SPLA members and the three foreign nationals (Canadian pilot John early co pilot Kenyan Moshin Raza and Australian Nurse Mary Wolthinton).

The plane was seized for "violating the rules in force in the region and humanitarian principles, without giving further details."

Meanwhile, Sudanese social planning Minister Mohamed Osman Halifa said in a statement that all activity in the country by the international committee of the Red Cross has been suspended.



US pop star Tina Turner performs on stage at the Kremlin Palace in Moscow, Tuesday, during the first concert of her Russian tour.

Opposition urges Malaysian govt to allow East Timor conference

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 6: The leader of the opposition in Parliament asked the government Wednesday to allow an Asia-Pacific conference on East Timor to be held as scheduled this weekend, reports AP.

Lim Kit Siang said in a statement that the Home Ministry should permit the gathering "in the interest of promoting an international civil society."

Lim said although the government regards East Timor as an internal Indonesian matter, Malaysia "must respect the views of those who disagree, just as Malaysia was right in insisting in the past the gross violation of human rights whether in apartheid South Africa, Israel-occupied Palestine or in Bosnia-Herzegovina, were not acceptable or could be dismissed as internal domestic affairs of another country."

US, UK term Benazir's dismissal constitutional Leghari firm to abide by Feb 3 date for fresh polls

ISLAMABAD, Nov 6: Pakistan President Farooq Ahmed Leghari pledged to the nation late Tuesday to abide by the February 3 date for fresh polls set by him after dismissing Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, reports AFP.

I want to make it absolutely clear that I shall strictly follow the constitution which mandates elections in three months after dissolution of the national assembly, Leghari said in a televised address.

He said timely free and fair elections were imperative for the continuation of democracy, political stability and Pakistan's territorial integrity.

I solemnly and categorically promise to you that I will make every possible effort to ensure fair, free and impartial polls,

he said. Reiterating his firm faith in democracy, he said the government would take necessary measures to achieve the goal.

Benazir's government was sacked by Leghari and replaced with a caretaker administration headed by veteran politician Malik Meraj Khalid to rule until the general elections.

Among the reasons, the President gave were massive corruption, nepotism, lawlessness and the failure to prevent thousands of extra-judicial killings.

Benazir was confined to her former official residence while her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, federal minister for investment in her dissolved cabinet was taken into "protective custody" in Lahore, Punjab province.

UN war crimes tribunal Croatia risks US political, economic support

ZAGREB, Croatia, Nov 6: Croatia risks losing US political and economic support if it does not extradite indicted war crimes suspects to the UN war crimes tribunal, a senior US official said Tuesday, reports AP.

John Shattuck, the Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, delivered the warning on a one-day visit to the Croatian capital Zagreb, where he met with Foreign Minister Mate Granic.

"If economic and political benefits are to continue to flow to the region, cooperation by the leaders of the region with the tribunal is essential," Shattuck told The Associated Press.

"Improvement of US-Croatian relations depends on overall improvement of human rights" in Croatia, he said.

Despite Benazir's ouster Pak support for Taliban unlikely to wane

ISLAMABAD, Nov 6: Pakistan's support for the Taliban Islamic militia in Afghanistan is unlikely to wane despite the ouster of prime minister Benazir Bhutto's government, analysts said, reports AFP.

Although Benazir's interior minister Naserullah Babar is regarded as being behind the former government's support of the Islamic militia, a new Pakistani administration has little choice but to continue the policy as the Taliban controls most of Afghanistan, including Kabul, they added.

In Kabul itself the first reaction to Tuesday's sacking was cautious. "It is a matter of its own internal affairs and we do not have anything to say about it," said the Taliban Informa-

US won't pressure Israel on its faltering talks with Arabs: Netanyahu

JERUSALEM, Nov 6: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the United States will not pressure Israel on its faltering talks with the Arabs after Tuesday's US presidential election, reports AFP.

If Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat expects strong pressure on Israel after the US elections, he will be disappointed.

The United States understands perfectly that it's up to us to determine our destiny, and they have no intention of doing it in our place, he said.

Israeli political analysts have said they expect the US administration to become more critical if President Bill Clinton is re-elected. Israel has delayed redeploying its troops from four fifth of Hebron to lower the tension between it and Israel.

News Analysis The inevitable has finally happened

Ikram Sehgal writes from Karachi

The National Assembly in Pakistan has been dissolved by President Farooq Leghari and the Benazir Government dismissed. The provincial assemblies and governments thereof met the same fate later in the day.

That this would happen is not surprising rather, how in the world the President exercised such patience in the face of rapid deterioration of the national economic, social and political fabric is surprising!

When the first Benazir regime was dismissed by President Ghulam Ishaq in 1990, there were mixed reactions as to the reason and modus operandi thereof, of this time around one does not feel such compunctions, only relief that the inevitable has finally happened before this country disintegrated because of any number of reasons, mainly bad and malafide governance, not the least being economic apocalypse.

The general public perception is that Benazir Bhutto beggared Pakistan for the sake of her husband, Asif Zardari. People believed that the flamboyant rhetoric and pretensions of ideological depth were a facade, a cover for the most sustained loot of the national wealth in this country's history. The most charitable thought was that Rasputin could not have held such a spell as this man over our 'Fair Princess,' on her part she turned a blind eye to his excesses, in fact there may be hard evidence that she was not only a willing collaborator but a full partner in malfeasance. A stage had come where the 'royal couple' probably did not believe that the laws of the land were applicable to them. Unfortunately the ultimate excess may have been against her own person, besides destroying her credibility and mass popularity there seems to be prima facie evidence that her husband may

have been behind her brother Murtaza's murder. This virtually uneducated man from a moderately wealthy Sindh background and without any known business has become the richest man in Pakistan and may be one of the richest in the world in the span of five years. This "miracle" has taken place at the cost of this country, the bankruptcy of the economy has been inversely proportional to Asif Zardari's wealth. The President's proclamation contains a few points that in his opinion made the ex-PM's rule unconstitutional. In fact he has left out a host of points that made her rule border on the criminal, not the least being abrogating of her PM's authority to the greed of her husband in a myriad number of ways.

The appointment of Meraj Khalid as caretaker PM is a welcome development. A respected PPP elder and former Speaker of the National Assembly, he is expected to ensure continuity of the democratic process. He is not the "technocrat" that we are normally subjected to on such occasions but a genuine dyed-in-the-wool democrat who has the integrity and character to oversee the transition period. He may be advanced in age but his heart

and mind are very much in the right place. Meraj Khalid is one of the grand old men of the PPP who were never really tolerated by the Bhuttos and the landowner class that surrounded him, because, in their eyes he did not pay proper obeisance to the Bhutto clan, remaining faithful to the original social ideals that had brought the party together in the first place. Those who are interested only in robbing the country of billions have no time for idealists of the ilk of Meraj Khalid.

A lot of people collaborated in the pillaging of the national wealth, most did it for money, some for position and prestige. If the PM's spouse is guilty as charged, they are as much guilty. Without their willing cooperation and helpful advice the first gentleman could not have been able to do what all he did. These cronies must be made examples of so that in the future people do not become accessories to crime at the cost of the state so easily. While there could be a temptation on the part of the Caretaker Government not only to carry out accountability but to complete the process, this must be the domain of an elected government. An experienced panel with men and women of integrity must spell out the mechanism of accountability. This can then be established by fiat of a Presidential Ordinance and can be ratified by the National Assembly after it comes into session. Let it become the subject of debate during the electoral process so that the people know who all are opposed to accountability.

Pakistan is in serious trouble as a nation. The President's action has come none too soon and must be commended by every patriotic Pakistani. The list of problems facing Pakistan is long and the leaders assembled to tackle them must be able and willing, for the sake of the country, not for themselves.

Oldest astronaut CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida: The older he gets, the more frightened he is, reports AP.

When Story Musgrave rockets into orbit on his sixth shuttle flight, he will become the oldest man ever in space. And he will be very, very afraid.

Considering all the risks he's endured in his 61 years — an ex-Marine, he has logged 17,700 hours in airplanes and 500 parachute jumps — Musgrave feels lucky to still be alive. His November 8 launch aboard Columbia is yet one more risk, one he readily accepts for love of space.

of threats and problems does not herald the collapse of Saudi Arabia," the report said.

"The kingdom is not about to be swept away by an Iranian-style revolution. Nonetheless, in the medium term, it risks internal political decay and socio-economic atrophy if it is unable to reform," it said. Barring any progress with reforms internal dissent is only likely to intensify."

The authors warned that Saudi instability would not only affect the West, but also Asian nations which are becoming increasingly dependent on Saudi oil and Saudi investment in their oil-related industries.

Until now, the government has been able to offer all males a well-paid civil service job which has ensured widespread loyalty to the status quo, the authors said, but with population growth of up to 4 per cent this is no longer possible.

The minority of Wahabi Islamic radicals who resort to violence draws succor from a burgeoning class of unemployed youths who have only their fundamentalist religious education to fall back upon in an increasingly harsh economic climate," the report noted.

The Wahabis, a puritanical Sunni Muslim sect, have long served as the power base for the Al-Saud dynasty.

However, "this combination

'KSA not on the brink of Iranian-style revolution'

LONDON, Nov 6: Saudi Arabia is not on the brink of an Iranian-style revolution, but internal dissent is likely to intensify unless the country embarks on major reforms, according to a special report published Tuesday by Jane's Intelligence Review, reports AP.

Saudi Arabia's social and economic problems are likely to remain unresolved well into the next century, however, because of the lack of dynamic leadership from the Saudi royal family, it concluded.

The 20-page report was written by Andrew Rathwell, deputy director of the International Centre for Security Studies at the Department of War Studies at the University of London's

King's College, and Mustafa Alani, a consultant to the centre.

With ailing King Fahd unwilling to hand over full power to Crown Prince Abdullah and senior princes in the ruling house of Al-Saud vying for future influence, the government's policy-making machine is stultified, the report said.

The problem for the kingdom now is that the successors to its current aged and infirm ruler are equally aged and likely only to rule for short periods," it said. "Whatever their personal qualities, these elderly successors are unlikely to have the imagination or time to set the kingdom on a new course or to deal dynamically with its

problems."

The terrorist bombings of US military installations in Saudi Arabia in 1995 and 1996 were "the most visible symbols of the kingdom's problems and highlight a key dilemma facing both the Saudi government and its Western allies, the report said.

Since the 1991 Gulf War, Saudi Arabia has become increasingly dependent on the United States and its European allies to guarantee the kingdom's security and the Western powers have staked their policies in the region on the stability of Saudi Arabia and its oil supply, the report said.

of ties arouses bitter opposition among the Saudi regime's core religious constituency and threatens to destabilize the kingdom," it said.

The report said the increasingly bitter underground struggle between the regime and its hardline opponents is being played out against a backdrop of wider political, economic and social problems.

"Although cushioned by higher oil prices since late 1995, the kingdom's patronage-based welfare state economy is straining at the seams and reform if it is to sustain growth rates able to absorb its growing young population," the report said.

villages and camps, raising fears of a widespread outbreak of disease and famine.

Chretien told The Associated Press he was eager to talk to Mobutu because "he knows his country intimately."

"When it comes to the issues of sovereignty and keeping this huge country of 200 different tribes together, he has been excellent at that, and I will want to benefit from his wisdom and knowledge," said Chretien, who is Canada's ambassador to the United States and a former ambassador to Zaire.

He would not comment on the option of military intervention in Zaire.

France presses harder for int'l security force in Zaire

NICE, France, Nov 6: A UN envoy was in France Wednesday to talk with Zaire's leader about a rapid solution to the growing humanitarian crisis in the African nation, while France pressed harder for an international security force, reports AP.

On his way to central Africa, envoy Raymond Chretien arrived in Nice on Tuesday night for talks Wednesday with ailing Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko, who was convalescing at his Riviera villa.

Fighting between Zairian troops and Rwandan-backed rebels in eastern Zaire has sent 1 million refugees fleeing their

France presses harder for int'l security force in Zaire

villages and camps, raising fears of a widespread outbreak of disease and famine.

Chretien told The Associated Press he was eager to talk to Mobutu because "he knows his country intimately."

He would not comment on the option of military intervention in Zaire.