### Khmers kill five troops

Still attacking despite defections that have thinned their ranks. Khmer Rouge guerillas have killed five government soldiers and injured seven in northwestern Cambodia, a government spokesman said Wednesday. AP

reports from Phnom Penh. Information Ministry Spokesman Sieng Lapresse said the guerillas staged two "hit-and-run" attacks last week in Chong Kal district. about 70 kilometers (43 miles) north of Cambodia's famous Angkor Wat temple.

Several thousand of the Communist guerillas have defected in the past few months

#### Six hanged in Iran

Six Iranians convicted o murder and armed robbery have been hanged in a Tehran prison, the newspaper Keyhan reported Tuesday. AFP says from Tehran.

Mohammed-Reza Gholpaygani, leader of a gang of robbers and charged with murdering a worker in the Tehran area, was hanged Monday with five of his accomplices at Evin prison northwest of Tehran, the pa per said. Since 1989, armed robbers have been subject to the death penalty in Iran.

#### **Qatari** Emir appoints woman in govt post

The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad ibn Khalifa al-Thani. on Tuesday appointed woman for the first time to a senior post in the government the official QNA news agency reported. AFP says from Doha.

Sheikh Ahmad al Mahmud was named undersecretary in the Ministry of Education and Culture after having held several lower positions in the same ministry, it added. Women serve in few high administrative posts in the Gulf and none heads a ministry.

#### 1 beheaded in S Arabia

Saudi Arabia beheaded a Saudi man on Tuesday for raping and killing a threeyear-old boy. Saudi state television reported. Reuter says from Dubai.

III quoted an Intertor Ministry statement as saving the man kidnapped the boy, raped and killed him. The man then dumped the boy's body in a lake. He also tried to abduct another boy but was caught by the police, it added. It gave no further details. The beheading in the eastern city of Khobar brought to 49 the number of people executed in Saudi Arabia this year.

#### Kremlin favours Russia's joining NATO

A top Kremlin security of ficial said he favoured Russia joining NATO's political organisation and later even taking part in the military structures of the alliance. Interfax news agency said on Tuesday Reuter reports from Moscow.

"Russia could sign an agree-ment on its joining NATO's political structure," i quoted the Secretary of President Boris Yeltsin's Security Council, Ivan Rybkin, as saying. "And then if it goes as we aim and as representatives of the western states hope, we could join the military organisation."

#### 43 feared dead in Shanghai mishap

A truck loaded with building materials collided with a bus causing death or injury to 43 people in Shanghai's southeastern Qingpu district Shanghai television reported yesterday. AFP says from Shanghai.

Both vehicles fell into a river after the collision, the report said, adding that rescue work and an investigation into the cause of the accident, which occurred Tuesday evening, were being directed by vice mayor Xia Keqiang Shanghai party secretary Huang Ju expressed his concern about the accident while vice-mayor Chen Liangyu visited accident victims in hospital, the report said.

#### Accord on Euro-Weaponry Bureau signed

France, Germany, Italy and Britain Tuesday signed an agreement to establish the European Weaponry Bureau,

Xiinhua reports from Paris. Under the agreement, the four countries will carry out more than 10 projects, such as the research and production of air fighters, escort vessels and air-to-ground missiles, etc. The agreement, signed in Strasbourg, France, by the defence ministers of the four countries, also said the countries would give priority to European countries when importing weapons.

## Indian aviation experts say

# Language problem might have caused mid-air collision

NEW DELHI, Nov 13: Indian experts said Tuesday's mid-air disaster which killed around 350 people could have been

caused by a language problem.
"It is quite likely the Kazhak plane whose pilots may have had problems understanding English commands by ground controllers, relocated wrongly Unni Kartha, one of India's top aviation, experts told AFP.

Kartha a former fighter pilot, said the Kazakh aircraft appeared to have strayed away from its designated flight path.

These confusions occur everyday, everywhere Kartha said but added that they rarely lead to disaster.

The ground controller. while ordering the Saudi pilots to continue climbing to their cruise attitude should have known the proximity of the other plane, said the expert.

Court extends

NEW DELHI. Nov 13: The

New Delhi High Court extended

the bail Wednesday of former

Prime Minister PV Narasimha

Rao who is charged in a corrup-

leader of the Congress (1)

Parliamentary Party was told

by a court in Delhi to return on

November 21. Rao, who was

ousted as prime minister in

general elections earlier this

year after coming to power in

1991, stands accused of being

involved in the bribing of four

opposition members of parlia-

ment to back his government

Sharma, who served in Rao's

cabinet in 1993, also appeared

in court today and were also

ordered to come back to court

next Thursday. All three were

ordered to pay a bond of 2,850

Vigvan Bhawan Conference

Centre, specially converted into

a court following fears for the

accepted around one million

dollars to save Rao's govern-

unrelated cases of forgery and

vived the July 28 vote three

years ago by 265 votes to 251

stood down as president of the

Congress (I) Party in September

GCC states urged to

increase military

cooperation

states must increase military

cooperation to guard against

growing threats in the region.

an official told Gulf defence

ministers meeting here

Gulf Cooperation Council,

Jamil Al-Hujailan, called for

broader military cooperation to

"help us defend ourselves ... be-

cause threats against the region

groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait.

Bahrain, Qatar, the United

Arab Emirates and Oman, - did

not specify what the threats

Wednesday meeting GCC de-

fence ministers are to study ways to bolster their joint force

the Saudi-based peninsula

shield and agree on an early

warning system aimed at cover-

The GCC has tried since the

Gulf War ended in 1991 to bol-

ster its joint force and raise its

numbers from 4,000 to 25,000

Ghali for urgent

help in E Zaire

Secretary-General Boutros

Boutros-Ghali made an impas-

sioned plea today for immedi-

refugees in Eastern Zaire, say-

ing they faced "certain death" if

nothing is done, reports Reuter.

nity must come to the aid of the

refugee in Zaire. We need every-

one to help ... this is an all-out

emergency and every day

counts," he said in a speech to

the opening session of the

World Food Summit in Rome.

"The international commu-

ate help for one million

ROME, Nov 13:

ing their countries.

soldiers.

During their Tuesday-

The head of the GCC - which

The Secretary General of the

Tuesday, reports AFP.

are intensifying."

RIYADH, Nov 13: Gulf Arab

Rao also faces charges in two

Rao, whose government sur

ment, meanwhile, were re-

The four men who allegedly

Congress leader's safety.

manded in custody.

The hearing was held at the

dollars.

fraud.

Buta Singh and Satish

in a confidence vote in 1993.

AFP adds: The 75-year-old

tion case, reports AP.

Rao's bail

We will know the exact circumstances of the collision when we retrieve the cockpit voice recorders and the flight digital data recorders of the two planes Kartha said.

India civil aviation authorities said the two planes turned into a fireball after the collision at 18:40 pm (1310 GMT) some 40 nautical miles (74 kilometeres) west of the Indian

Director General of Civil Aviation H S Khola said 351 people had died and added "There is no information about

any survivors. The radar blips of both the aircraft disappeared at 1840 hours.

The air traffic controllers guild of India, meanwhile said the collision may have been caused by equipment trouble. Russian built aircraft nor-

mally have cockpit equipment marked in metric system and therefore, there could be a possibility of a wrong data settings and thus a wrong height being maintained by the Kazakh air-

There is only one to and from New Delhi and aircraft departing and arriving have to follow the same narrow corridor, the guild said.

Lack of radar control and complete communication failure could have caused the collision, added Air Commodore Prashant Dixit, a former Indian Air Force test pilot.

The sky was clear and it is quite intriguing how the visual lights and the anti-collision light warnings failed in this case, he said.

There is a possibility the communication system within the aircraft could have failed in

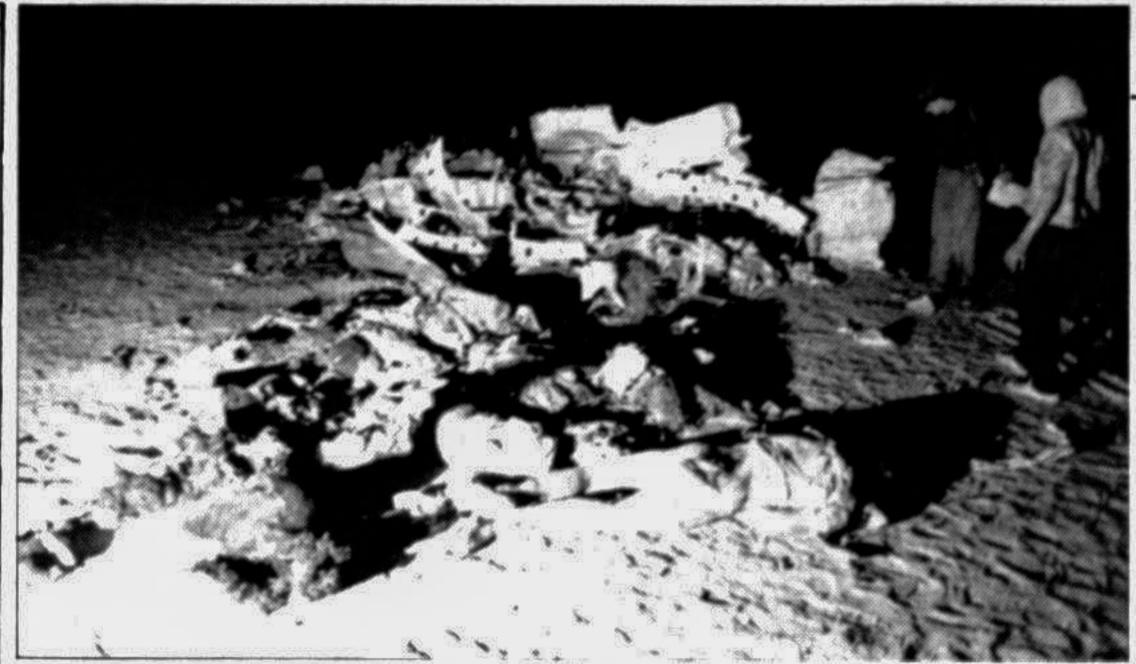
both the Saudi and the Kazakh aircraft, he added.

Another report says : An Indian aviation expert yesterday said the mid-air collision between two jets which killed around 350 people was probably caused by human error.

"Otherwise how else this could be possible?" said Subroto Sen, a former engineering chief of state-run Indian airlines. adding air traffic controllers appeared to have mixed up the

flight paths of the two jets. "One was climbing and the other plane was descending and despite the fact they had their air corridors they con-

verged and crashed," said Sen. L. Ojha, a former air traffic controller, said however that a "time-lag" between data received by radar units and the air traffic control tower could have been fatal.



A policeman inspects wreckage after the deadliest mid-air collision in aviation history killed 351 people Tuesday near the Indian capital. A Saudia Airlines Boeing 747 jumbo. climbing after take off from New Delhi, slammed into a Kazakh cargo plane coming into - AFP/UNB photo

## UNGA adopts resolution to end US trade embargo against Cuba

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 13: The international community have strongly urged the United States to end its 35-year trade embargo against Cuba and repeal controversial laws punishing foreign firms investing in the Caribbean island, reports

Xinhua. For the fifth year in a row. the UN General Assembly yesterday overwhelmingly adopted a resolution calling for an end to the sanctions by 137 votes to three (Israel, the US and Uzbekistan), with 25 absten-

Many US allies, as well as adversaries, supported the draft resolution, because they say the embargo violates their own sovereignty as it subjects them to the effects of US laws.

Criticism of the embargo has heightened since the US passed its HELMS-Burton Act earlier this year, allowing American citizens who were Cuban nationals before the 1959 revolution to sue foreign companies or individuals who are using property confiscated by the govern-

ment of President Fidel Castro. This year. Britain, Germany and the Netherlands, along with several East European countries, who abstained last year, switched their votes in favour of the resolution.

Carlos Lage. Vice-President of the Council of State of Cuba. told the assembly that the time had come for the US to change its policy toward his country. He said that while blockade

had been unjustified for more than three decades, the pretexts used today to defend this criminal act had run out with the end of the Cold War. He also noted that the em-

bargo, imposed on Cuba in 1962, has resulted in losses of 60 billions US dollars, five times Cuba's external debt.

Prakash Shah of India said that his country opposed any unilateral measures by one country which impinged on the sovereignty of another country. The use of unilateral trade measures for domestic political reasons threatened the multilateral trading system.

India called upon the US to settle its differences with Cuba through negotiation on the ba sis of equality and mutual re-

Hussin Bin Nayan o Malaysia said that the HELMS Burton Act clearly contravenes the principles and objectives of the World Trade Organisation.

Malaysia firmly believed there was no justification for the US to take unilateral trade measures against Cuba, which also impinged on the right of other states to engage freely in international trade. Ambassador John Campbell

of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the European Union, said the EU wished to reiterate its rejection of attempts to apply national legislation on an extraterritorial basis.

The union has always rejected attempts by the United States to coerce other countries into complying with the commercial measures it has adopted unilaterally against Cuba," he said.

## 9 worst air disasters

A list of crashes from the last decade involving the Russian-made Illyushin-76 cargo plane, reports AP.

- November 12, 1996. A Kazakstan Airlines II-76 cargo plane originating in Shymkent. southern Kazakstan, crashes into a Saudi jumbo jetliner near New Delhi. The death toll was feared to be 351, making it the third-worst air crash in history.

- August 19, 1996, An II-76 crashes while trying to make an emergency landing after takeoff from Belgrade. All 12 crew members die

- June 6, 1996. An II-76 cargo plane crashes on takeoff at Kinshasa. Zaire. killing all eight crew members. The plane was headed to Athens. Greece.

- April 7. 1996. An II-76 cargo plane belonging to Krasnovarsk Airlines crashes on the slopes of a volcano in the Russian Far East on a flight from Novosibirsk in Siberia to the Kamchatka Peninsula. All 21 aboard were killed.

76 plane carrying relief supplies donated by Germany for Kurdish refugees runs out of fuel and crashes into a mountainside in Iran, killing four crew

- May 24, 1991. A Soviet II-

March 27, 1990. A Soviet II-76 freight transport crashes near Kabul, Afghanistan. Casualties were not announced

 October 20, 1989, A Soviet II-76 carrying construction equipment for earthquake-ravaged Armenia slams into a mountain near the airport in Leninakan, Armenia, killing all 17 people aboard.

- October 18, 1989. A Soviet II-76 crashed into the Caspian Sea after an engine caught fire shortly after takeoff in Azerbaijan, killing all 57 people aboard December 11, 1988, An II

76 carrying Soviet soldiers to help rescue quake victims in Armenia plunges to the ground near the airport in Leninakan. Armenia, killing all 78 people on board

### Leghari expands cabinet

ISLAMABAD, Nov 13 Pakistani President Farooq Ahmed Leghari has expanded the interim cabinet he set up last week, officials said today, as the deposed Premier Benazir Bhutto renewed attacks on him, reports AFP.

Leghari inducted four ministers later Tuesday, raising to 16 the strength of the interim cabinet led by Malik Mera Khalid a veteran politician and tormer national assembly

The president appointed after he dismissed Bhutto on November 5, accusing her three-year old government of corruption, mismanagement and lawlessness resulting in the deaths of thousands of people.

The newcomers include Abdul Ghaffar, a brother of prominent politician Ghulam Mustafa Jotioi, who was caretaker prime minister for three months in 1990 after the dismissal of Bhutto's first gov-

Ghaffar was given charge of the communications ministry Muhammad Afzal Khan, who served in Bhutto's cabinet until her ouster, is to oversee health and population welfare.

Two other additions are Subedar Khan Mnadokhel (housing and works) and Amanullah Khan Gichki, whose portfolio has not yet been decided.

## India willing to discuss all bilateral issues with Pakistan

NEW DELHI, Nov 13: India said on Tuesday that it was willing to discuss all bilateral issues with Pakistan, the local press reported today, says Xinhua.

However, India put the onus on Islamabad for creating a conducive atmosphere to resume the secretary-level talks between the two countries which was suspended in January 1994.

India made the offer in response to Pakistani caretaker Prime Minster Miraj Khalid's recent remarks that he was interested in creating an atmosphere for resuming bilateral alks with India.

A spokesman for the Indian external affairs minister said on Tuesday that as far as atmosphere in India is concerned, it is agreeable for talks, adding that India is looking for normal, peaceful and cooperative relations with Pakistan.



A young girl begs for some change in front of a mosque in the war-torn Afghan capital Wednesday in order to collect enough money to buy some food. Factional fighting and strict Islamic laws imposed by the Taliban which deny jobs for most women, have deprived thousands of family of their incomes, leaving them to survive on help from aid agencies and street charity. - AFP/UNB photo

## Off the Record

## Gandhi asked him to keep them

LONDON: A London auction house said on Tuesday it had cancelled the sale of a collection of writings by India's revered independence leader Mahatma Gandhi after their ownership came into dispute, reports Reuter.

Gandhi's former secretary. Venkataraman Kalyanam, who kept the papers at his Madras home for nearly 50 years, had offered them for sale to raise money for a Hindu charity.

But the Indian government intervened last month, saying the valuable collection should be preserved for the nation and arguing that it belonged to the trust that safeguards Gandhi

We have pulled out of the sale, it is no longer anything to do with us," said a spokeswoman for the auctioneers Phillips, which had said the sale would raise up to one million pounds (1.65 million dollars)

The auction had been scheduled for November 14.

The papers were written in the months before Gandhi was assassinated by a Hindu fanatic in 1948. Kalyanam, who is in his 70's says that Gandhi had asked him to keep them. There are some 450 pages in Gandhi's crabbed handwriting.

some written on the backs of used envelopes to save paper. They include letters to Britain's war time Prime Minister. Winston Churchill, and Louis Mountbatten, the last British viceroy of India revealing Gandhi's anxieties in the run-up to India's independence in 1947.

Gandhi, a devout Hindu who led 350 million Indians in a non-violent campaign against British rule, also writes of his great distress at sectarian Muslim-Hindu violence that swept India following partition.

### Smoking may raise risk of breast cancer

CHICAGO: A flawed enzyme may raise the risk of breast cancer in women who smoke, a study suggests, reports AP.

Heavy smokers who had reached menopause had about four times the risk of breast cancer as nonsmokers who also had the flawed enzyme, researchers reported in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association

Postmenopausal women who had the flaw and had smoked any amount at or a before age 16 ran a similar risk. That support the theory that exposure to toxic agents may be most harmful during breast development.

The researchers looked at a genetic flaw that causes people to produce a slow-acting form of the NATZ enzyme, a substance that helps deactivate cancer-causing agents in the body.

The flawed enzyme is believed to be present in more than half of all white men and women in the United State. It is even more prevalent in people of Middle Eastern descent but less common among other ethnic groups.

"If these findings are replicated. I think the implications are quite important because there's an alarming trend now. Young girls are smoking now at a higher rate than young boys are," said epidemiologist Christine Ambrosone, who led the research. "It's one more reason for women not to smoke and especially for young girls not to begin smoking."

### Iraq seeks timetable for UN mission

## 'Baghdad hiding N-weapons sites from UN inspectors'

WASHINGTON, Nov 13: Iraq continues to hide weapons of mass destruction from UN inspectors, Rolf Ekeus, head of the United Nations Commission on Disarming Iraq (UNSCOM), said on Tuesday, reports AFP.

At a press conference organised by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies Ekeus said Iraq has not yet destroyed about 60 long-range missiles. These could be armed with

biological or chemical warheads and pose a grave danger to civilian populations, he said. Ekeus, who traveled to Iraq four times this year, added that

the commission had achieved a nearly complete understanding of Iraq's arms purchases and capacity.

During a mission to Iraq in October, Ekeus said that Iraq officials gave him no new documents on past weapons programmes, and that he had not

obtaining any proof that Iraq had destroyed the missiles it is suspected of having. The disarmament controversy stands in the way of the

eventual lifting of the oil embargo imposed on Iraq in August 1990 after it invaded Kuwait. Meanwhile, Iraq on Tuesday urged Russian, France and China to pressure the UN special Commission (UNSCOM)

into setting a timetable for

completing its mission to dismantle Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction. "France, Russia and China can seriously and insistently suggest a timetable for Roll Ekeu's commission to finish its

work, the official Al-Jumburiyah newspaper said. When the timetable expires

"UNSCOM should either prove that Iraq is hiding weapons or announce it has completed its mission.

985 still missing

# Palestinians, Israelis to combat violence against women

BRIGHTON, England, Nov 13: Palestinian and Israeli women may disagree about politics and territorial rights. But some are working together at centres in Israel to combat a problem that cuts across ethnic and religious lines: violence against women, reports AP.

It isn't always easy, and sometimes there are arguments. but Palestinian social worker Huda Rouhana said Tuesday they are engaged in "a common struggle for women around the

Rouhana and Israeli feminist Elana Dorfman, who work together in The Haifa Women's Coalition, described the challenges and difficulties in keynote addresses to more than 2,000 delegates attending an

international conference on violence and abuse against women.

people are reported dead and 120 injured.

"Ten years ago, violence against women was still considered a taboo subject in the Arab sector," Rouhana said. "Recently, women's rights activists in the Palestinian sector have been able to open the issue for public discussion. We have also been able to open two shelters and several hotlines which serve Palestinian women."

Dorfman said even in the 1970s, Israelis would not admit that some Jewish men beat their wives. "Twenty years later it is recognized that there are battered women in Israel. There are nine shelters and a number of hotlines, but the violence

continues," she said. Palestinian and Israeli women are subjected to violence for similar reasons: Both societies are male-dominated and women have lower status.

A girl walks through the rubble of a building in Nazca, Peru, 300 miles south of Lima

Tuesday after an earthquake measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale struck the town. 15

Rouhana and Dorfman said. They claim one out of the five Israeli husbands beats his wife, and one out of four Palestinian women is abused. Rouhana said Palestinian women face added problems.

Some refuse to seek help from the Israeli police "because they see them as a part of the Israeli military establishment. which suggests the occupation," Rouhana said Palestinian

men also completely dominate

women and demand that

prospective brides be virgins.

murdered by family members who think that they have violated the family's code of socalled honor," she said. When it comes to the Haifa

Some girls and women are

- AFP/UNB photo

coalition's programme to combat violence and advance the status of women — running a rape crisis centre, a shelter, a telephone hotline and education programme for students the Israeli and Palestinian staffers are united. "However, the fact that I am

a part of the Palestinian minority which is oppressed by the Jewish majority in Israel. causes serious problems in our joint work as Palestinians and Jews," Rouhana said.

For example, she said, "as a Palestinian woman it is hard for me to counsel new Jewish immigrant women as they integrate into Israeli society.

Dorfman agreed that "national self-interests" can collide, and there is a real dilemma of whether to concentrate just on helping women or to open up what could be very difficult subjects. One answer has been to keep

the coalition's Palestinian and Jewish programme separate, although the shelters are open to all women. Rouhana, who works at a

shelter, has run two courses in the West Bank towns of Ramallah and Nablus for women interested in setting up a hotline.

"The subject of sexual abuse is new in these places because

tion is more important than the issues of violence against women," she said. "They say our men are killed by the soldiers, so the issues of violence against women is not important." Ruth Rasnic, another Israeli

they think the political situa-

feminist who helped form Combat Violence Against Women, told the conference that her organisation, based near Tel Aviv, has also been working with Arab women in the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem to set up hotlines.

The six-day conference sponsored by the University of Bradford in England and 14 grassroots organisations is focusing on how violence and abuse limit women's democratic and human rights.

## in cyclone-hit Andhra

HYDERABAD, Nov 13: Just 315 fishermen have been found safe and 985 men are still missing after a massive cyclone which lashed the south east Indian coast last week, a spokesman at the relief control room told Reuters on Tuesday. He said other news agency

had come ashore were incorrect. "No 315 fishermen have been found, 985 are still missing. These are the correct figures, Vijay Kumar, a senior official coordinating relief work from state capital in Hyderabad, told Reuters.

reports that around 1,000 men