

Israeli, PA negotiators to resume talks today

JERUSALEM, Oct 5: Israeli and Palestinian negotiators are to meet Monday to resume long-halted interim talks, but the issue of Jewish settlements hangs over US efforts to bring the peace process back to life, reports AFP.

Zardari hopes Benazir will stand by him during ordeal

KARACHI, Oct 5: The jailed husband of former Pakistani premier Benazir Bhutto, is confident his wife will stand by him during his current ordeal despite speculation that their marriage is in trouble, reports AFP.

He was eventually acquitted of all charges. Zardari was jailed again last November, soon after President Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari sacked the Benazir government for widespread corruption and misuse.

Buyers 'screaming' for Morton's book on Diana

LONDON, Oct 5: London bookshops reported phenomenal demand on Saturday for Andrew Morton's updated biography of Princess Diana — despite uproar over its timing and the possible threat of legal action by her family, reports Reuters.

BRIEFLY

Australian cabinet reshuffled: Australian Prime Minister John Howard announced a major reshuffle of his ministerial team today after a travel allowances scandal that forced the resignation of three ministers. Reuters reports from Canberra.

EU to extend ban on Myanmar: A visa ban on Myanmar's military rulers and other European Union sanctions on the South East Asian state will be extended for six months by EU foreign ministers in Brussels today diplomats said, AFP reports from Brussels.

Serbian vote for 2nd round of polls: Serbians began voting yesterday in a second round of presidential elections, choosing between Socialist candidate Zoran Djindjic and hardline nationalist Vojislav Seselj. AFP reports from Belgrade.

UK plans to control teenage sex: The British government plans a campaign to control teenage sex, recruiting schools to act as moral watchdogs in a bid to cut a record number of pregnancies, the Express on Sunday reported, AFP says from London.

Gene causing cancer identified: A team of Portuguese researchers claims to have identified the defective human gene responsible for the appearance and development of uterine cancer, press reports said Saturday, AFP says from Lisbon.

S'pore needs more alien students: Singapore needs more foreign students to help make valuable friends and long-term business contacts, says former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew. AP reports from Singapore.

LTTE denies capturing mortar shipment: Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas yesterday denied they captured a shipment of mortar bombs the Colombo government purchased from Zimbabwe, even as Harare said the weapons fell into the hands of the rebels, AFP reports from Colombo.

100 days of Chinese rule in HK — a mix of change, continuity

HONG KONG, Oct 5: The first 100 days of Chinese rule in Hong Kong have been like riding a rollercoaster for construction supervisor John Wong, reports AP.



Colombian soldiers guard the eleven bodies killed in the countryside 90 miles (145 kilometers) south of Bogota on Saturday. At least 21 police, soldiers and prosecutors were killed in two separate attacks blamed on leftist rebels and paramilitary gunmen, authorities said Saturday.

About 12 countries offered assistance

Suharto orders armed forces to do more to fight wildfires

JAKARTA, Oct 5: Indonesian President Suharto on Sunday apologized for a second time for wildfires that have choked Southeast Asian skies with smoke haze, and he ordered the armed forces to do more to douse the flames, reports AP.

forces. "For that, Indonesia once again apologises sincerely to those countries." Hundreds of fires, set by forest companies, plantations owners and farmers to clear land cheaply, have been burning out of control across Indonesia for two months.



From left, John McCarter, Dr Peter Crane and Richard Gray pose with the fossilised skull from the largest Tyrannosaurus Rex remains ever found, after it was sold at Sotheby's in New York, Saturday. McCarter, president of the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, Illinois, and Dr Crane, the museum's curator, made the winning bid of \$8,362,500 million to Gray, President of the Art Dealers Association of America. — AP/UNB photo

7 killed in Kashmir violence

SRINAGAR, India, Oct 5: Seven people, including five Indian army soldiers, were killed and 12 others seriously injured in separatist-linked violence in Kashmir on Saturday, the police said here, reports AFP.

Mahathir rules out speculation about his resignation

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 5: Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has dismissed speculations that he will resign over the country's economic crisis, local newspapers reported today, reports Reuters.

30 anti-nuclear activists held in Florida

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, Oct 5: About 30 anti-nuclear activists were arrested on Saturday at the Cape Canaveral air station during a protest against NASA's plan to launch a spacecraft to Saturn carrying radioactive fuel, reports Reuters.

105 more massacred in Algeria

ALGIERS, Algeria, Oct 5: In a 48-hour spree of massacres and bombings, assailants killed 105 people, targeting schools, apartment buildings and a wedding, with dozens of children among the victims, reports AP.

Jordan says Israel will free more Hamas leaders soon

AMMAN, Jordan, Oct 5: Israel will soon release dozens of Palestinian prisoners, including several leaders of the militant Hamas movement, Jordanian officials said Saturday, reports AP.

Focus now on polls to save democracy in Cambodia

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 5: With the world unwilling to reverse the results of the July coup in Cambodia, international diplomacy is focusing on next May's general election as the last best hope for building democracy in the troubled country, reports AP.

Muslim rebels to resume truce talks with Manila

MANILA, Oct 5: The Philippines has withdrawn its troops from a captured Muslim rebel camp, prompting the guerrillas to agree to discuss a ceasefire agreement they had signed with the government, a rebel leader said Sunday, reports AP.

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists recently warned that many local media routinely censor themselves, even though the most critical newspapers still publish without reprisal. "People are very relieved that the fears they had before the handover have not been realized," he said.