



President Fidel Ramos pounds his fist while delivering his speech during the celebration of the 19th founding anniversary of the Jesus is Lord Church, a charismatic movement, at the Rizal Park in Manila Sunday. He told thousands of supporters he would step down when his term ends next year and vowed to intensify a campaign against the country's oligarchy and business monopolies in his last days in power. He did not mention names but former president Coarazon Aquino's family controls vast farmlands in the northern Philippines province of Tarlac. — AP/UNB photo

## BRIEFLY

**Return of Atlantis delayed:** The return of the US space shuttle Atlantis and its seven-man crew has been delayed until yesterday because of bad weather. NASA said, AFP reports from Cape Canaveral.

Monday the shuttle will have two opportunities, or "windows" for landing at the Kennedy Space Centre here, NASA said — at 5:55 pm (2155 GMT) and at 7:31 pm (2331 GMT). The landing was originally scheduled for 6:56 pm Sunday but was then delayed about 90 minutes because of clouds and windy conditions.

**China mobilises ships for war games:** Chinese naval forces based in Shanghai has mobilised 15 vessels for a series of exercises in the East China Sea, it was reported yesterday, AFP says from Hong Kong.

The People's Liberation Army's naval forces manoeuvres began on the weekend and would last 10 days in the southeastern area of the East China Sea, the Chinese-language Oriental Daily News, citing reports in Fujian province. The 15 vessels involved in the exercises included amphibious craft, an anti-submarine ship and a supply ship, the report said.

**Egypt frees 8 militants:** The Egyptian Attorney General Sunday ordered eight members of the banned Muslim Brotherhood released out of 33 arrested in mid-August for trying to convert students to their beliefs, a judicial official said, AFP reports from Cairo.

However, the authorities extended the detention of 14 others for another 15 days. No decision was made concerning the 11 other members of the group. The Muslim fundamentalist brothers were arrested in Cairo and several provinces of northern Egypt for organising student meetings at several universities in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria, judicial authorities said.

**China, Kazakhstan to boost ties:** Kazakh Defence Minister Muhtar Altinbaev has pledged his government's support for China's efforts to combat Muslim unrest, an official report said Monday, AP reports from Beijing.

Meeting with Prime Minister Li Peng in Beijing, Altinbaev said his government strongly opposed Muslim separatist activities in China and had banned its citizens from getting involved, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported. Alarmed by an upsurge in bombings, assassinations and other violence among Muslims living in remote northwestern Xinjiang, which borders Kazakhstan, China has sought to boost its ties with all neighbouring Central Asian nations.

**300 drug dealers held in Uzbekistan:** Some 300 drug traffickers have been arrested so far this year in Uzbekistan and more than 200 kilograms of drugs seized, said a report from Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan, Xinhua says from Moscow.

In a recent operation on a Moscow-bound train from Dushanbe, capital of Tajikistan, Uzbek police seized 100.66 kilograms of opium, 24.7 kilograms of marijuana and 2.94 kilograms of heroin, said the report.

**Ex-sex slave regains ROK citizenship:** The Ministry of Justice restored South Korean citizenship Monday to a former sex slave who was abandoned in Cambodia by Japanese soldiers during World War II. AP reports from Seoul.

"I'm immensely delighted," Lee Nam-ye, 73, said after receiving a certificate of citizenship and a South Korean flag at the ministry. Lee had lived in Cambodia since the war under the Cambodian name of Leng Hun and taken citizenship in that country. Several months ago, a South Korean businessman in Cambodia told Seoul media the story of her life and her search for her family back in South Korea. The story grabbed the nation's attention and Lee was reunited with her younger sister, Lee Soon-ye, living in a southern seaside village, in August.

## Phnom Penh dismisses Ranariddh's forces resistance

# Cambodian dissident calls for arrest of Hun Sen

PHNOM PENH, Oct 6: Prominent Cambodian dissident Sam Rainsy called today for the immediate arrest of powerful Second Prime Minister Hun Sen claiming the strongman was guilty of terrorism, war crimes and drug trafficking, reports AFP.

"As long as Hun Sen remains in power, Cambodia must be declared a terrorist state (like) Libya and Iran. A state run by war criminals such as some African countries and a narco-state (like) Myanmar," Sam Rainsy said in a highly-charged statement faxed to news organisations.

The former finance minister who is now president of the opposition Khmer National Party (KNP) and an official in deposed first prime minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh's Resistance Movement, appealed for US and French authorities to detain Hun Sen and place him under international jurisdiction.

Hun Sen is returning to Cambodia this week after a trip to the US and France where he has been lobbying for international recognition following the ouster of Prince Ranariddh in July.

"This is a unique opportunity to get hold of such a notorious and dangerous criminal," Sam Rainsy said in the statement, which compared Hun Sen to notorious Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot and former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega.

"Hun Sen must be jailed in the Hague or in any other convenient place while awaiting his trial on charges of terrorism war crimes and drug trafficking," he said from Europe where he is urging donor countries to curtail or cut-off aid to Cambodia.

Meanwhile Cambodia's Co-Defence Minister Tea Banh Monday dismissed resistance forces fighting the Phnom Penh government as not a serious military threat.

Their operations were purely designed to "make noise" while their leaders lobbied for political support abroad, he said.

Tea Banh said recent attacks on government positions in the northern, northwestern and western parts of the country were conducted solely to enhance the leaders' credibility as chiefs of powerful resistance movement.

Resistance activity at O Smach, Samlot and An Ses (Is) all the same political strategy done for the interests of their leaders who are working outside," Tea Banh told reporters outside Parliament.

"They just want to make noise," he said when asked about reports that the resistance had captured An Ses, a mountain pass on Cambodia's far northern border with Thailand.

Residence officials in Bangkok said on Saturday the pass had been taken after two days of fighting.

But Tea Banh said that while troops loyal to deposed co-prime minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, including Khmer Rouge guerrillas, had twice last week attacked An Ses — called An Mah pass in Thailand — they failed to capture it.

There was small fighting between the government and the combined forces of (the prince's top general) Nhek Bun Chhay and the Khmer Rouge," he said.

"The reason they fought was to make noise in the interests of their leaders at the United Nations," he said. "Then they withdraw."

## Johnson thought Castro was behind assassination of Kennedy

WASHINGTON, Oct 6: President Lyndon Johnson thought Cuban President Fidel Castro played a role in the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy, but worried that a retaliatory strike on Cuba could lead to nuclear war, according to a new book, reports AP.

He said publicly blaming Castro would generate an outcry for an attack on Cuba or the Soviet Union that could "check us into a war that can kill 40 million Americans in an hour."

According to the book, "The Johnson White House Tapes, 1963-1964," by historian Michael R. Beschloss, Johnson also told the late Sen. Richard Russell in 1964 that he did not believe the conclusion of the Warren Commission, of which Russell was a member, that Kennedy was killed by a lone gunman.

The book casts Russell as a reluctant member of the commission, which investigated the assassination, who was pressured into signing the report against his will.

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The Czech Republic's supermodel Eva Harzigova on the runway for Les Copains's Spring/Summer 1998 fashion collection, presented in Milan Sunday. — AP/UNB photo

## Tamil group rejects govt's plan to hold referendum

# Lankan troops repulse LTTE attack in north: 192 killed

COLOMBO, Oct 6: Sri Lankan troops repulsed a major Tamil Tiger rebel attack in northern Sri Lanka that left more than 192 combatants dead, in the largest battle in more than two months, the military said Monday, report AFP, AP.

"It was a major confrontation," said military spokesman Kumara Dewage of Sunday's battle.

"We lost 42 of our soldiers and 62 were injured. The terrorists (rebels) lost at least 150 of their personnel," said Dewage.

Supported by artillery fire, several hundred rebels, including military fighters, attacked the military camp Sunday morning and the battle raged for three hours, he said.

"Our troops fought back and we managed to inflict heavy casualties on the terrorists," he said. The military claimed 200 rebels also were injured in the battle.

The rebels made no immediate comment on Sunday's action, and the army's claim to have inflicted 350 casualties on the attackers could not be verified since journalists are barred from the war zone.

The guerrillas targeted Oddusudan in the Mullaitivu district, 260 kilometre's (160 miles) north of Colombo, where soldiers were camped to support the 5-month-old offensive to capture a rebel-controlled highway leading north toward the city of Jaffna. They were part of an estimated 20,000-man force engaged in the campaign for the 70-kilometre (43-mile) road.

Jaffna, a former stronghold of the Tamil Tigers, is now under government control, but the overland access route to the city remains under rebel control.

Sunday's attack was the biggest battle since a guerrilla assault on nearby military lines at Omatkal killed 67 soldiers and an estimated 200 rebels July 30.

The rebels are trying to hold onto their positions in the jungles and some towns after they were driven out of Jaffna two years ago.

The rebels apparently chose Oddusudan since it was close to Puliyankulam, a major road junction seized by government forces.

The offensive that began May 13 has gained barely one-fourth of its objective, and has been repeatedly slowed by rebel counterattacks.

Reuter adds: Sri Lanka's main Tamil political group today rejected the government's plans to hold referendums to decide the geographical devolution of the north and east because the war made free and fair voting impossible.

Officials of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), which supports the ruling People's Alliance coalition in Parliament, said they told President Chandrika Kumaratunga that it was impossible to hold referendums in some areas.

"We told the president that we oppose the plan to hold referendums because the present ground situation will not allow free and fair voting," TULF leader Murugasu Sivasingham said.

The government's proposed constitutional changes to devolve more powers to regional administrative units aim to meet some of the demands of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels who are fighting for a separate Tamil homeland in the north and east.

Kumaratunga, who met TULF officials late on Sunday

had agreed to consult with government ministers before taking a final decision on the referendums Sivasithamparam said.

"Whatever our views are, nobody will be able to even campaign in some areas which are held by the rebels he told Reuters.

The government controls most towns and major highways in the eastern province, while LTTE rebels are in command of interior villages.

Other Tamil political parties have rejected the plan to hold the referendums saying they would only deepen the ethnic divide.

Political analysts said the Tamil parties opposition might delay government plans to present the draft constitution to a Parliamentary Select Committee where the ruling coalition is battling the main opposition United Nations Party for a consensus.

The government last week proposed to hold a series of referendums in an attempt to resolve the contentious issue of a merged northern and eastern province.

## India admits 'serious problem' with satellite

BANGALORE, India, Oct 6: India today admitted the failure of its most advanced communications satellite was a "serious problem" which could force it to look abroad for help, reports AFP.

But the state-run Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) predicted the setback to the country's space programme, the second within 10 days would be short-term.

ISRO spokesman Krishnamurthy told AFP that Sunday's decision to abandon the INSAT 20 satellite, used by the country's leading stock exchange as well as for telecommunications, was definitely a serious problem.

## 10 Croat war crimes suspects to face trial at UN court

ZAGREB, Croatia, Oct 6: Ten Bosnian Croat war crimes suspects, including their most wanted fugitive, will surrender on Monday and be taken to an international tribunal for trial, the Croatian defence minister said, reports AP.

The announcement on Croatian TV on Sunday by Defence Minister Gojko Susak capped months of intense pressure on Croatia by the United States and its allies, and negotiations to ensure that the suspects are tried quickly.

## Milosevic in trouble as foes set to win polls

# Serbia's Radical Party claims victory over ruling Socialists

BELGRADE, Oct 6: Serbia's nationalist Radical Party claimed victory over the ruling Socialists today in elections for the Yugoslav republic's presidency, reports Reuter.

A senior party official said Radical leader Vojislav Seselj had 51.78 per cent of the vote with less than 10 per cent remaining to be counted and that the turnout was large enough to validate the result.

Dragan Todorovic, president of the party executive, told reporters on the basis of the information that has arrived, "We can without any doubt proclaim Dr Vojislav Seselj as the winner of these elections."

AP adds: Slobodan Milosevic's foes claimed the lead in elections Sunday for the presidency of both Yugoslav republics, but a boycott by pro-democracy opponents could invalidate the vote in the bigger republic, Serbia.

Milosevic's associates faced tough challenges in Serbia and Montenegro, in both cases from men who once supported the authoritarian Yugoslav president but now bitterly oppose him.

In Montenegro, which has only 600,000 people, Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic appeared to be heading for a major victory over Milosevic's protege, current President Momir Bulatovic, according to initial official results.

## Harrods withdraws sale of Morton's book

# Family of Diana drops plans to halt sale of her biography

LONDON, Oct 6: The family of Diana, Princess of Wales, has dropped plans to halt the sale of an updated biography of the Late Princess revealing that she was the main source of the original edition, The Sun said today, reports AFP.

The new edition of "Diana: Her True Story" went on sale in Britain Friday, amid criticism that author Andrew Morton was capitalising on the death of the Princess in a car crash in Paris on August 30.

The first edition attributed the disclosures to friends of the Princess, but Morton said that since her death the true source could now be given.

The Princess's mother Frances Shand Kydd and sister Lady Sarah McCorquodale, as executors of her estate, were reported to be seeking to block the book's sale on the grounds of abuse of copyright on the tapes in which Diana described her tribulations as a member of Britain's Royal Family.

But the Sun repeated allegations by its Sunday sister-paper the news of the World that the family had intended to claim that when she spoke to Morton the Princess was mentally unhinged because of the breakdown of her marriage to Charles.

AP adds: The controversial Andrew Morton biography of Princess Diana was withdrawn from sale at Harrods department store on orders from its owner Mohamed Al Fayed, whose son died with the princess five weeks ago.

## Israel likely to demand crackdown on Hamas

TEL AVIV, Oct 6: Israel is likely to demand a crackdown on Hamas when peace talks with the Palestinians resume Monday. At the same time, Israel appeared to be nearing a deal with Jordan enabling the militant group's spiritual leader to return to his Gaza home after eight years in prison, reports AP.

A return by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, spiritual leader of the militant Hamas group, could turn the 61-year-old blind quadriplegic into a central player in the volatile Mideast political equation.

Israel's decision to release him from jail and possibly allow him to return to Gaza — could weaken its position in pressing Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to arrest more members of Hamas, which has staged three bombings this year killing 30 people in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

Israel Radio, citing foreign reports, said that along with the return of Yassin, 22 Palestinian prisoners involved in anti-Israeli activities would be released from Israeli jails as part of a swap for two alleged Israeli Mossad agents involved in a botched assassination of a Hamas leader in Amman, Jordan.

In an effort to re-establish momentum in the long stalled peace process, US envoy Dennis Ross arrives Monday in Israel to resume Israeli-Palestinian talks, which were suspended in March after Israel started building homes for Jews in a disputed area of Jerusalem, and further postponed after a series of Hamas bombings.

An Israeli Foreign Ministry official said the talks would focus primarily on the opening of a Palestinian airport and seaport in Gaza and the establishment of a roadlink between the West Bank and Gaza.

But broader issues are also likely to arise: Israel expects the Palestinians to take strong measures against Islamic militants, while the Palestinians want Israel to stop building in Jewish settlements and to hand over more West Bank land.

The resumption of talks will likely be overshadowed Monday if Yassin arrives.

The Hamas leader has moderated his views in prison, and as a free man could influence his followers to end attacks against Israeli civilians, as he has counseled from jail.

Yassin — who had been serving a life term since 1989 for issuing orders to kill Israeli soldiers and Palestinians who collaborated with the Israelis — was freed and flown to Jordan in response to an appeal from King Hussein last week.

Israeli news reports said Israel aimed to appease Hussein after a botched assassination attempt on a top Hamas figure on Jordanian soil was attributed to Israel's spy agency.

## Trident nuclear missile parts missing in UK

LONDON, Oct 6: Thousands of components from Britain's US Trident nuclear missiles system are missing, the Ministry of Defence said Sunday, reports AP.

The components, which do not include nuclear material, disappeared over a four-year period between 1989 and 1992, the ministry said.

Defence chiefs blamed slack accounting procedures at the Faslane Naval Base in Scotland, where Britain's Trident submarines are based.

"We have openly admitted that while 99.9 per cent of the spares in the Trident programme have been properly accounted for, 0.1 per cent are missing."

**Samper summons 'war council' of top brass**

BOGOTA, Oct 6: President Ernesto Samper summoned a "war council" of Colombia's military top brass for today after 28 policemen, soldiers and judicial officials were killed within 24 hours in separate attacks by leftist rebels and right-wing gunmen, reports Reuter.

The coffins of those who died in the latest of the two ambushes, which occurred on Friday and Saturday in eastern Xeta province, were flown into Bogota on Sunday evening.



Children hold anti-abortion slogan "Abortion kills children" during an anti-abortion rally held by a Catholic Traditionalist Association Sunday. — AP/UNB photo

## Wildlife in Indonesia under even bigger siege due to drought, fires

JAKARTA, Oct 6: A baby orangutan clings to its mother while she climbs down a tree in a drought-stricken rainforest hazy from the widespread fires raging across Indonesia, reports AP.

Tribes people attack as soon as the red-haired apes warily venture into a village garden desperate for food.

The mother is weak from hunger and slow on the ground. She's no match for the humans who hack her to death with machetes and wrench the baby from her mutilated corpse.

A visiting trader buys the orphan for a few dollars. Soon the infant is illegally on sale in a nearby town for \$50.

In Taiwan it could sell for \$5,000. If smuggled into the United States such a cute, exotic creature might fetch more than \$25,000.

"This is happening now," said Willie Smits, a Dutch-born wildlife worker who with the help of police and the army has saved 30 baby orangutans on the island of Borneo in the past two months.

He nurtures more than 100 in a refuge and will eventually release most back into the wild.

Tribes have long combed the jungle to service the illicit pet trade. But more and more the apes, considered one of hu-

mankind's closest biological relatives, are falling into their hands because of this year's severe drought and the destruction of forest habitat by fires.

"Orangutans are being forced out of their habitat. Normally they would never go near a village. But they are facing a food crisis in the forest. There is little fruit on the trees," Smits said.

Wildfires thick smoke and lack of water are exacting a terrible toll on animals, humans and their shared environment across Indonesia.

The official Antara news agency reported that fires on the island of Sumatra are forcing wild elephants out of their scrubland habitat. Some herds have rampaged through villages in search of food.

On the same island three people have been mauled and death during the past four months by rare Sumatran tigers, which wildlife officials believe also fled their normal jungle range.

There are fears for the survival of the rare Sumatran rhinoceros as well as several species of monkeys and birds that, like orangutans, live mainly off forest fruit that has become scarce in the prolonged dry spell.

Meteorologists say the latest

## Japan's proposal for greenhouse gas control

# Clinton seeks middle ground in global warming talks

WASHINGTON, Oct 6: When President Bill Clinton sits down today Monday to hear scientists, environmentalists and business leaders discuss how to deal with emissions from power plants and other industries, he might find trouble wherever he looks, reports AP.

With both sides digging in, the meeting is unlikely to produce a consensus. That means Clinton will probably be criticized no matter what proposal the United States takes to an international climate conference in Kyoto, Japan, at the end of the year.

"The science is solid," Clinton said recently, adding that the US will press for "realistic and binding" commitments to reduce carbon emissions. "We have a responsibility to cut back ... because the world is looking to us for leadership."

Clinton and Al Gore, the vice president who hopes to succeed his boss in 2001, would like to keep environmental support while not antagonising business. That may not be possible.

The administration has not hinted how far it is willing to go to control emissions or what timetable it will suggest. The answers may depend in part on an assessment of the economic impact of new controls on emissions.

Lobbying has been intense. As environmentalists and many scientists warned that unchecked pollution could lead to disastrous long-range warming of the planet, business has waged a 15 million dollars advertising campaign suggesting that gas and electricity prices would soar and drag down the economy.

Five years ago, at the last international conference on global warming, industrial countries set a goal of emissions at the 1990 level by 2000. Instead, even more carbon is pouring into the atmosphere, so much that getting to 1990 levels in the United States even by 2010 would require US industry and cars to reduce them by 20 per cent from current levels.

Another report from Tokyo says, in an effort to take leadership in the fight against global warming, Japan on Monday issued a proposal to substantially cut greenhouse gas emissions worldwide by 2012, officials said.

The proposal calls for industrialised countries to slash greenhouse gas levels by 5 per cent from their 1990 levels in the period between 2006 and 2012. Chief Cabinet Secretary Kaneko Muraoka told reporters on Monday.