

## 2 die as Indian police open fire on mob

NEW DELHI, Oct 10: At least two people were killed and four injured when Indian police fired on a mob following the rape and murder of a six-year-old girl, newspapers said today, reports AFP.

Police said they opened fire in Bahadurgarh, a northern town about 70 kilometres (43 miles) west of the capital, after 500 demonstrators torched vehicles and attacked a police station, the Times of India reported.

The murder was the seventh child sex killing in the town in 19 months.

District Police Commissioner Rajiv Arora said: "Only four or five policemen were there inside the police station when the mob attacked. Our men had to fire in self-defence."

Locals claimed that following the police action the crowd went on the rampage, torching six-buses and blocking a major road to New Delhi.

## Clinton, Blair exchange views on N Ireland

WASHINGTON, Oct 10: British Prime Minister Tony Blair and US President Bill Clinton had a "wonderfully comfortable" exchange of views on the Northern Ireland peace process, a White House spokesman said Thursday, reports AFP.

Clinton briefed Blair about his "very successful meeting" earlier in the week with Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble. White House spokesman Mike McCurry told a news conference.

And "they discussed in general, the good feeling that exists with the resumption of talks," McCurry said, adding "I think both of them agreed that it is very important that there be no return to violence by any party."

McCurry said the British prime minister also took the opportunity to brief Clinton about his recent meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow.

## China warns against bid to influence politics

BEIJING, Oct 10: China issued a strong warning today to both leftists and rightists to stop attempts to influence politics and fall in line behind President Jiang Zemin, reports AFP.

A front-page editorial in the People's Daily said the era of the "primary stage of socialism" had begun which was loyal to socialism but affected by neither leftist or rightist ideology.

"The primary stage of socialism is based on materialism and it makes a clear distinction from rightist ideology which negates socialism and leftist ideology which wants to transit through the primary stages of socialism," the newspaper said.

It blamed the "frustrations and mistakes" of MAO Zedong's China on too strong a leftist ideology that overran all other concerns.

## Police break up opposition rally in Kenya

NAIROBI, Oct 10: Riot police wielding clubs fired a dozen tear gas canisters to break up an opposition rally Friday on Moi Day, a national holiday named after President Daniel arap Moi, reports AP.

There were no reports of serious injuries as 100 riot police jumped from trucks to chase away about 2,000 demonstrators who chanted "Moi go home."

Police unleashed a cloud of tear gas that wafted over Nairobi's Kamukuni ground, an open space used for rallies and as a market. Demonstrators took cover among surrounding houses and hurled stones at the police.

At least three people were arrested.

"The people want to come to this meeting, but they are being stopped by the police," said Otieno Makonanga, an opposition member of Parliament who said he was beaten by police.

## US warns DPRK of food cutoff

WASHINGTON, Oct 10: The United States will suspend its food assistance to North Korea unless the Pyongyang government permits wider monitoring of distribution to nurseries, kindergartens and hospitals, an official with the Agency for International Development warned Thursday, reports AP.

Some 2.6 million children under the age of 6, patients and workers in special programmes to counter disasters are helped in an intentional programme to which the United States this year contributed 177,000 metric tons of grain.

While there is no evidence American corn, rice and other food aid is being diverted to North Korea's military or stolen, international relief monitors do not have access to areas in the north and the center of the country, officials said.

The World Food Programme, which is providing 330,000 metric tons overall, has asked North Korea to permit 17 monitors to oversee distribution, but only seven have been approved.



Queen Elizabeth II of the Great Britain, accompanied by Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his wife Kulsom, arrives for a state banquet in Lahore Thursday, on a six-day official visit to Pakistan. — AP/UNB photo

## Queen arrives in India tomorrow

AMRITSAR, India, Oct 10: Queen Elizabeth's arrival in India on Sunday to mark the country's 50th anniversary of independence will coincide with two brewing controversies, reports AFP.

One dates back to the Raj in 1919, the other as recent as last week.

Officials from India and Britain, however, hope that neither will affect the Queen's third state visit to the country.

The first controversy — the Queen's proposed visit to the site of a 1919 massacre of Indian civilians by British colonial troops in Amritsar — appears to have blown up despite best intentions.

British diplomatic officials backed the October 14 wreath-laying at Jallianwala Bagh, the first by a British monarch since 379 people were shot and around 1,200 people wounded after troops fired on a public meeting.

High Commissioner David

Gore-Booth said he hoped it would be seen as "a special gesture" during the six-day trip between October 12-18.

Relatives of the victims, however, supported by some Sikh and nationalist groups, say a full public apology is required.

But, S K Mukherjee, who has been managing the Jallianwala Bagh memorial since 1961, argues that people hold the view that the queen's coming here and paying homage for the massacre victims is itself an apology.

"She will also observe silence and write her impression in the visitors book."

An influential leader of Sikh party ruling the Punjab agrees, "the demand for an apology is uncalled for," said Gurcharan Singh Tohra, a member of the Akali Dal party. "Raking up such a controversy is only aimed at scuttling her visit."

## BRITFLY

### Mass grave discovered in Bosnia:

A grave containing the corpses of 13 Muslim civilians was discovered Thursday near Zvornik, a city in eastern Serb-held areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bosnian television said Thursday, AFP reports from Sarajevo.

The civilians died in a Bosnian Serb ambush as they tried to flee their villages in the Zvornik area, which is near the border with Serbia, to Tuzla on May 10, 1992, a survivor of the massacre told the television.

Three women and a 10-year-old child were among the victims, who have all been identified and determined to belong to four families.

UK govt rules out new yacht for queen: Queen Elizabeth II and the government have agreed that there will be no replacement for the royal yacht Britannia after it retires this year, news reports said Thursday, AP reports from London.

Plans for a new yacht appear to have become a casualty of tight government spending restraints and the royal family's increasing sensitivity to its image.

A formal announcement was expected on Friday the Minister of Defence said. It would neither confirm or deny the news reports.

Tunisian cabinet reshuffled: Tunisian President Zine EL Abidine Ben Ali ordered a Cabinet shuffle Thursday, naming new ministers of foreign affairs, interior and industry and getting rid of the post of information minister, AP reports from Tunis.

No reason for the Cabinet shuffle was given.

Said Ben Mustaphan, a career diplomat who most recently was ambassador to Italy, replaces Abderrahim Zouari to head the Foreign Ministry.

Ali Chaouch, the former junior health minister, was named the new interior minister, and Monces Ben Abdallah, formerly CEO of the state power company, is the new industry minister.

German FM to visit Seoul: German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel will visit Seoul October 21-23 to strengthen political and economic relations, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said Friday, AP reports from Seoul.

During his stay in Seoul, Kinkel will hold talks with his South Korean counterpart, Yoo Chong-ha, and pay a courtesy call on President Kim Young-sam, it said.

The two foreign ministers also will sign agreements to promote technology, cooperation and avoid double taxation for investments in each other's country, the ministry said.

S'pore PM appeals libel verdict: Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong is appealing a court verdict that awarded him 20,000 dollars (US \$12,903) in libel damages from an opposition politician, it was reported Friday, AP says from Singapore.

Goh had asked for 200,000 dollars (US \$129,032) from Workers' Party leader J.B. Jeyaretnam for statements he made at an election campaign rally in January.

Quoting legal sources, The Straits Times said the appeal filed on Wednesday would likely come before the Court of Appeal in February or March. There was no immediate information on the grounds for the prime minister's action.

Ramos is in good health, says doctor: President Ramos is in good health and can travel abroad next week, his doctor said Friday, AP reports from Manila.

Ramos' doctor, Raul Fores, said the president is healthier than he was last December when he had an operation to remove a life-threatening blockage in an artery carrying blood to the brain.

A member of the presidential press staff said Fores reported that Ramos' cholesterol level was "very low" and his weight was down to 151 pounds from 165 pounds when he had the operation.

6 die as jet crashes in Taiwan: An air force C-130 transport plane crashed at Taipei Air Force Base Friday, killing all six on board and injuring two servicemen on the ground, AP reports from Taipei.

The plane was returning from Pingtung Air Force Base in southern Taiwan when it crashed in a drizzle on landing in Taipei, Taiwan television reported.

Quake shakes N Japan: A moderate earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.2 hit off the coast of northern Japan early Friday, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries, AP reports from Tokyo.

The quake at 5:42 am (2042 GMT Thursday), was roughly 40 kilometres (25 miles) under the sea and just off the southwest coast of the northern island of Hokkaido, the Meteorological Agency said.

# International

## US tightens enforcement of no-fly zone over S Iraq

WASHINGTON, Oct 10: The United States is tightening enforcement of a no-fly zone over southern Iraq, and US Defence Secretary William Cohen said that Iraq will "bear the consequences" if its warplanes continue to violate the ban, reports AP.

Asked to explain on Thursday what consequences Cohen had in mind, his spokesman Kenneth Bacon declined, but he noted the presence in the Persian Gulf of US strategic bombers and Navy ships capable of firing Tomahawk cruise missiles.

In addition, the Nimitz carrier battle group is steaming toward the Gulf, and Bacon said its fighter aircraft should be flying in the area by this week-end.

Bacon said the United States is tightening its enforcement of the no-fly zone by patrolling closer to the 33rd parallel, which marks the northern edge of the zone. He said larger numbers of US planes are participating in each patrol, too.

In a later interview on PBS's "Newshour with Jim Lehrer," Cohen was more explicit in his warning.

"Saddam Hussein is probing for weaknesses, trying to flaunt the ... no-fly zones," Cohen said, adding that US pilots know how to react. "The word has gone forth that any violations will be strictly dealt with and that would include shooting them down." The no-fly zone was created after the 1991 Gulf War to prevent Iraqi government forces from attacking rebel Shi'ite Muslims in the southern marsh areas. The last time a US plane attacked an Iraqi violator of the zone was January 18, 1993, when an Air Force fighter shot down a MIG-25 with an air-to-air missile.

Cohen said Iraqi aircraft have periodically crossed into the no-fly zone recently. He accused Iraqi President Saddam Hussein of playing a dangerous game.

He is posing a risk to himself, his pilots as such, whenever they start to challenge the no-fly zone," Cohen told reporters during a photo session in his office. "If they make a mistake, they will have to bear the consequences."

Several times in recent days US officials have publicly cautioned Iraq against flying in the restricted zone, but the comments by Cohen and Bacon seemed to suggest the Clinton administration was considering possible retaliatory measures that might go beyond simply shooting down Iraqi violators.

Bacon's mention of cruise missiles appeared to be a reminder that Tomahawk missiles from Navy ships and submarines in the Gulf were fired at Iraqi air defence positions in the no-fly zone below the 33rd parallel in September 1996. The US attack was in retaliation for Saddam's siege of the Kurdish-

controlled city of Irbil.

Bacon also noted that the US Air Force has two B-1 strategic bombers in the Gulf state of Bahrain. This is in addition to the fleet of US, French and British fighters based in Saudi Arabia that are patrolling the no-fly zone over Iraq.

"We have shown in the past that we are willing and able to enforce the no-fly zone," Bacon said. "We have a powerful military force in the area. ... Rather than speculate about the future, I will just point to the fact that we have protected our interests there in the past."

Asked directly whether the administration was thinking of taking retaliatory measures other than shooting down Iraqi violators of the no-fly zone, Bacon would say only that the United States in the past has used "a variety of military assets" to protect its interests in Iraq. "I'll leave it at that," he said.

## PA warns Israel

## Don't lag behind in implementing interim peace agreements

RAMALLAH, Oct 10: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Cabinet warned Israel on Thursday not to lag further behind in the implementation of interim peace agreements, the Palestinian Wafa News Service reported, reports AFP.

"The resumption of talks is our aim in the meetings but what we especially want is the implementation of the interim agreement and for Israel to demonstrate seriousness," said a release from the late-night meeting in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

After a seven-month freeze in the talks, the two sides resumed talks this week in committees set up to implement different, overdue aspects of interim peace accords.

But even after a meeting between Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday, the sides appeared to hit a snag Thursday when a joint committee could

not agree on how to allow Arafat to use a Palestinian airport in Gaza.

"It should be clear that the Palestinian side rejects any Israeli attempt to escape implementing the agreements," the Cabinet said in the release.

The Palestinian leadership called on Israel to stop settlement expansion, which brought the talks to a standstill in March.

The Cabinet also called on Israel to carry out troop redeployments from Palestinian areas of the West Bank, which were agreed would resume earlier this year but have been delayed by Israel.

Meanwhile, Israel rejected Palestinian requests Thursday for Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to begin using the Gaza Airport, Palestinian officials said.

The two sides re-opened negotiations on the Palestinian airport Thursday but did not

reach an agreement on the long-delayed start for Arafat's use of the airport, said Fayed Zaydan, the head of the Palestinian Aviation Authority.

"The Israelis demanded a further period of time (in order) to permit Arafat to use the Gaza Airport," Zaydan told AFP.

The Palestinians said they thought the start of Arafat's flights had been agreed upon during a summit Tuesday between the Palestinian leader and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

But during Thursday's meeting in Tel Aviv, the Israelis said they could not yet allow Arafat's flights, said Suleiman Abu Halib, Zaydan's assistant.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cancelled an aide's trip to Russia slated for Saturday so as not to upset Foreign Minister David Levy, officials said Thursday.

## Hurricane leaves 120 dead in Mexico's Pacific coast

ACAPULCO, Mexico, Oct 10: Floods and winds of 190 kilometres (120 miles) an hour brought by hurricane Pauline left some 120 dead in Acapulco and other towns on Mexico's Pacific Coast, official sources said Thursday, reports AFP.

Ninety-eight people died in Acapulco and four others were confirmed dead in two small towns in Guerrero state, according to Humberto Salgado, the state government's secretary general.

Fourteen people were confirmed dead further south in Oaxaca, where 15 people were missing and feared dead, and another three died in Chiapas state.

Most of the victims in Acapulco appear to have lived in the shanty towns perched on banks of rivers that run down the mountains and into the Pacific around Acapulco. About 10,000 people live in the shanty towns.

The fishing and resort towns of Puerto Angel and Puerto Escondido could not be reached because telephone lines were down, Salina and Huatulco

## KSA, Algeria condemn 'terrorism'

DUBAI, Oct 10: Saudi Arabia and Algeria on Thursday condemned "terrorism", and criticised Israel over its settlement policy, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said, reports Reuter.

It quoted a communique issued at the end of a visit to Saudi Arabia by Algerian President Liamine Zerrouk as saying "rejection of all forms of violence and terrorism" and called for international cooperation to fight it.

Riyadh and Algiers also called for an end to Israel's policy of building settlements on Arab land and urged all sides to respect Middle East peace accords, SPA said.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and senior Saudi officials held talks with Zerrouk who headed a delegation of six senior government officials on the visit to the kingdom.

There has been no confirmation of reports of Saudi help in brokering a cease-fire by Algeria's Islamic Salvation Army (AIS).



Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks at the a summit of first ladies of the Americas in Panama City, Panama, on Thursday. The First Lady spoke about women's rights. — AP/UNB photo

## Italian president seeks new PM to resolve crisis

ROME, Oct 10: President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro embarks today on the complex job of finding a new Italian government to resolve a potentially disastrous crisis sparked by the resignation of Prime Minister Romano Prodi, reports Reuter.

Italy's 55th government since World War II collapsed on Thursday after a dramatic parliamentary debate in which Prodi's hardline left-wing ally, Communist Refoundation, refused to accept a compromise deal on the 1998 budget.

Prodi immediately tendered his resignation to Scalfaro, Italy's constitutional referee, who asked the government to stay on in a caretaker capacity while he consulted the various political forces over the next

five days.

The process begins at 1530 GMT when Scalfaro will meet the speakers of the two houses of Parliament. Leaders of smaller parties will go to the Presidential Palace on Saturday and talks with the two main political blocs are due on Monday.

Scalfaro has previously indicated that he does not want to resort to early elections and would prefer a political solution.

Prodi, looking tired, told hundreds of supporters who gathered outside his official Rome residence after his resignation: "In these months we have worked well. The crisis is now in the hands of the president."

## PNG govt, rebels from Bougainville sign truce accord

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Oct 10: The Papua New Guinea government and rebel factions from Bougainville Island signed a truce at the Burnham Army Camp near here today, moving a step closer to peace on the war-torn island, reports AFP.

Bougainville Island representatives and PNG leaders have signed an historic Burnham truce as an interim peace measure until the leaders meet again before January 31 next year, the New Zealand Press Association reported.

The truce signed today by PNG government heads, PNG security forces, warring Bougainville leaders and resistance commanders.

## Finding sharpens chance for life on Jupiter's moon

WASHINGTON, Oct 10: The discovery of organic compounds on two of Jupiter's moons increases the possibility that all of the elements for life are present on another of the planet's moons, Europa, reports AP.

The finding, from instruments on the Galileo spacecraft orbiting Jupiter, suggests that Europa may have all three of the ingredients scientists consider essential for life: an energy source, liquid water and organic molecules, said planetary scientist Thomas B. McCord of the University of Hawaii.

"This doesn't mean there is life on Europa," said McCord, lead author of a study to be published Friday in the Journal Science. "The exciting thing now is the evidence that Europa may have all three of the ingredients."

Europa is already known to have water and internal heat

sources. Dale Cruikshank, a research scientist at NASA's Ames Research Center, said the work of McCord and his team should sharpen the research concentration on Europa, which already "is the subject of very special interest."

This finding increases the plausibility for life on Europa," Cruikshank said. "It also supports the idea that there were organic molecules streaming throughout the solar system."

The study of Jupiter's moons is part of a growing effort by astronomers and planetary experts to find evidence of life within the solar system, particularly on Mars.

A major goal of NASA's Mars exploration, for example, is to search for the fingerprints of life on the Red Planet. Researchers have determined that Mars once had vast pools of water and there is speculation this could have led to the evolu-

tion of life. Some speculation this could have led to the evolution of life. Some believe there may be evidence of life in frozen underground water.

NASA researchers also have found what some believe may be the fossilized remains of microbes in an asteroid that fell to Earth from Mars. The interpretation of that finding, however, is controversial.

In the case of Jupiter's moons, instruments on Galileo detected the complex organic molecules on the surfaces of the moons Callisto and Ganymede, suggesting that such organics are also present on Jupiter's other two large moons, Europa and Io.

"What we have on Callisto and Ganymede are some of the kinds of organic molecules that could be the basis for life," said McCord. "These are the basic ingredients."

And if Callisto and Ganymede have these com-

## Fresh fighting erupts between Tigers, troops : 65 killed

COLOMBO, Oct 10: Security forces and Tamil Tiger guerrillas fought ferocious battles in northern Sri Lanka, leaving 60 rebels and five soldiers killed, the Defence Ministry said today, reports AFP.

Gunmen of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) initiated the latest battle on Wednesday night on army bunker lines just north of Kanakarayanakulam and the fighting lasted till Thursday, the ministry said.

"Troops confirm well over 60 terrorists killed and a large number wounded," the ministry statement said, adding that five soldiers were killed during the fighting.

The heavy fighting continued as the US government on Wednesday included the LTTE in a list of 30 foreign organisa-

tions considered by Washington as terrorists, effectively blocking US fund-raising activities for the rebels.

Sri Lanka's Defence Ministry has said that the US action will have little immediate impact on the ongoing fighting in the island's northeast where the LTTE wants to establish an independent homeland called Eelam.

The ministry statement said that ground troops supported by tanks and aircraft continued an offensive in the north.

However, the LTTE in a statement sent here Thursday from their London office said they had besieged a group of soldiers at Kanakarayanakulam.

Defence Ministry figures show that 520 Tiger rebels and 77 security personnel have been killed in fighting since Sunday.

## Hun Sen to contest for premiership next year

LEUK DAEK, Oct 10: Poised to solidify his power for another five years, Cambodian leader Hun Sen confirmed Friday he will seek to become Cambodia's sole prime minister if his party wins elections scheduled for May, reports AP.

"I wish to declare publicly today that if the Cambodian People's Party wins the elections in 1998, I will propose my candidacy for premiership in order to kill the Khmer Rouge," Hun Sen said at a school inauguration ceremony.

Hun Sen ousted his co-premier, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, in a violent takeover in July. Though he keeps the title of second prime minister and has installed a first prime

minister, Ung Huot, to replace the prince, Hun Sen is Cambodia's most powerful man.

The formerly communist Cambodian People's Party is widely expected to win polls Hun Sen has promised to legitimise his rule next year. Ranariddh's royalist party is in disarray and the prince and other opposition leaders have been in exile since July.

By putting his name forward as a candidate for prime minister after next year's elections, Hun Sen is trying to scotch rumors of division in his party's ranks over the bloody takeover in July.

Hun Sen's party has long taken a hard-line stance against the Khmer Rouge.

"We've got the flour and sugar and the water to make the dough," said McCord. "And there's a suggestion that the oven is on."

But assembling the ingredients does not mean the cake has been made, he said.

The organics were detected by Galileo instruments that capture solar radiation reflected off the surface of the moons. The wavelength of the reflection is unique for each molecule, giving an electromagnetic "signature" of the surface chemistry.

McCord said the findings included various combinations of oxygen, carbon, sulphur, hydrogen and nitrogen that can make up several types of organic compounds.

One signature suggested the presence of tholins, an organic "gunk" that laboratory experiments have linked to the evolution of life, he said.