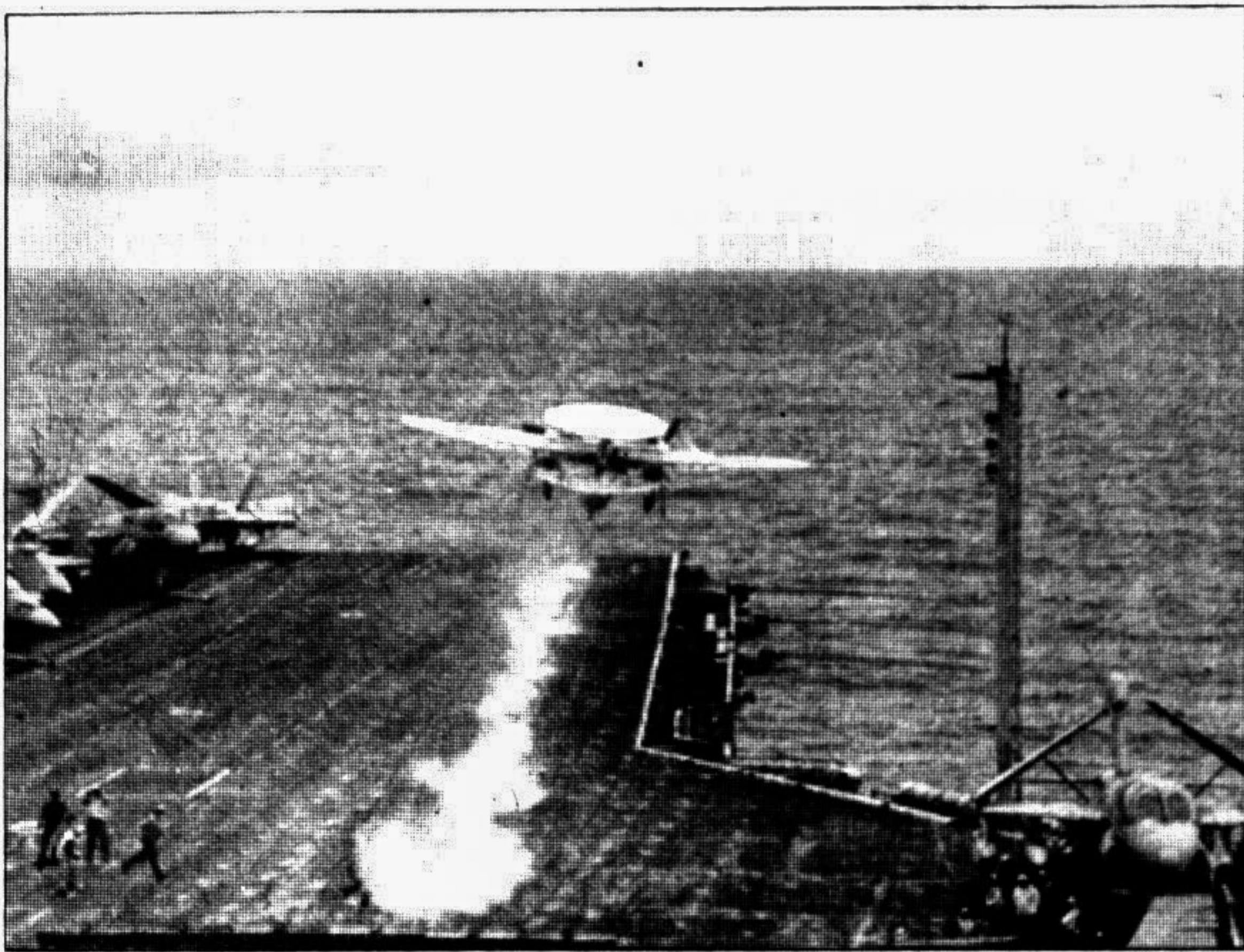


International

Tareq Aziz to explain his country's position to Security Council

Iraq to delay expulsion of US arms inspectors



An E-2C 'Hawkeye' assigned to Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 112 launches from one of four catapult systems on the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz, Tuesday, in the Arabian Gulf. The Nimz is currently operating on the Gulf in support of the UN no-fly zone over Southern Iraq. Iraq turned back UN weapons inspectors for a second day Tuesday, saying it would not grant access to teams that included Americans.

BAGHDAD, Nov 5: Iraq on Tuesday agreed to a UN request to delay the expulsion of US arms inspectors until after a visit here by three UN envoys seeking to defuse the latest crisis with the UN Disarmament Commission, reports AFP. US President Bill Clinton warned Iraq meanwhile it would be making a 'big mistake' if it carried out a threat to attack on a spy plane, but said he hoped the crisis with the United Nations could be resolved diplomatically. Iraq's official IN A news agency said President Saddam Hussein, at a meeting of leaders of his ruling Baath Party, had agreed to delay the expulsion of US arms inspectors and decided to send Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz to the United Nations in New York. The Iraqi delegation will explain Iraq's position and its legitimate demands to the Security Council following the meetings here with the three envoys being dispatched by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, INA said. It said the expulsion order against Americans working with the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarmament had been 'postponed until after the Security Council examines the results' of the talks with the three UN envoys. Meanwhile Richard Butler, the chief UN arms inspector, said late on Tuesday he was suspending American U-2 flights over Iraq while United Nations emissaries were in Baghdad this week.

Butler, the head of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) in charge of ridding Iraq of weapons of mass destruction, said he was responding to a request from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan who dispatched the envoys. Diplomatic sources said Annan wanted to make sure there would be no incident, such as Iraq shooting down the plane, that would thwart his diplomatic efforts. The three emissaries Annan dispatched were to arrive today and return on Friday in an effort to persuade Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to rescind his order to expel Americans from UN arms teams in Iraq. 'In response to a request by the secretary general, I have decided to postpone the U-2 flight scheduled for this week, that is during the period 5-7 November, while his personal envoys are delivering this message', Butler said in a statement. AP adds: Iraq's decision to let American arms inspectors stay and to accept UN mediators may look like a concession. But it is a shrewd move to reopen discussions on the entire issue of economic sanctions against Baghdad. In return for those concessions, Iraq's deputy prime minister, Tareq Aziz, will come to New York next week when the 15-member Security Council discusses the crisis, which erupted when Baghdad gave

American members of the UN weapons inspection team one week to leave. The visit will give Aziz an opportunity to present his country's case directly to Security Council ambassadors: Iraq has complied with UN orders to destroy its weapons of mass destruction, but the Americans are preventing the inspectors from certifying that. Until the arms inspectors give Iraq a clean bill, the council will not lift crippling economic sanctions imposed in 1990 when President Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. Iraq wants the Security Council to set a time limit on the weapons inspections, which have been under way since the end of the Persian Gulf War in 1991. Iraq will likely fail to achieve its goals during this round. The council has consistently refused to lift the sanctions because the inspectors have complained since the outset that Iraq has sought to conceal information about long-range missiles and nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. But the very fact that the issue is under discussion is a plus for the Iraqis in their campaign to chip away at the once-solid international front against them. When Baghdad issued its expulsion order last week, the United States and Britain insisted that there was no reason for negotiations.

Don't make 'big mistake', Clinton warns Saddam

WASHINGTON, Nov 5: President Bill Clinton warned Saddam Hussein it would be a "big mistake" to try to shoot down American U-2 spy planes flying over Iraq, reports AP. Seeking a peaceful resolution, the United Nations announced Tuesday it was postponing the surveillance flights this week while UN mediators in Iraq try to persuade Saddam to cooperate with international weapons inspectors. The U-2 flights are to resume next week. The White House said it was unconcerned by the delay. The U-2 flights will continue and will continue at a time determined by the UN, presidential spokesman Mike McCurry said. The world community will have the information it needs. We are entirely comfortable the information we need will be accessible. In his first public comments on the escalating tensions with Baghdad, Clinton urged that efforts be redoubled to end the crisis through diplomacy. But the administration made clear that it was not backing down. Defence Secretary William Cohen warned of 'serious consequences' if any US planes are attacked. Clinton expressed determination to prevent Iraq from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. In Iraq, Saddam's lieutenants turned back UN weapons inspectors for a second day. Iraq has threatened to expel seven Americans from the inspection team, claiming they are spies. White House spokesman Mike McCurry, asked about

Saddam's intentions, mocked the Iraqi leader. "It's just literally impossible to imagine what goes into such a convoluted and tortured mind," McCurry said. The president won congressional backing for his Iraq policy during a meeting with bipartisan leaders of Congress.



Leah Rabin, right, wife of assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin stands by her daughter Dalila Philosph as they attend a memorial ceremony at Mt Herzl cemetery in Jerusalem Tuesday, to mark the second anniversary of his death. An increasingly polarised Israel on Tuesday marked the anniversary with his supporters and foes focusing each other of incitement. — AP/UNB photo

BRIEFLY

2 sentenced to death in Sudan: Two armed robbers have been sentenced to death by crucifixion and two others to have limbs amputated following a spate of robberies in the wilderness of Northern Kordofan state, AP reports from Khartoum. Ibrahim Sanousi, the state governor and an ally of Sudan's Islamic spiritual leader Hassan Turabi, announced the sentences Monday, saying two other suspects would be tried in the remote area where they allegedly carried out a robbery. Sanousi, appointed governor last month with the task of ending the robberies, said hundreds of camels and sheep were taken in 18 thefts since January in the desert state that stretches west from the capital, Khartoum. Eight people, including policemen, died in the violence.

Monsoon spell claims 85 in India: A total of 85 people have been killed in the current spell of monsoon in Tamil Nadu of southern India during the past few days, Press Trust of India reported. Tuesday, Xinhua reports from New Delhi. Most of the deaths were due to lightning, will collapses and drowning. There was no damage to crops, the report quoted Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi as saying.

Menem invited to visit UK: Britain on Tuesday invited Argentina President Carlos Menem to make an official visit here next year, a foreign office spokesman said, AFP reports from London. It would be the first by an Argentinian president since the two countries fought a brief and bloody war in 1982 over the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic with Britain retaining control. The focus of the visit will be bilateral relations which have improved greatly in recent years a foreign office spokesman said. Adding that there was an invitation in principle by the previous Tory administration two years ago.

Chinese dissident to leave for NY: One of China's few remaining active pro-democracy campaigners plans to leave the country for New York, a friend said Wednesday, AP reports from Shanghai. Bao Ge, released in June after serving a three-year term in a labour camp for political activism, recently was given a passport and permission to leave China, a friend said. He planned to fly from Shanghai to New York on Wednesday with his 29-year-old sister, said the friend, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The friend said Bao planned to return to China within a year.

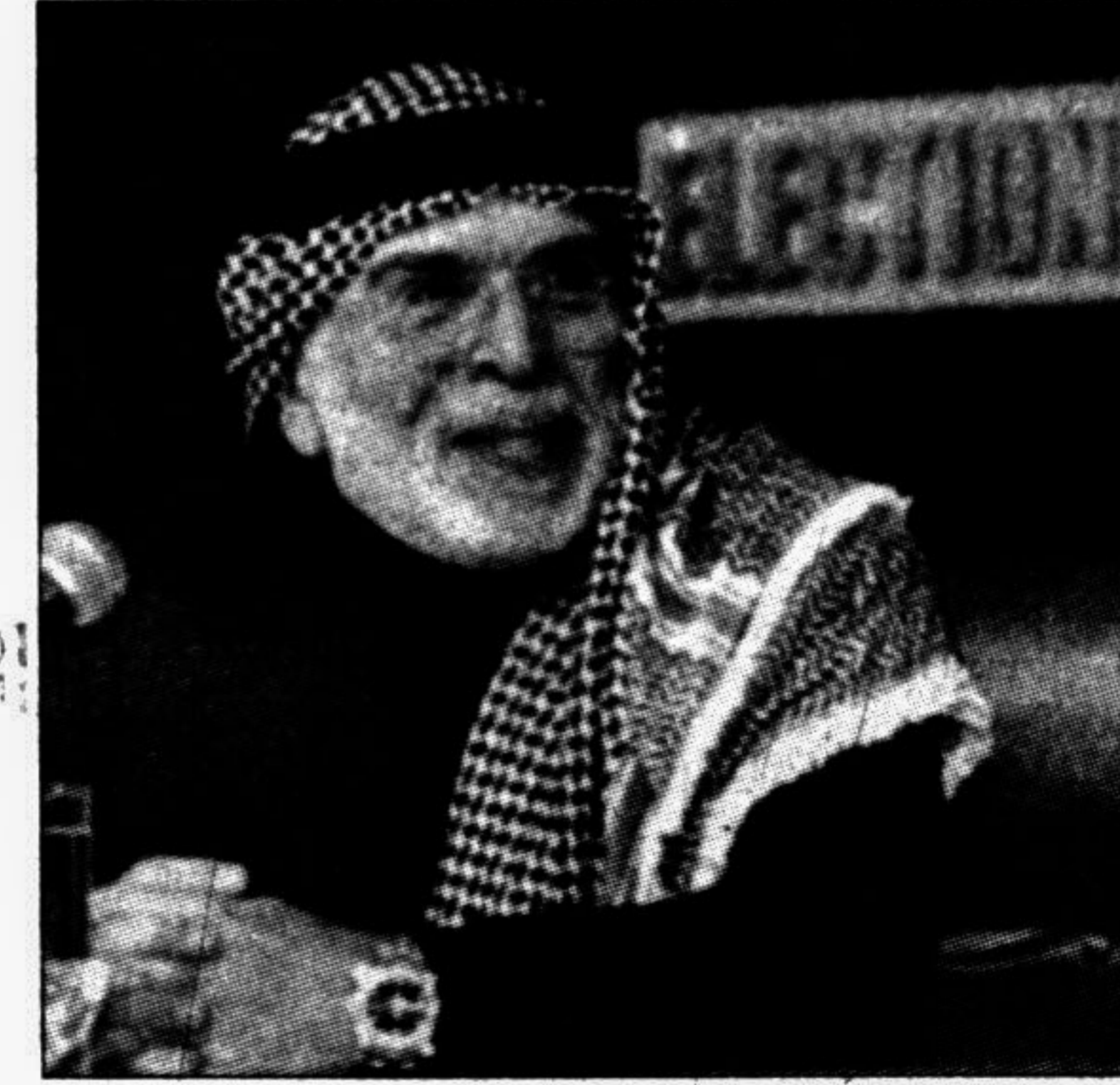
Strong typhoon may hit Japan: Typhoon Keith veered Wednesday toward southern Japan with gusts up to 205 kilometres (127 miles) per hour, sparing the Philippines' northern agricultural region, weather officials said, AP reports from Manila. The weather bureau said the typhoon was 1,260 kilometres (780 miles) east of the northern Philippine island of Luzon and was blowing northwest toward Japan at 11 kph (7 mph). Although the Philippines was spared from a direct hit, the weather bureau said the typhoon had entered the country's forecast area and cautioned ships from venturing in northern seas which could be affected by the typhoon's strong winds.

Phone booth on highest battlefield: Indian army engineers have set up a public telephone booth on the world's highest battlefield so that soldiers can call their loved ones, newspapers reported Wednesday, AP says from New Delhi. The phone is expected to boost the morale of hundreds of soldiers who guard India's border with Pakistan atop the Siachen Glacier, where icy winds and freezing temperatures quickly send people into deep depression, the reports said. A one-minute call from the glacier, routed through a satellite to any place in India, will cost a soldier 100 rupees (dhs 3), the reports said. The phone is located at the army base camp, at an altitude of 10,000 feet (3,300 metres), half the height of the glacier.

Pro-king tribals sweep Jordanian polls

AMMAN, Nov 5: Tribal leaders loyal to King Hussein won a majority Wednesday in parliamentary elections that were spurned by most voters and by the main opposition Islamic party, reports AP. Contesting as independents but united in their support for the monarch, the tribal chiefs — many of them centrists — secured 45 seats, according to partial results announced by the government. Two more tribal leaders were elected for the rightist Constitution Party. The combined strength of 47 gave the royalists a clear majority in the 80-member lower house of Parliament, which however, will suffer the ignominy of being elected by just 42.4 per cent of the electorate. Although the powerful Islamic Action Front boycotted Tuesday's polls, some of its members contested as independents along with other Islamists, leftists and pan-Arab nationalists in a loose opposition coalition. They won a total of 11 seats. The results, coming nine days before Hussein's 62nd birthday, strengthened his absolute control over the country he has ruled since 1952. Most tribal leaders have deep loyalty for Hussein, who has given them senior government and army posts, free education and health services and large tracts of lands to settle their once nomadic people. The lower house, known formally as the Chamber of Deputies, shares its powers with

the king and with the upper house, which comprises 40 members handpicked by the king. The composition of the Parliament has no bearing on the government, which is appointed by the king. As part of his wide powers, he also appoints judges and regional governors, approves constitutional amendments and can veto parliamentary bills, dissolve parliament or rule by decree.



Jordan's King Hussein talks to journalists during a press conference at the election press centre in Amman Tuesday. Jordanians voted Tuesday to elect 80 members to the Parliament's lower house. — AP/UNB photo.

Bid to prevent planned meeting: 20 held Barbed wire around NLD office

YANGON, Nov 5: Myanmar riot police threw up barbed wire barricades around a Yangon office of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party Wednesday morning to prevent a planned meeting between the Nobel laureate and the youth wing her party, reports AP. A member of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party on the scene said riot police had taken more than 20 youth members away in buses to be detained. Myanmar's military government had not yet commented on whether any of Suu Kyi's followers had been taken into custody. Suu Kyi was not seen Wednesday morning at her party's office in Tamwe, a township in Yangon, where she was expected to arrive in an attempt to meet with party youth members. Myanmar's military gov-

ernment, which has ruled in various forms since 1962, has said it is building a 'discipline democracy'. Suu Kyi is attempting to test the sincerity of the regime by attempting to hold a series of meetings of her party, the National League for Democracy. The meetings, in party offices around Yangon, are intended to reorganise its youth wing. The government allowed the first meeting to take place in Thaketa township on Oct 22, but blocked an attempt at a second meeting in Mayangon district on Oct 28. Four NLD members were later arrested by the regime in connection with the aborted meeting. Suu Kyi was attempting to trick the international community into putting more pressure on the military, the government said.

Unbowed, Suu Kyi said she would continue to attempt to hold the meetings. Riot police and plain clothes intelligence officers were visible early Wednesday morning along the main road leading to 166 Street, the small lane that houses the party's township office, as were some NLD youth members strolling along the road assessing the situation. Authorities brought in five empty buses to the lane. At about 9:25 am the riot police rolled out barbed wire barricades to block the entrance to 166th Street. An NLD member, speaking on condition of anonymity, said more than 20 youth members who had already been in the office were taken away in one of the buses. At about 10 am, riot police removed the barbed wire barricades.

Illegal immigrants ordered to leave Kuwait by Dec 15

KUWAIT, Nov 5: Kuwait, following other Gulf Arab States on Tuesday gave illegal aliens until December 15 to leave the country, reports Reuters. Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled al-Sabah said in an order that all illegal aliens who leave under the amnesty can return to Kuwait legally. Those who fail to leave before the deadline will be prosecuted and will not be allowed to return in the future. A copy of the order was made available to Reuters. Article four stipulates that without prejudice to final judicial rulings, the expatriate who leaves according to the provisions of this order can return to the country according to the legally prevailing procedures, the order said. Kuwait's population is made up of some 750,000 Kuwaitis and around 1.4 million foreigners mainly labourers from other Arab states and the Indian subcontinent. Unlike earlier amnesties by other Gulf Arab States, the Kuwaiti order said departing illegal aliens do not require any special exit permits provided they are not banned from leaving the country by legal authorities.

LTTE may challenge US terrorist designation

COLOMBO, Nov 5: Sri Lanka's ethnic Tamil guerrillas are likely to mount a legal challenge to being named terrorists by the United States government, a newspaper reported Wednesday, reports AP. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam will file papers in a Washington, DC court on Thursday seeking judicial review of the Clinton administration's decision, the Midweek Mirror quoted unnamed rebel officials in the United States as saying. Lawyers for the group are likely to argue that it is fighting for a just cause and does not pose a threat to other nations, the newspaper said. There was no immediate confirmation of the report. The guerrillas' official spokesman in their 'London' office was not immediately available for comment. The group earlier said its inclusion on the US list of 30 terrorist organisations was 'unfair, unfounded and irresponsible', and would only escalate this island nation's civil war. The designation makes it illegal for the Tigers to solicit funds in the United States. The Sri Lankan government has welcomed the US decision, saying it will help force the guerrillas to the negotiating table and stop their 14-year-old secessionist war. More than 50,000 people have died in the

war. The guerilla group, which began as a ragtag band of fighters in 1983, wants an independent homeland in northern and eastern Sri Lanka for ethnic Tamils, who make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 18 million people. They say Tamils are discriminated in government jobs, education and in the army, which are dominated by the country's Sinhalese majority.

US Congress to approve \$1.8b military support for Israel

WASHINGTON, Nov 5: The Clinton administration will ask Congress to approve \$1.8 billion dollars in US military support for Israel in fiscal 1999 beginning next October, US Defence Secretary William Cohen said on Tuesday, reports Reuters. Cohen made the announcement at a joint news conference with visiting Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai after they held talks at the Pentagon. US defence officials said the military funding would be equal to that in the current fiscal year that began last month.

32 killed as bus plunges in Bolivia

LA PAZ, Nov 5: An overcrowded bus crossing the rickety foothills plunged off a cliff in heavy rain and fog, killing 32 people, including four children, police said, reports AP. Another 19 passengers were injured — some of them seriously — by the 150-metre (500-foot) fall, police officer Walter Osinaga said late Tuesday after returning from the site of the accident. 'It looked like an airplane accident, with bodies and wreckage all over the place,' Osinaga said. The accident occurred at dawn just outside the tourist and farming centre of Sorata, about 150 kilometres (95 miles) north of the capital, La Paz. Nearly all the passengers were returning to La Paz from a long weekend and celebrations of the Day of the Dead in Sorata. Officials said the bus — which was built to carry only 30 of the 51 people on board — veered down the cliff after the driver missed a curve. The driver was killed.

Pathfinder ends extended space mission

PASADENA, Calif, Nov 5: Scientists officially declared an end on Tuesday to NASA's Pathfinder space mission — four months to the day since the craft landed on Mars to unravel the secrets of the red planet, reports Reuters. 'I am proud to announce the completion of Pathfinder's extended mission,' Project Manager Brian Muirhead told reporters at a news briefing, noting that originally the mission was scheduled to last only one month. Scientists said the project effectively came to an abrupt halt about five weeks ago when they lost communication with the Pathfinder lander and its little rover, Sojourner. By that time the lander had exceeded its original mission by about eight weeks and the rover had traversed the rock-strewn terrain for 11 times longer than

its planned one-week operation. Reluctant to admit that the mission was finally over, the team at NASA's jet propulsion laboratory here continued to send daily signals to Pathfinder following the Sept 27 blackout, but received nothing but a couple of 'blips' from the spacecraft. Mission Manager Richard Cook said the last transmission to the craft was sent on Saturday and Pathfinder did not reply. Cook said signals would be sent every two weeks until the end of the year and about once a month after that. He said the likelihood was that the lander's batteries had gone dead and the craft had frozen in the frigid Martian night temperatures of -45 degrees Fahrenheit (-50 degrees Celsius).

Pak women abused by spouses have little hope

ISLAMABAD, Nov 5: Wrapped in a blood-caked shawl, her nose covered by a dirty gauze bandage, Nusrat Parveen trembled as she recalled the horrific morning when her husband cut off her nose, reports AP. Enraged because she had complained about his bad temper to his mother, he slammed her against their bed. He threw her on her back, tied her legs to the bed and her hands behind her back. For a brief moment he disappeared, but when he returned he was carrying scissors, a knife and a sharpening tool. 'I saw these things in his hands and I started shrieking,' she recalled, her eyes riveted on her hospital bed, her hands clutching the sheets. Then he sat on the floor beside her and began sharpening the knife and the scissors. Slowly he got up. 'I didn't know that he would do. I screamed and screamed,' she said. With the scissors he cut her hair. Then he climbed on to her chest and with a single swipe of

the knife he sliced off her nose. Ancient tradition in Pakistan says that to cut off a woman's nose is the greatest humiliation, a sign for everyone that she is scorned by her husband, an outcast. 'I fainted,' Parveen said. Nothing happened to her husband. She went to the police, but her husband said she was an evil woman and police refused to file charges. In Pakistan's male-dominated society, often ruled by conservative traditions, domestic violence is tolerated. Shahnawaz Bokhari, the one-woman Progressive Women's Association that is trying to help women abused by their husbands and in-laws, said it is not easy to introduce reforms. Bokhari is campaigning to get the government to introduce laws to protect women. She knocks on the doors of government ministries, foreign aid organisations and embassies begging for financial help for the victims and a sympathetic ear from the government. For Parveen the hospital bill alone will be thousands of dol-

lars, a sum she cannot afford. Cosmetic surgery to rebuild her nose will be much more, said Bokhari, sitting beside Parveen's hospital bed. Bokhari wants the government to enact laws to protect women, provide a support system for them through shelters and legal and financial aid. And she wants offending husbands punished, something that rarely happens. 'We do not want the government to help just one Nusrat Parveen... We want them to do something collectively, provide a support system for women,' she said. Hundreds of Pakistani women die each year after being set on fire, Bokhari said. Such deaths are invariably described as accidents, like a grease fire in the kitchen. But the deaths are intentional, murders carried out by relatives, Bokhari said. The government agrees. Ashtar Ahsan Ali, a prime ministerial adviser on human rights, told The Associated Press that he has begun investigating these so-called 'stove deaths'. 'I've reached the conclusion that in most cases the girl or woman is killed with the active support of her husband and often her mother-in-law,' Ali said. Statistics are hard to come by. But Bokhari said in Gujjar Khan, a rural Punjab town where Parveen lives, 57 women have died so far this year — all of them from extensive burns. Ali said he wants to see stricter laws and greater investigative powers given to the police. Farkhanda Iqbal, a female deputy superintendent of police, said police officers also have to improve investigative techniques. 'The police never bother to recover the stove, which always cleverly disappears after the blast,' she said. Pakistani human rights commission said no one has ever been convicted in a stove burning. In the hospital bed next to Parveen, Lay Taseen Bibi, 25. The left side of her face was



With a Union flag fluttering, Prince Charles grins happily as he takes time out to beat out a few drum rhythms with the traditional music group Jikeleza during a visit to the Tsoga Environmental Centre in Langa, Cape Town Tuesday. — AP/UNB photo.