## BRIEFLY

#### 9 killed in Indian road mishap: Nine persons were killed and three others injured, when their Govindgarh-bound jeep collided with a truck at Reengus in Sikar district Thursday, a police spokesman said in Jaipur, PTI

reports from Jaipur. The injured were rushed to the Kalyan Hospital in Sikar. The deceased included six men and three women, the spokesman

Hun Sen in Vietnam: Cambodia strongman Hun Sen and his hand-picked co-premier. Ung Huot, were among dozens of leaders and dignitaries attending the opening session Friday of the Francophonie summit in

Vietnam, AP reports from Hanoi. Although not formerly Cambodia's head of state - a post held by King Norodom Ranariddh - Hun Sen was attending the summit of French-speaking countries as the country's appointed representative. Hun Sen seized power in Cambodia in a July coup that saw troops and tanks rumbling through Phnom Penh's streets. He ousted his co-premier, the French-schooled Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

9 get death sentences in China: A court in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou has sentenced nine people to death for selling a powerful amphetamine know as "ice," an official newspaper reported Friday, AP reports from

Fan Ketong, previously a lecturer at a Guangzhou university and his brother, Fan Keneng, were sentenced to death for making and peddling 249 kilograms (547 pounds) of ice, the Shenzhen Special Zone Daily said. The Guangzhou City Intermediate People's Court also handed the death penalty to the head of the drug trafficking ring. Xu Yongchang, the newspaper said.

Flood death toll rises to 1,000 in Somalia: The death toll from flooding in southern Somalia has hit 1,000, a spokeswoman said after a meeting of relief agencies in Nairobi Thursday, AFP reports from Nairobi.

The floods, which started when the Juba river burst its banks on October 18, have displaced 200,000 people and affected another million indirectly, said Lyn Geldof, spokeswoman for the Inter-Agency Somalia flood response. The group's estimate of the number of dead - compiled from reports from all agencies working in Somalia - doubled a death toll of 516 advanced earlier in the day by the organisation Care International.

2 Turkish hostages freed in Chechnya: Two Turkish citizens held captive for months in Chechnya have been freed by a special anti-kidnapping unit in the southern Russian republic, a Russian news agency reported Friday, AP reports from Moscow.

The Turkish hostages, identified only as Fazil and Farouk, were freed Thursday night and three of the alleged abductors were captured, according to the ITAR-Tass news agency, which cited the head of the anti-kidnapping unit, Magomed Mago-

Indian police nab 6 heroin smugglers: Punjab police said Friday they had arrested six men attempting to carry 88 kilograms (194 pounds) of heroin across from Pakistan into the northern Indian state, AP reports from Chandigarh.

Police Director General Puran Chand Dogra said the six men were arrested Friday at a border crossing point at Khem Karan, 375 kilometres (235 miles) northwest of the Indian capital New Delhi. It was the biggest shipment of heroin confiscated by police in the state. Dogra accused the men of working for Pakistani intelligence agents planning to pay off arms smugglers with the heroin.

Quake rattles Tibet border: A moderate earthquake rattled a remote mountainous area on the borders of Tibet on Friday, but there were no reports of casualties or damage. AP reports from Beijing.

The tremor, with a magnitude of 5.5, struck the Kunlun mountains between Tibet and the Xinjiang region of far west China at 6:35 Friday morning (22:35 GMT). China's official Xinhua News Agency reported. The area is uninhabited and there were no casualties, said an official at the State Seismological Bureau, who gave only his surname, Ma.

# Clinton to deal with Iraq in very determined way

most of his staff out of Bagh-

dad, thereby halting searches

for weapons indefinitely. He

acted in response to Iraq's ex-

Richardson called Iraq's actions

"outrageous and irresponsible"

and said, "I think there are go-

ing to be some serious conse-

Six US inspectors

arrive in Amman

spectors serving with the United

Nations arrived in Jordan early

Friday after driving from Bagh-dad in the wake of their expul-

sion from Iraq, a border official

British and one Australian col-

league, were greeted by British,

UN and US diplomats in the VIP

The six, accompanied by one

AFP says, six US arms in-

quences."

US Ambassador Bill

pulsion order for US citizens.

Expulsion of US weapons inspectors

WASHINGTON, Nov 14: With tensions rising. President Bill Clinton pledged to deal "in a very determined way" with Iraq's expulsion of American weapons inspectors. But for the time being, the United States pursued a diplomatic solution rather than a military strike.

reports AP. "We're not talking attack," Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said Thursday. "We're

talking diplomacy." Defying Baghdad's threat to shoot down surveillance flights. the Pentagon said a U-2 spy plane would fly over Iraq this weekend. It would be the first announced mission since a U-2 flight last weekend that stayed outside the range of Iraqi air de-

fense missiles. From the White House to the United Nations, the Clinton administration talked tough about Iraq but did not appear headed into an immediate military crisis. Clinton met with his national security advisers for 1 and half hours and then went

out for an afternoon of golf. US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, meanwhile, proceeded with a 12-day trip that is to take her to Europe. the Persian Gulf, South Asia and Canada. Clinton was heading out Friday for a weekend of campaign fund raising in

Nevada and California. In Iraq, the government refused to let the six American inspectors leave by plane with dozens of their colleagues. Instead, they were forced to embark on an arduous, nighttime trip through the desert to Jordan. Asked if the Americans might be at risk, McCurry replied, "They better not be."

The United States continued to press its case at the United Nations where some allies notably France and Russia are reluctant to take military action against Iraq.

"Iraq is pushing this issue to the brink and there are going to be some grave consequences," said US ambassador Bill Richardson.

On Capitol Hill, House Speaker Newt Gingrich offered strong backing.

Reuter adds: With UN weapons inspectors expelled from Baghdad, the Security Council sought on Thursday to warn Iraq of serious consequences if it did not rescind its decision to oust Americans on

Lounge at the Karameh Border The Chief UN Arms Inspec-Post, 400 kilometres (250 miles) tor, Richard Butler, ordered east of Amman.

Albright.

They made no statement to waiting journalists before boarding three hire cars and heading for Amman, followed by the Jeeps which had brought

them from Baghdad. The Americans had left Baghdad at 2000 GMT Thursday after Baghdad's top authorities, the Revolutionary Command Council and the leadership of the ruling Baath Party. ordered their "immediate" expulsion.

Britain seeks

diplomatic solution Meanwhile, Britain is seeking a diplomatic solution to the Iraq crisis but a military option is still a possibility, Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said Friday before his meeting with US

Secretary of State Madeleine

Britain ordered the Royal Navy aircraft carrier HNS Invincible back from the Caribbean on Thursday after Iraq demanded all US arms inspectors leave the country immediately and America warned

of "grave consequences." Defence Secretary George said the move should not be read as a decision to send Invincible to the Persian Gulf, but called it a "commonsense mea-

sure. On Friday morning, with air force Harrier Jump-Jets ordered to join Invincible in Gibraltar, BBC radio asked the foreign secretary if a strike on Iraq was possible.

"Of course we are taking very seriously the crisis," Cook told the BBC. "It's quite right that we've got to make sure that we are capable of responding to any crisis in the region. No option is ruled out.



cocaine in his New York hotel Diana, Princess of Wales. suite, an amount the valued at and her companion Dodi more then 15,000 dollars. That Fayed, shown in this was described as Fayed's August 22, 1997 file photo, Mohammed Al Fayed De- walk on a pontoon in the nounced the drug allegations as French Riviera resort of St

statement released Wednesday by Harrods, he said his 42-year-old son "was never connected to "The writer of this article manages to produce only two wit-

nesses to give the impression that he was," the elder Fayed said. "That a magazine could attempt to defame Dodi on the basis of such spurious testimony is not reputable journalism. The release also disputes the magazine's portrayals of Dodi

cruel and despicable. In a Tropez. - AP/UNB photo

Off the Record

Dodi Fayed was a

cocaine user!

ther, Mohammed Al Fayed.

not here to defend himself."

as saying he had a kilo of

Dodi Fayed once was in the habit of Spending 15,000 dollar a

Fayed as a security fanatic and a debtor. "When he died, he owed no one anything." the Harrods state-

The statement also said Fayed and Diana, who were killed in

the August 31 car crash along with driver Henri Paul, knew each other for seven weeks, instead of three weeks as the magazine

#### Invisible condom

QUEBEC CITY: A prototypes for an "invisible condom" to help fight HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases was unveiled on Thursday by a Canadian university that hopes to make it available in two years, reports Reuter. Developed over seven years by Laval University's Infectious

Diseases Research Centre, the new "condom" is in fact a nontoxic polymer-based liquid that solidifies into a gel at body temperature. A woman or male homosexual partner would apply the liq-

uid to genital or anal parts before a sexual encounter. Laval said tests showed that the gel formed a water-proof film that dramatically reduced transmission of the HIV virus responsible for AIDS and could also block the virus responsible for genital herpes.

Laval Infectious Diseases Research Centre Director Michel Bergeron told a news conference "we developed our invisible condom to protect women who are victim of men who retuse to wear latex.

"We call it invisible because it can be used without telling the partner who doesn't want to use a latex condom" Bergeron said. He noted that recent North American research showed that half of the people who practiced high-risk sex did not use latex

### US Congress relaxing immigration provisions

WASHINGTON, Nov 14: A year after passing a tough new immigration law. Congress is relaxing provisions that could have forced hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants and one-time refugees out of the United States, reports AP.

Immigrant advocacy groups welcomed the moves, which they attribute largely to a desire on the part of Republican leaders to quell perceptions that the party is anti-immigrant.

But others accused lawmakers of abandoning their earlier resolve to crack down on illegal immigration, bowing instead to a drumbeat of individual hardluck stories and heavy lobbying from business, religious and immigrant organisations.

"The rollbacks that we've seen this year are directed at some of the most significant of those reforms" in the 1996 law. said Mark Krikorian of the Centre for Immigration Studies, which contends current immigration levels are too

immigration.

The easing of immigration provisions occurred on two fronts:

- A deal approved Thursday night by Congress, which now goes to President Clinton for his signature, would allow illegal immigrants with green-card applications filed as of January 14. 1998, to remain in the United States while the govthey see as a magnet for illegal

Allowing applicants to remain here pending completion of their paperwork spares them from a key sanction in the 1996 immigration law. Under that law, people found to have lived here illegally can be barred from re-entering for up to 10 years. Illegal immigrants wanting to apply for legal permanent residence after January 14 will have to return to their homelands to do so.

ernment processes their paperwork in exchange for a 1,000 dollars fine. More than 1 million people could be helped under this provision, which replaces a 1994 law that expires at midnight Friday. The deal marks a compromise between the Senate, which favored permanent extension of the 1994 law, and House GOP leaders eager to terminate a programme

#### 11-hour standoff ends in Myanmar

### Police disperse NLD supporters

YANGON, Nov 14: An 11 hour standoff between riot police and Myanmar democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi didn't deter the vice chairman of her political party from vowing Friday the democrats would continue their attempts to meet supporters, report AP.

"Despite all these restrictions we are determined to proceed with the organisational work of the party," said Tin Oo of the National League for Democracy.

The military government blocked Suu Kyi from leaving her home Thursday for the second time in two weeks. The 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner spent six years under house arrest from 1989-95 for her nonviolent attempts to bring

democracy to Myanmar. The latest standoff developed Thursday morning when police surrounded a car carrying Suu Kyi and three members of her party as it left her lakeside compound about 8:30 a.m. heading for their Hlaing town-

ship party office in Yangon. Suu Kyi has said she will visit all the Yangon township party offices to reorganise the youth wing of her party. The military allowed her first foray to meet youth members about a month ago, but then backtracked and blocked her three subsequent attempts.

Traffic police, riot police and a detail of women police officers encircled the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner's sedan and threw up barbed wire barricades and spiked saw horses Thursday morning.

The government's military intelligence officers requested that Suu Kyi return to her house, but the NLD leader re-

Hearing of the standoff. about a hundred NLD members gathered at the party's main office on nearby Shwegondine Road to await news of the out-

The NLD issued a statement condemning the military government's action, saying it had acted unlawfully in preventing a legal political party from carrying out its work.

The government responded by calling her stubborn, and saying "her act was an obvious confrontational and dishonest political stunt.

Suu Kyi remained in her car with the windows rolled up. snacking on bread, biscuits and milk as the women police officers pulled out chairs around midday after standing for hours

in the hot sun. At about 7 p.m the government cut off the electricity to the nearby NLD office and the hundred or so supporters dis-



the late Sir James Goldsmith, arrives for his memorial service at London's, St John's Concert Hall, Westminster, Thursday. She was with her husband Imran Khan and other members of her family. - AP/UNB photo

#### Dilip Parikh ministry wins confidence vote

GANDHINAGAR, Nov 14 The newly-formed Dilip Parikh ministry yesterday confortably won the confidence vote by 98 votes to 76 in the 182-member State Assembly, which it had been asked to seek by the governor on assuming office last month, reports AFP.

With this hurdle crossed despite the BJP hope of toppling it, the RJP ministry may now face the task of accommodating the supporting party, congress, which has 44 members in the house compared to 46 of the ruling party

Soon after the voting. Parikh, who succeeded Shankar Singh Vaghela following a congress demand for change in leadership, said he was prepared to accommodate congressmen on receipt of a concrete proposal.

#### Rabin's son receives death threat

JERUSALEM, Nov 14: Yitzhak Rabin's son received a death threat as he attended a memorial ceremony on the second anniversary of his father's assassination, reports AP.

The threat was made Wednesday in a call to Yuval Rabin's mobile phone, said Tal Silverstein, a leader of the Dor Shalom peace group which the younger Rabin founded after the assassination.

The ominous message was recorded on Rabin's voice mail and was played on Israel radio Thursday. The caller said: "If you follow in your father's footsteps you will end up as he

## 6 cops killed in northern Lanka

Members of a group of UN weapon inspectors are seen as they are driven at dawn

yesterday to Al-Karameh border, Jordan. A large group of UN weapons inspectors left

Baghdad after Iraq ordered American weapons inspectors out of the country.

### Tigers bomb Colombo's largest power generating plant, part of fuel depot on fire

COLOMBO, Nov 14: A series of time bombs exploded inside Colombo's largest power generating plant Friday, setting part of the fuel depot on fire, officials said, reports AP.

Suspicion for the attack fell on separatist Tamil Tiger rebels, who also were blamed for an assault one month ago in the central business and tourist district of the capital, killing 18 people and wounding 105.

No one was injured in the pre-dawn explosions at the Kelanitissa power station, about three kilometres (2 miles) north of downtown Colombo. One storage tank was damaged, but the leaks were plugged soon.

The Defense ministry said in a statement that the fire was caused by a leaking fuel tank. It plosions.

did not say what caused the ex-As a precautionary measure the area has been sealed off by

the security authorities and movement of traffic and people has been suspended temporarily," said Major Kumara Dewage, a defense ministry spokesman.

The saboteurs bored a hole through the security fence of the high security station to plant at least six devices inside, said an official on condition of anonymity. Fire fighters took 45 minutes to bring the blaze under control

Defence Secretary Chandrananda de Silva and high ranking military officials inspected the site and the hole through which the infiltrators entered the power station.

Hundreds of government troops in battle fatigues cordoned off the station and started searching for the infiltrators, but none were found, he

Friday is a full moon day,

which is a Buddhist holiday in Sri Lanka where 70 per cent of the people are Buddhist. Last month's attack blamed on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam also fell on a full moon

- AP/UNB photo

Tamil Tiger rebels attacked two fuel storage depots near Colombo in October 1995, setting ablaze about 30 oil storage tanks which burnt for days. The Kelanitissa power sta-

tion uses fuel to supplement the hydroelectric supply to the Indian ocean island nation of 18 million people. Meanwhile, rebels attacked

a police patrol in eastern Sri Lanka Friday, killing six policemen, an official said.

Five policemen were wounded in the gunfight that lasted for over two hours in the eastern Ampara district, said Maj. Kumara Dewage, a military spokesman.

#### Researchers find HIV virus hiding in blood cells WASHINGTON, Nov 14: A

drug "cocktail" that revolutionized the treatment of AIDS is virus hiding in certain blood cells, researchers find in a discovery that dims hopes for a cure, reports AP.

The finding means that patients may have to take the AIDS drugs for the rest of their lives - while hoping for new types of treatment to stamp out the final traces of infection by the virus that causes the dis-

Three separate teams of scientists reported finding evidence that the HIV virus lurks in inactive white blood cells in patients who have been taking the drug cocktail for up to three years and seem otherwise virtually free of the virus.

Two papers, by researchers from four different laboratories, will be published Friday in the journal Science. Another paper, by scientists at the National Institutes of Health, will be published later this month in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Combinations of drugs that block two enzymes that the HIV virus uses to reproduce have

stopping the infection. In thousands of patients, HIV virus in unable to wipe out reservoirs of the bloodstream has been reduced to near undetectable levels, and CD4 blood cells, the principal target of HIV, have rallied to normal levels.

The success of the drugs raised hopes by some experts that HIV could be eradicated completely from the bodies of patients. "Although we held out hope

that the eradication hypothesis might pan out, I don't think that people really thought it would," said Dr. Joel Gallant of Johns Hopkins University, one of the co-authors of a paper in Science.

Despite the disappointment, Dr. Robert F. Siliciano of Johns Hopkins said that studies did find good news. He said none of the latent viruses studied had developed a resistance to the drug cocktail that has so successfully controlled the infec-

This means, he said, that as long as HIV patients continue to carefully and diligently take the three-drug cocktail "they have an excellent chance of surviving

## Kabila regime creates climate of terror, says UN report

GENEVA, Nov 14: A "climate of terror" prevails throughout Congo under President Laurent Kabila's military regime, according to a UN human rights report released Thursday, reports AP.

The 50-page report, by UN special investigator Roberto Garreton, is more critical than a brief summary of the report released Wednesday. It does, however, credit the

Kabila government with ending looting and reducing crime after ousting President Mobutu Sese Seko last May and changing the name of the country from Zaire to the Democratic Republic of Congo. Celestin Lwangi, Congo's jus-

tice minister, declined to give a detailed reaction to the report. but called it "a little flimsy." "I don't see how he, a Chilean, has a valid opinion,"

the minister said Garreton, who has been denied government permission to visit Congo since last March, said he based his report on information from UN officials. humanitarian organisations and other sources.

similar to those in a report by the Lutheran Church. "The number of victims is unimaginable," Garreton said. "The situation is very complex. and more than one sector is to

blame. Interethnic conflicts

have in fact been going on in

He said his conclusions are

Kivu (eastern Congo) for years." The Chilean lawyer provoked the ire of the Kabila government with a report earlier this year in which he suggested rebel forces under Kabila's con-

#### Haze cuts 26pc tourist arrival in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Nov 14: Thick smoke have from wildfires in Indonesia has resulted in a 26 per cent drop in tourist arrivals, a news report said Friday, reports AP.

Tourism Minister Joop Ave said the fall in tourist arrivals occurred in all tourist destinations in the country, including the resort island of Balli where skies are clear, the official Antara news agency reported.

"However, I remain optimistic Indonesia still can meet the minimum target of 6.5 million tourists this year," he said Thursday. A large area of Southeast Asia has been affected by the

haze, which has caused respira-

tory problems and other ill-

nesses for thousands of people.

The fires have been raging since July. Many have been deliberately lit to clear land. Officials say the problem has been worsened by a pro-

longed drought.

trol were massacring refugees in then eastern Zaire.

The new report, delivered Tuesday to the UN General Assembly, says Kabila's government has "absolute control" over the country. "The regime has eliminated

the civil rights of life, liberty and physical integrity," it said. Political murders, police brutality, disappearances, torture, attacks on women's dignity and restrictions on political life and free expression are listed by Garreton as some of the ways in which basic rights are being violated.

In May, Kabila announced a timetable for elections in 1999, but preparations have still not been started, said Garreton.

Kabila's governing alliance is the only authorised party in Congo and "is dominated by members of the Tutsi ethnic group" and people who lived in exile in other countries during Mobuto's reign, which often leads to conflict, said the re-

Garreton, originally appointed by the 53-nation UN Human Rights Commission in 1994 to investigate conditions in Zaire, first angered Kabila with a report to the body last spring.

He said he found strong evidence of mass graves in areas that had hosted large refugee camps in the territory controlled by Kabila's forces.



Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair accompanied by his wife Cherie, dressed in traditional Indian sari, arrive at Grosvenor house in London, Thursday to attend British Indian Golden Jubilee Banquet, celebrating 50 years of - AP/UNB photo India's independence.