



Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, right, shows the guard of honour to his visiting Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak during a welcoming ceremony at Ankara's Esenboga airport on Tuesday. President Mubarak, who began a shuttle diplomacy Sunday in Damascus, arrived in Turkish capital for mediation between Turkey and Syria in an attempt to avoid a military confrontation over Kurdish guerilla bases in Syria. — AP/UNB photo

Mubarak continues mediation effort

Turkey issues last warning to Syria

DAMASCUS, Oct 7: Turkey issued a "last warning" to Syria on Tuesday over what it called Damascus's backing of Kurdish separatist rebels and cancelled all leave for troops guarding the two countries' frontier, reports Reuters.

Mubarak heard the Syrian viewpoint from Assad. Kourieh said without giving any further details. Other Syrian officials did not elaborate on whether Mubarak was making any progress in his mediation efforts.

Turkey Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz told a meeting of his party deputies earlier on Tuesday. "We are warning Syria for the last time. We want them to stop their support for separatist terrorism and stop their policies of hostility. We are waiting for a reply from Syria," he said.

54 arrested in Myanmar

YANGON, Oct 7: Myanmar's military government said Wednesday it had arrested 54 people for staging anti-government demonstrations and accused groups funded by the Vatican, the US government and financier George Soros of inciting unrest, reports AP.

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Sihanouk against modifying Cambodia's constitution

PHNOM PENH, Oct 7: King Norodom Sihanouk has said he is against modifying the Cambodian constitution to allow strongman Hun Sen to form a government without the opposition, according to a statement released Wednesday, reports AP.

Iraq not divulging information on bio-weapons: UNSCOM report

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 7: Iraq may be close to meeting UN demands concerning the elimination of its chemical and ballistic arms but not of biological weapons, a major UN report said on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

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Opponents of the US government's Iraq policy, mostly Democrats, escorted a former Baghdad-based UN coordinator for humanitarian aid around Capitol Hill to tell a story of suffering by Iraqi civilians.

BRRIEFLY

ROK president in Japan: South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung arrived yesterday at Tokyo's Haneda airport for a four-day visit expected to include an official Japanese apology for its 1910-45 colonial rule, AFP says from Tokyo.

Khatami asks for int'l action against Afghanistan

TEHRAN, Oct 7: Iranian President Mohammad Khatami on Tuesday urged international action against Afghanistan, saying the ruling Taliban had to understand they could not impose their will on all Afghans, Iran's state television reported, says Reuters.

Mahathir won't appoint Anwar's replacement

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 7: Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Wednesday he would not appoint a replacement for Anwar Ibrahim as anti-government protests merged with thousands demanding justice for his ousted, jailed deputy, reports AP.

Albania offers airspace for NATO strikes

BELGRADE, Oct 7: Last ditch talks to avert NATO air strikes designed to end Serbian military action in Kosovo appear to be making little headway, a US diplomat said today, reports Reuters.

"We want as far as possible to move in step with Russia and give the Russians every opportunity to move with us, one western diplomat said."

forces were getting ready for winter which suggests they are going to stay for a very long time and make (refugee) returns even more difficult.

20 LTTE rebels killed in fighting with Lankan troops

COLOMBO, Oct 7: Twenty Tamil rebels were killed in sporadic fighting with government troops in northern Sri Lanka where at least 1,200 people died last week in the biggest battle in two years, officials said Wednesday, reports AP.



Miss World 1997-98 Diana Hayden from India poses for photographers during the MIPCOM (International Film and Programme Market for TV, Video, Cable and Satellite) at "La Promenade de la Croisette" Tuesday, October 6, 1998 in Cannes, French Riviera. — AP/UNB photo

Russians take to the streets against Yeltsin

MOSCOW, Oct 7: Russians frustrated by the country's deep economic recession took to the streets in nationwide protests Wednesday that were expected to be among the largest mass rallies in recent years, reports AP.

Off the Record

A blue dress, a cigar... and Halloween frights BOSTON: This year's most popular Halloween costume may call for a blue dress, a beret and, yes, a cigar, reports AP.