# BRIEFIY



Former Turkish prime minister and the leader of True Path Party, Tansu Ciller, talking to reporters in Ankara Thursday after appearing before a parliamentary commission to answer questions on how she accrued assets worth millions of dollars. Ciller and her husband reportedly own assets worth several million dollars in both Turkey and New Hampshire, including a hotel, a mall, and a house. - AP/UNB photo

Suspected bomber held in Lanka: Sri Lanka's anti-terrorism police have arrested a Tamil woman suspected of plotting an attack in Colombo, police said yesterday, AP says from Colombo.

Detectives of the Terrorist Investigation Department raided the women's home in the capital's northern district late Thursday, acting on a tip, said a senior officer on condition of anonymity. They found sketches of important buildings and detailed maps of the city, some of them drawn in ink which would became visible when chemicals were applied. The officer said the women was a member of the Black Tigers, the suicide wing of LTTE.

Vietnamese PM to visit China: Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai will pay an official visit to China from October 19 to 23, at the invitation of Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji, Xinhua says from Beijing. This was announced by a Chinese foreign ministry

spokesman on Thursday.

Man held for threatening Clinton: A man with a history of making threats has been ordered held without bond on charges of threatening President Bill Clinton with explosives that were found in a ditch at the Eugene airport before the president was to arrive in June, AP reports from Eugene, Oregon.

Jeffery Pickering, 49, made no comment in a brief appearance before a federal magistrate Thursday, one day after he was arrested

Tremor jolts NE India: An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter Scale recked India's mountainous northeastern region early yesterday but there were no reports of deaths, a government official said, Reuters says from Guwahati.

We recorded the earthquake of moderate intensity and located its epicentre in northern Myanmar's Sagaing division, the official at the seismological office at Shillong, 100 km south of Guwahati, told Reuters by phone.

11 peasants killed in Colombia: An ultra right death squad murdered at least 11 peasants in a remote mountain village in northern Colombia, a government official said on Thursday, Reuter says from Bogota.

Licet Penarada, a regional head of the government's human rights Ombudsman's office, said the heavily armed paramilitary groups has been roaming the area around San Pedro in the Sierra Nevada De Santa Marta mountain range, since Tuesday. She laid 11 people had been killed so far and that there were reports of four others dead.

Philippine rebels free captive Under threas of a military offensive, suspected Muslim rebels on yesterday released a Filipino trader they kidnapped more than a month ago in the southern Philippines, AP says from Zamboarga, Philippines.

"In really tired," said rice trader Modesto Natividad, shortly afterdisembarking from a military helicopter. His captors had abanloned him in a forest. Natividad, 62, who has apparently lost weight and had two swollen feet due to continuous walking along mountain trails, checked into a hospital for further ex-

UN ends police mission in Croatia: The United Nations on Thursday ended its civilian police operation in Croatia's eastern Slavonia area, a heavily-Serb populated region the United Nations administered after the 1995 Dayton Balkan accords, Reuters reports from United

Plying tribute to the international police, security Council members "expressed their full support" for the Organisation of Security and Cooperation in Europe that is taking over UN monitoring responsibilities, council resident Sir Jeremy Greenstock of Britain said.

Quakes shake Siberia: Two earthquakes shook the eastern Siberia region of Russia, but did not cause any serious damage of injuries, a news report said yesterday, AP reports from Moscow.

The tremors, with a preliminary magnitude of 3 to 3.5, were recorded in the thinly populated Yakutia region, the Interfax news agency said.

Asia Art Festival opens in China:
The Asia Art Festival, the first event of its kind hosted by China, opened on Thursday in Beijing with a performance by the state art troupe from the Democratic People's Republic of Korta, Xinhua says from Beijing.

Art troupes from the Republic of Korea, Myanmar, Laos, Sri Lanka, Japan and Vietnam will also participate in the event along with three Chinese art troupes offering folk music, dance and peking opera. The 12-day event is sponsored by the Ministry of Culture.

iceberg larger then the state of Delawire has broken off the Ronne Ice Shelf in Antarctica in what scientists believe may be a sign of global warming, the US National Ice Centre announced on Thursday, reports

Reuters. The iceberg, named A-38, is 92 miles long, and 30 miles wide and covers an area of bout 2,751 square miles. The Ronne Ice Shelf is the second largest in Antarctica situated in the

southern Weddell Sea. The National Ice Centre is run by the US Navy, NOAA, and the US Coast Guard, which is part of the transportation department. Its mission is to provide worldwide operational ice

analyses for the Untied States

and allied nation.

Ice shelves are massive, floating sheets of snow and frozen water that encircle the Antarctic mainland. Scientists believe that the breaking off, or calving of icebergs in an important mechanism in the disintegration of ice shelves, and may be an indicator of global warm-

American scientists from University College London reported on Thursday that most of the ice stored in Antarctica was very stable and it did not appear to be contributing to rising sea

"The icy continent now looks and unlikely source of rising global sea level this century, making thermal expansion of the ocean due to global warming, and the shrinking of mountain glaciers, more likely causes," Professor Duncan Wingham, leader of the scien-

tific research team, said.

He said the world's oceans were rising at such a rate that millions of homes near sea level could be underwater in two centuries if current predictions were correct.

The scientists from University College are planning to study ice core samples from the Ronne Ice Shelf to learn more about it and why the iceberg ington

broke off, NOAA said lceberg names are derived from the Antarctic quadrant in which they were originally 2nd day of ME peace talks

# Expressions of hope give way to hard bargaining

QUEENSTOWN, Maryland. Oct 16: Israeli and Palestinian leaders settled in for a second

leaders settled in for a second day of peace talks Friday at a rustic Chesapeake Bay retreat, the ice-breaking handshakes and expressions of hope giving way to tough bargaining to put the Middle East peace process back on track, reports AP.

After convening the talks Thursday in a small wooden building on the banks of the Wye River, President Bill Clinton returned to Washington, leaving Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to oversee Friday's meeting. Clinton intended to stay in touch with her by phone. by phone.

Clinton tried to get the summit off to a good start by welcoming the Israeli and Palestinian delegations to the quiet woodlands of the Wye River Conference Centers, about 112 km east of Washington. He led several hours of talks before serving as host at a late-night

At centre stage in the closeddoor negotiations is an American plan designed to clamp down on terrorists in the West Bank, a key Israeli condition for agreeing to withdraw its troops from a further 13 per cent of the land Israel captured

in 1967. "There is hard work ahead," Clinton declared in brief remarks to reporters before exchanging greetings with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Ne-tanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and their 20-

member delegations of legal, technical and policy experts. The Israeli and Palestinian delegations are living in resi-dences about half a kilometre apart on the wooded 445hectare compound dotted with tennis courts, basketball courts and grass fields.

Thursday's first session started about 2115 GMT Thursday, White House press secre-

tary Joe Lockhart said, and broke up at 0040 GMT Friday. It included a group meeting of all three delegations, plus separate one-on-one meetings between Clinton and the two other leaders. Arafat and Netanyahu did not meet alone but probably will, State Department spokesman James Rubin said.

Rubin refused to discuss the substance of the meetings. He said the first day of meetings showed the parties are interested in "creating a constructive and pragmatic relationship."

The summit is expected to conclude Sunday, but Rubin did not rule out an extension.

Clinton returned to the White House after hosting a dinner for Arafat and Netanyahu. Aides said Clinton stood ready to drop in on the talks during the weekend if it would help. He planned to spend today in Chicago on a fundraising trip.



President Clinton walks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, right, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, left, in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington Thursday to set the stage for the Mideast peace talks at the Wye River Conference Centre in Maryland. - AP/UNB photo

# NATO, Yugoslav army sign air surveillance accord

BELGRADE, Oct 16: Following up on this week's agreement to bring peace to Kosovo, NATO and the Yugoslav military signed an air surveillance accord to make sure the Yugoslav president pulls his forces out of the strife-torn province, reports

The deal signed in Belgrade between NATO's Supreme Allied Commander for Europe, Gen Wesley Clark, and Yugoslav Army Chief-of-Staff Gen. Momcilo Perisic, is the first in a series of measures designed to force President Slobodan Milosevic to keep his promise or face airstrikes by the powerful Atlantic alliance.

Milosevic agreed this week to withdraw remaining Serb forces from Kosovo, begin negotiations with ethnic Albanians toward self-rule in the southern Serbian province, and allow up to 300,000 refugees to return to their homes. His compliance with the

breakthrough accord reached with US envoy Richard Holbrooke will be monitored by unarmed spy planes as well as some 2,000 "verifiers." Amid new accusations by

Kosovo Albanian refugees of Serb police intimidation, NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana said Thursday in Belgrade that despite some progress, Milosevic has a long

way to go to meet NATO's Saturday deadline.

"He must comply, he must comply fully and immediately.' Solana said after meeting with the Yugoslav leader. "According to our information, and our information is good, many army and special police units remain in Kosovo. Hundreds of ethnic Albani-

Britain calls for tougher action against Myanmar

LONDON, Oct 16: Britain called Thursday for tougher action against Myanmar, possibly including a ban on EU transit visas for its military junta, to pressure Yangon to improve its record on democracy and human rights, reports AFP.

Junior Foreign Office Minister Derek Fatchett said he wanted the European Union to step up pressure on the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), the official name of the ruling military regime in Yan-

The European Union has already taken a series of measures against Myanmar, including military and economic embargoes and a ban on entry visas for senior members of the SPDC and their families.

ans have been killed and an estimated 300,000 forced to flee their homes since Milosevic began the crackdown in February The secessionist Kosovo Liberation Army also has killed more than 200 Serb policemen. Serb civilians and ethnic Albanians loyal to Milosevic's government.

Some 90 per cent of Kosovo's 2 million inhabitants are ethnic Albanians and most favour independence.

In Vienna, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe agreed Thursday to oversee the 2,000-member ground verification mission" unarmed monitors who will roam through Kosovo to make sure terms of the agreement with Holbrooke are being hon-

The OSCE will sign the ground verification agreement today in Belgrade with Yugoslav Foreign Minister Zivadin Jovanovic.

Also, the outgoing Cabinet o German Chancellor Helmut Kohl was expected to approve a plan today to contribute 14 German jet fighters for any NATO attack.

Efforts to save Kosovo's refugees from disaster as winter approaches have been stepped up in the aftermath of the agreement.

#### Floods in Andhra Pradesh claim 69

HYDERABAD, India, Oct 16: At least 69 people have died this week in India's southern state of Andhra Pradesh due to incessant rains and heavy flooding state officials said today, reports Reuters.

Most of the deaths occurred when houses collapsed, but some victims were struck by lightning or electrocuted, officials said. Seven fishermer

were also missing. State Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said in a statement that he had asked Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajapyee to give financial assistance to the state government.

Relief Commissioner BP Acharya said on Thursday that massive relief operations had been launched to evacuate people to safer places from "vulnerable" villages.

He said relief camps had been set up and medical teams had been deployed to prevent the outbreak of epidemics. He also said that 4.761 houses and 264,210 hectares of farmland had been damaged.

#### Latest flare-up in India-Pakistan propaganda war

NEW DELHI, Oct 16: WWW.armyinkashmir.com isn't what it was meant to be, reports AP. The web site designed by In-

dia's army to tally alleged attacks by Kashmiri insurgents and ceasefire violations by Pakistan has been turned inside out, apparently by a Pakistani hacker. Now, the site is "dedicated to

all the Kashmiri brothers who are suffering the brutal oppression of the Indian army." The latest flare-up in the

Indo-Pakistan propaganda war occurred as negotiators of the two countries met for the first time in a year in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad to resume talks on Kashmir. The Asian Age newspaper

said the web site was overridden by an unnamed information service in Lahore, Pakistan. The army quickly moved its site to a new address, www.univall.com, and resumed publishing its own version of According to the army's

daily count, Pakistani troops fired 280 artillery shells and 3.045 rounds of small arms fire across the border on Thursday. Less sophisticated statistics

on the hacked web site does not list daily actions by India in Kashmir. But it offers a table summarising alleged atrocities. presumably since 1989 when the insurrection began. It claimed 59,170 Kashmiris have been killed, 7,013 raped, 461 "schoolchildren burned alive, 25,901 wounded and 38,450 "disabled for life."

#### Minister for ban on black magic in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Oct 16: Shocked by the mysterious murders of at least 153 people accused of sorcery, Indonesia's justice minister wants black magic outlawed even though it's been practices in the Southeast Asian nation since ancient times, reports AP During recent months, parts of main island of Java been terrorised by masked killers dressed in black, according to police, witnesses and media re-

They say the killers strike at night, cutting their victims' throats and sometimes hanging mutilated bodies in trees or tossing them in the street.

In scenes reminiscent of the Salem witch hunts in the United States centuries ago, mobs have also attacked and killed people they accuse of dabbling in black magic.

The Jakarta Post newspaper Friday quoted Justice Minister Muladi as saying fear of sorcery has stirred up unrest and violence in superstitious communities.

"The impact of this issue is very disturbing and it often claims innocent victims," he said. He said anyone who openly claims they can kill or hurt others with black magic should be punished.

### Typhoon Zebkills 74 in Philippines, 6 in Taiwan TOKYO, Oct 16: A weekend

Typhoon Zeb approached islands in southern Japan on Friday, after killing at least 74 people in the Philippines and six in Taiwan in a trail of destruction, reports AP.

With maximum sustained winds of 108 kph Zeb was located about 190 kilometers west of the island of Ishigaki in Okinawa prefecture, or state, as of 4:00 pm (0800 GMT), Japan's Meteorological Agency said.

The typhoon was moving north-northeast at about 20 kph in the East China Sea, the agency said. Weather reports forecast rain for most of western and central Japan over the weekend.

At least 35 domestic flights to southern Japanese destinations were cancelled Friday, airline officials said.

Disaster officials in the Philippines said the typhoon left at least 74 people dead, mostly due to drownings and landslides. At least one person died of electrocution, while another was bitten by a snake. Ten people were missing.

The casualty figure is expected to rise because several mountain villages in the northern Philippines remain isolated. President Joseph Estrada flew Friday to the Cagayan Valley region, one of the hardesthit areas to inspect the damage. At least 103,000 people were

forced to flee their homes in the Philippines because of flooding. Most have since returned home, but more than 10,000 people remained in 28 government shelters.

At least five provinces have been declared in a state of calamity, to allow emergency funds to be released to these areas. Price control also has been established to prevent profiteers from taking advantage of the situation.

In Taiwan, six people were dead and four missing after Zeb roared across the island Friday. Rivers in the Taipei area swelled their banks, and low lying urban areas in Taiepei county were flooded by torrential rains. Residents were evacuated to safety by rescue workers patrolling through the night in inflatable boats.

One woman was reportedly drowned in Taipei, and two per-sons were killed in eastern Hualien county when their car plunged into a flooded drainage ditch, the Interior Ministry's disaster rescue center reported.

Schools and offices were closed in most parts of the island Friday, and the stock exchange also suspended trading in the capital of Taipei.

Many international flights were cancelled, and other arriving in Taipei were rerouted to Hong Kong, airport officials

### PAS continues protests in Malaysia

## Govt moves to curb sale of opposition newspaper

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 16: Authorities moved to curb sales of an opposition party newspaper as its editors stepped up a campaign to garner greater sympathy for jailed dissident Awnar Ibrahim, news reports said Friday, reports AP.

The publishers of Harakah. the official newspaper of the Parti Islam SeMalaysia, or PAS, have been ordered to explain to the Home Ministry why they were selling the paper on newsstands in an apparent violation of a rule against public distribution, New Straits Times daily reported. Samsudin Osman, secretary-

general of the home ministry, said Thursday that the Harakah was allowed to be sold only to members of the Islamic party and not to the public. "We have reminded the pub-

lisher several times in the past," he said. "We are going to remind them again of this requirement at the meeting next

Editors of the newspaper said that sales have skyrocketed over the past two months. since they started publishing strident articles against Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. Anwar was fired by Mahathir on Sept. 2 as deputy prime minister and finance minister after being dubbed too

Beginning Nov. 2, he faces trial for alleged corruption and illegal homosexual acts. Anwar has denied the 10 charges, saying they were fabricated to eliminate the challenge he posed to Mahathir.

immoral to rule.

The Harakah and other fringe papers published by opposition activists on the Internet, have become increasingly popular among Malaysians jaded by pro-government coverage in the nation's major newspapers.

The Islamic group, meanwhile, continued to organise demonstrations in defiance of authorities.

Late Thursday, more than 2,000 people defied police to gather in the northern Kedah state to listen to speeches by the president of PAS, Fadzil Noor, and other leaders of a new coalition of opposition groups. the Malaysian People's Justice

### Hun Sen rejects opposition demand for talks abroad

Movement.

PHNOM PENH, Oct 16: Cambodian leader Hun Sen on Friday rejected opposition parties' demands for talks outside the country, accusing them of trying to "internationalise" the political crisis, reports AP.

Government and opposition parties have asked King Norodom Sihanouk to host a summit meeting after a series of post-election negotiations between the two opposition groups and Hun Sen's party to form a new government failed.

Opposition leaders Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Sam Rainsy, citing Hun Sen's threats to arrest opposition figures after two alleged attempts on his life, said they could not negotiate freely in Cambodia and called for talks at Sihanouk's residence in Beijing.

Hun Sen, however, rejected that.

"I would like to make it clear that all meetings related to Cambodian affairs must be conducted in the Kingdom of Cambodia," Hun Sen told reporters after a cabinet meeting on Friday.

"No-one should internationalise Cambodian affairs. It is detrimental to the sovereignty of Cambodia," he said.

Ranariddh and Sam Rainsy have charged that Hun Sen's victory in the elections was

achieved through widespread

They have demanded a thorough investigation into their election complains as a precondition for their cooperation in getting the national assembly moving and a new government formed

Hun Sen said on Friday that the opposition concerns over the safety in the country was "just an excuse for them to stay abroad." Both Ranariddh and Sam Rainsy have been outside the country since parliament was ceremonially opened on Sep. 24. Sam Rainsy and a number of

opposition figures have been under court investigation for a grenade attack on Hun Sen's Phnom Penh residence on Sep. 7. Hun Sen was not home at the time of the attack, which was followed by a police crackdown on demonstrators contesting Hun Sen's election victory.

The Sam Rainsy Party, in a statement released Friday, accused Hun Sen of being Junwilling to made any compromise" on negotiations to break the deadlock. "A meeting outside Cambo-

dia, as suggested by the opposition, could place all parties on more equal footing," said the statement.

#### Huge iceberg breaks off Int'l pressure propels India, from Antarctica ice shelf Pakistan to negotiating table WASHINGTON, Oct 16: An A team of British, Dutch and ISLAMABAD, Oct 16: As the Lodhi. week Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz said it's unlikely New Delhi "cannot operate

world watches, the newest nuclear powers of Pakistan and India open talks on Friday aimed at preventing a deadly race between the uneasy neighbours for nuclear weapons and missiles, reports AP.

At the heart of the three days

of talks is the disputed Kashmir

- the flash point of two previ-

ous wars between Pakistan and

India since 1947 when British

tional pressure, particularly

from the United States, has

propelled Pakistan and India to

the negotiation table after more

both countries on the part of the

international community for a

long-term commitment," said

Maleeha Lodhi, Pakistan's

former ambassador to Wash-

hardest hit by the economic

sanctions that followed May's

tit-for-tat nuclear tests by the

two countries, India can't ignore

international pressure, said

While Pakistan has been

"There is a lot of pressure on

Analysts here say interna-

colonial rule ended.

than one year.

self-censorship at a time of NATO threats.

in a vacuum," she said.

As a result Pakistan is looking to the international community "to lean much more heavily on the Indians not to do anything to create pressure for

A protester wearing a gas mask protests the shut down of two independent newspapers in

Belgrade Thursday. The Serbian government decided to shut down two Belgrade dailies,

"Dnevni Telegraf" and "Danas" for allegedly violating government decree that required

deployment" of nuclear weapons, she said.

News Analysis Upon his arrival in Pak istan on Thursday, India's Foreign Secretary K. Raghunath said the two neighbours were on

> the "threshold of a new relationship. tionship.

> moved on their positions on Kashmir. Pakistan is demanding a vote by Kashmiris on both

He didn't define the new rela-Neither side appears to have

sides of the disputed border to decide whether to join Islamic Pakistan or mostly Hindu India. Pakistan also wants international mediation to settle the protracted dispute. India has rejected both. "There is no room for any

third party involvement," said

In an interview earlier this

Raghunath at the airport.

any major breakthrough on Kashmir will emerge from the "This is a process... we can't expect a breakthrough on an issue like this on the first meeting," he said.

- AP/UNB photo

But the fact that both sides are talking, said Aziz is indicative that the two countries realise "something has to be

possess missiles capable of carrying single and multiple nuclear warheads. "The world is petrified of an early use," says Lodhi. But for Pakistan signing a

no-first use pact is untenable

because India has enough con-

Both Pakistan and India

ventional fire power to knock out Pakistan's nuclear facilities and command and control cen-Thus said Lodhi Pakistan would need an agreement that would guarantee that neither India nor Pakistan would

launch a first conventional strike, similar to a no-war pact. It is in the interest of both countries, she said "not to go down the whole deployment road.