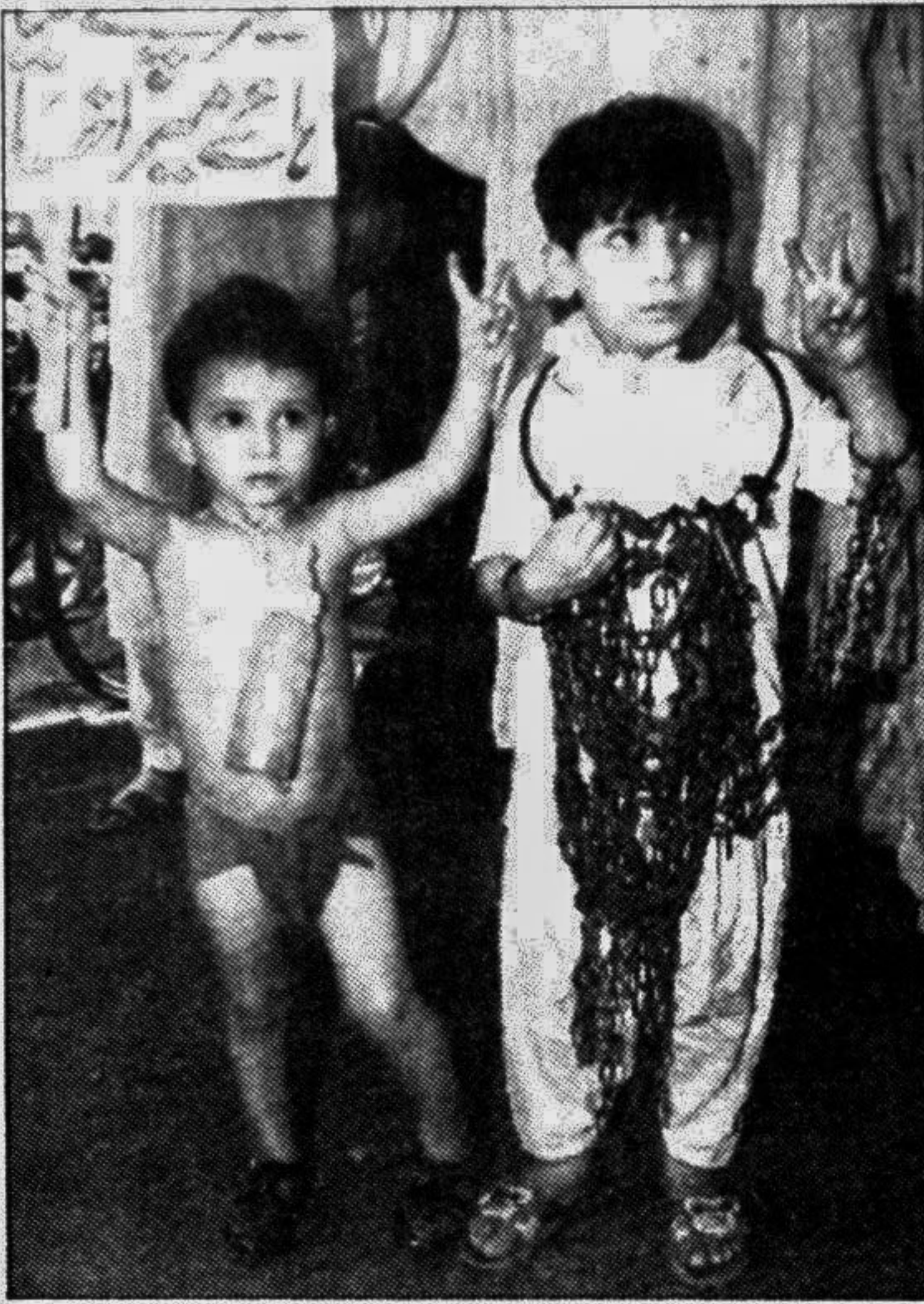


# BRIEFLY



Two children wearing chains and a milk bottle protesting in Lahore Wednesday against price hikes, lawlessness and unemployment in Pakistan. — AP/UNB photo

**21 die in ROK cold storage fire** At least 21 workers were killed and 15 others injured Thursday when fire swept through a cold storage plant under construction in the southern port city of Pusan, police said. AP reports from Seoul.

Police said the fire, believed to have been ignited by welding sparks, engulfed the three upper floors of the eight-storey structure, trapping dozens of people inside.

**4 N Koreans defect to South** : Four North Koreans arrived in Seoul Thursday after fleeing their hunger-stricken communist homeland, government intelligence officials said. AP reports from Seoul.

The four flew in from former Soviet republics where they had lived in hiding after escaping North Korea a few years back, said the officials at the Agency for National Security Planning. Their flight to Seoul was coordinated by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, they said. The officials did not identify the four escapees and the former Soviet republics from which they defected.

**Rebels kill 9 in Colombia**: At least seven soldiers and two police officers were killed and 16 wounded during an attack on a northeastern town by more than 150 leftist rebels, authorities said. AP reports from Bogota.

The rebel column attacked the police station Tuesday in Hacari, 420 km north of Bogota, using homemade bombs and tear gas, police said Wednesday. Two police officers were killed and seven injured. The station was destroyed. A column of soldiers coming to the aid of the besieged police entered a mine field. Seven soldiers were killed and nine were wounded, said Gen Ivan Ramirez, the army's deputy commander.

**New Slovak govt announced**: More than a month after elections ended the rule of Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar, leaders of a four-party coalition announced Wednesday they had agreed on formation of a new government, AP reports from Bratislava, Slovakia.

Party leaders signed the pact Wednesday evening at the Bratislava mayor's residence after agreeing on the distribution of Cabinet posts. In balloting last month, the coalition won 93 of the 150 seats in the Slovak parliament. Meciar's government was to resign Thursday, when the new parliament convenes for the first time.

**42 stranded whales shot dead in NZ**: Conservation officials shot dead 42 stranded pilot whales Thursday as 288 perished on a remote beach off the southern tip of New Zealand, AP reports from New Zealand.

The whales were stranded on Stewart Island late Wednesday and most were dead by the time Department of Conservation officials got to them Thursday, an official said.

The surviving whales were so distressed it was better to put them out of their misery, Southland conservation official Lou Sanson said. "This is one of the largest mass strandings in the world and was a distressing scene for staff."

**3 killed in Brazil jail riot**: Brazilian prisoners took advantage of slackened security during a local holiday on Wednesday to incite riots and breakouts that left three dead, at least eight injured and an unknown number of convicts on the loose, Reuters reports from Sao Paulo.

Inmates in two prison blocks, on female and one male, each seized a guard as hostage and rioted at Cadeao de Pinheiros prison in the west of Sao Paulo city, said a prison official. Prison staff quickly contained the female riot but the male inmates ran amok for nearly eight hours. Three men on a so-called "inmate death list" were killed by their fellow prisoners and eight were seriously injured.

**Mexico braces for Hurricane Mitch**: Mexico's Yucatan peninsula braced for Hurricane Mitch's fury Wednesday as the storm battered the coasts of Honduras and Belize, forcing tens of thousands to flee the coast, AFP reports from Chetumal, Mexico.

States of emergency were declared in Honduras and Costa Rica as the death toll linked to Mitch rose to 43. What experts warned was the century's fourth most dangerous hurricane was drenching parts of Honduras with heavy rains the US National Weather Service (NWS) warned "could cause life-threatening flash floods and mud slides."

## Turkey celebrates 75th anniversary

ANKARA, Oct 29: Starting the day with a wreath-laying at founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk's ornate mausoleum, Turkey readied a night of balls, banquets and fireworks for Thursday's 75th anniversary of its creation as a secular republic, reports AP.

A blimp floated over the capital on Wednesday, its sign declaring: "Ataturk, we are following in your footsteps."

Britain's Duke of York and other dignitaries from around the world were expected for the anniversary, marking Ataturk's October 29, 1923, creation of modern Turkey from the ruins of the Ottoman Empire.

Foreign and Turkish leaders were to attend a parade in the day and a banquet in the evening. Ordinary Turks celebrate with state-organised dances, fireworks and concerts in streets adorned with flags and Ataturk's portraits.

To 19-year-old Hasan Yilmaz in Ankara, the anniversary was "an occasion of great pride."

"It's not only a holiday, because it's important that the Turkish republic has come this far," the young man said.

Aiming to create an up-to-date, westward-looking state, Ataturk curtailed religion's role in the predominantly Muslim society and made secularism the new republic's official ideology.

Today, the nation is faced with a widening divide between those determined to keep it on a secular path and supporters of an Islamic political movement.

The all-powerful military — the self-appointed guardians of the secular system — will use the occasion to show its might, parading tanks and artillery before the nation and the foreign guests.

The military pressured an Islamic-led government into resigning last year. The Islamic party later was forced to disband.

In the only overt reminder of Turkey's mighty Ottoman Empire, a band dressed as the feared janissaries, who used to announce the arrival of Ottoman troops in conquered lands, will also parade.

Prodded by the pro-secular government, millions throughout the country marched Sunday to kick off the celebrations and to protest Islam's influence in national politics.

## 38 LTTE rebels, 9 troops killed in fresh fighting

COLOMBO, Oct 29: Sri Lanka's defence ministry said Thursday its troops killed 38 Tamil tiger rebels and lost nine of their men in fresh fighting in the country's north, reports AP.

Military spokesman Brigadier Sunil Tennekoon told reporters the fatalities occurred around Kilinochchi on Wednesday. Kilinochchi, about 275 kilometres north of Colombo, was under government control until the rebels captured the town last month after a fierce battle that left at least 1,500 dead or missing on both sides. The Wednesday battles also left 25 government soldiers injured, Tennekoon said.

The fatalities came from four encounters between the rebels and the government force, which is trying to retake Kilinochchi. There was no independent confirmation of Tennekoon's statement as the government bars reporters from the area.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are the main rebel group fighting for an independent Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka's north and east.

## Japanese ruling party MP arrested in fraud scandal

TOKYO, Oct 29: Prosecutors arrested a Japanese ruling party legislator Thursday on suspicion of falsifying political subsidy reports to hide misuse of party funds, news reports said, reports AP.

Yojiro Nakajima, a Liberal Democratic Party member of Parliament, allegedly ordered the fabrication of receipts to account for 12.6 million yen (dolls 106,000) that went missing from subsidies received from party headquarters.

Nakajima, 39, was arrested on charges of violating the political party subsidy law and the political fund control law, Kyodo News and national broadcaster NHK reported.

Five other people were reportedly being investigated in the case. Prosecutors were planning to raid Nakajima's offices for evidence, NHK said.

Nakajima's office allegedly sent the falsified accounting reports to a prefectural election committee and to LDP headquarters. His office reportedly received some 20 million yen (dolls 168,000) in government subsidies issued through LDP headquarters in 1996 and 1997.

Prosecutors declined to comment on the case.

## Six UN heads meet for the first time

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 29: The heads of the six principal UN organs met on Wednesday for the first time since the world body was founded in 1945 and reminded defaulting countries to pay their dues, reports Reuters.

A statement issued after the meeting mentioned no country by name, but the United States is the biggest debtor, accounting for some 1.5 billion dollars of the approximately 2.5 billion dollars owed by UN members in unpaid dues and for peace-keeping operations.

The meeting, which included a lunch in Secretary-General Kofi Annan's suite, was arranged because the heads of all six bodies happened to be in New York at the same time.

The principal organs, in addition to the UN Secretariat headed by Annan, who is from Ghana, are: the 185-nation General Assembly, whose president this year is Uruguay Foreign Minister Didier Ortelli; the 15-nation Security Council, presided over this month by Sir Jeremy Greenstock of Britain; the 54-member Economic and Social Council, whose president is Juan Somavia of Chile; the nine-judge Hague-based International Court of Justice, whose president is Stephen Schwebel of the United States; and the Trusteeship Council, comprising the five permanent members of the Security Council — the United States, Russia, Britain, China and France — and presided over by Yves Dutoit of France.

At about 10 am (0800 GMT), Thring ruled in favour of the commission, rejecting the ANC's 11th-hour bid to block the report.

The ANC's legal maneuvering outraged Tutu, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his role in the anti-apartheid struggle.

## Serb troops leave Kosovo but refugees still fear to return home

PRISTINA, Oct 29: After much of Serb military manpower and hardware moved out of Kosovo, uniformed Yugoslav fighters moved openly in several areas, and the dreaded police checkpoints had virtually disappeared, reports AP.

But many of the tens of thousands of ethnic Albanian villagers displaced by some seven months of fighting and torching are still afraid to return to their homes because NATO has lifted a deadline for Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to comply with the terms of an Oct 12 agreement or face airstrikes.

The main reason for their misgivings is they don't trust Milosevic. "NATO, it isn't doing the job," red-eyed Albert Pacarizi, 24, said at the funeral of his 18-year-old cousin, Ali Pacarizi, a guerrilla killed Tuesday by a land mine left by Serb police. "They don't attack, they just give a news conference."

Scores of armed guerrillas in green camouflage uniforms with the red and yellow badge of their Kosovo Liberation Army marched in formation at Wednesday's funeral at Dragobilje, some 40 km southwest of

## The deal will be implemented: Clinton Car bomb attack kills Israeli soldier in Gaza

GAZA CITY, Oct 29: A Palestinian militant killed an Israeli soldier and lightly wounded six people in a suicide car bomb attack today on a school bus serving Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip, police said, reports AFP.

The radical Islamic movement Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack, which appeared aimed at derailing a new land-for-security agreement that was signed last week between Israel and Yasser Arafat's Palestinian authority and was due to come into effect on Monday.

But Israeli officials said they would press ahead with the peace deal despite the bombing, on condition the Palestinian authority honoured its security commitments under the agreement.

Police said the attacker tried to drive a car alongside the school bus as it travelled between Jewish settlements in the southern Gaza Strip but was held back by an army jeep that

set itself between the car and the bus.

The Palestinian then detonated the bomb, with the jeep taking the main force of the blast, they said.

The bomber and one soldier in the jeep were killed by the explosion and two other soldiers and an Israeli civilian were hospitalised with slight wounds.

The school bus was armoured and only three children were very lightly hurt when they fell following the blast, which occurred in a zone controlled by the Israeli army, police said.

The attack led to a tense confrontation between Israeli troops and Palestinian police when soldiers tried to pursue a suspect seen fleeing the scene of the blast into Palestinian-controlled territory.

Another report says: President Bill Clinton dismissed fears about Israel's commitment to the Wye River Accord Wednesday, saying he was con-

fident the deal would be implemented.

"I believe that if we complete the security arrangements that were agreed to at Wye, the Israeli government will approve this and honour its commitment and we will go forward."

"I would urge all onlookers not to overreact at every little bump and trun on the road," he added in reference to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to delay putting the agreement to his cabinet until the Palestinian security plan had been submitted.

Netanyahu's adherence to the accord has run into fierce opposition from the right, including many in his own coalition government and political base.

"There was a lot of mistrust in this relationship," he explained, adding that Netanyahu wanted to "be absolutely certain that the early steps will be taken on the other side."



US President Clinton and First Lady Hillary Clinton pose for a photograph with Colombian President Andres Pastrana, left, and First Lady Nohra Puyana de Pastrana, right, after they arrived for a state dinner at the White House in Washington Wednesday. — AP/UNB photo

## Judge allows release of report on South Africa's racist past

PRETORIA, Oct 29: A judge rejected a challenge from the ruling African National Congress party on Thursday and allowed the release of a watershed report by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on South Africa's racist past, reports AP.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission can now release the 3,500-page report to journalists ahead of its formal handover later Thursday by Desmond Tutu, a former Anglican archbishop and the commission chairman, to President Nelson Mandela.

"That's fantastic," said Alex Boraine, the deputy chairman of the panel, when the ruling was announced. "That's a victory for truth and human rights in this country."

Judge Wilfried Thring in Cape Town had ordered the panel to withhold the report from journalists while he held a hearing on the ANC's application to block its release. The ANC had objected to a finding that it had committed "gross human rights violations" in its decades-long struggle against white rule.

At about 10 am (0800 GMT), Thring ruled in favour of the commission, rejecting the ANC's 11th-hour bid to block the report.

The ANC's legal maneuvering outraged Tutu, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his role in the anti-apartheid struggle.

Speaking outside a convention center where the solemn handover ceremony was to be held later Thursday, he compared the ANC to the white rulers of apartheid.

"I have struggled against a tyranny. I didn't do that in order to substitute it with another," he told journalists. "If there is a tyranny, an abusive power... I will oppose it with every fragment of my being."

Tutu said he was "devastated" by the ANC action. Commission officials said the legal wrangle detracted from the panel's role in helping tell

the truth about victims of atrocities.

"This is not about us," said commissioner Yasmin Sooka. "It is about the people who have died, the people who disappeared, the people who will never be known about."

The Truth Commission came under attack from both sides of apartheid-era rule Wednesday. In addition to the ANC move, apartheid's last president, FW de Klerk, filed a lawsuit forcing the panel to disclose a finding that he was an "accessory after the fact" to state-sponsored bombings.

The attacks on the report — the product of two years of testimony by thousands of witnesses — showed just how difficult reconciliation was in this country four years after the fall of apartheid.

Created with the ANC's blessing, the panel was charged with promoting reconciliation by laying bare apartheid-era atrocities. It has held hearings around the country for more than two years, listening to both victims and perpetrators.

It has the power to grant amnesty as well as recommend prosecution.

According to leaks of the report, the commission has found the ANC guilty of planting mines in rural areas, executing enemy agents, blurring the line between military and civilian targets and fomenting political violence.

## Amnesty Int'l to send observer to Anwar trial

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 29: The human rights group Amnesty International has called the charges against Malaysia's jailed dissident leader "politically motivated" and said an observer would attend his trial, reports AP.

The trial of former deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim, charged with corruption and sexual misconduct, is scheduled to begin next Monday.

"Amnesty International believes the filing of these charges to be politically motivated," the London-based group said in a statement received Thursday.

Also Wednesday, a senior US humanitarian aid official said he believed international actions had prevented thousands of refugees from dying this winter because the agreement enabled organisations to rush in clothing, food and other supplies.

"The humanitarian disaster we all feared has been averted," said Hugh Farmer, assistant administrator for the US Agency for International Development, speaking in Kosovo's capital, Pristina. "I think we

will see no deaths due to isolation or lack of food."

A UN refugee agency spokesman said people were returning home in many areas, and he expected the numbers to increase.

"People can't wait to return because it is getting very cold," said the spokesman, Fernando del Mundo.

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe is accelerating efforts to send up to 2,000 unarmed personnel to verify compliance on the ground. A spokesman for the OSCE said Norwegian Gen. Bjorn Nygard was due in Pristina on Thursday to take charge of the verification operation.

About 90 per cent of Kosovo's 2 million residents are ethnic Albanian, and most favour independence. Kosovo is a province in Serbia, the main republic in Yugoslavia.

The government has offered only to discuss restoring the local autonomy Milosevic revoked in 1989 — a position supported by the Americans and Europeans who also oppose Kosovo independence.

## Britain's HC rejects warrants for arrest of Pinochet

LONDON, Oct 29: Despite winning his first battle against extradition to Spain, Gen. Augusto Pinochet's hopes of being whisked home to Chile immediately must wait, reports AP.

The High Court on Wednesday rejected two arrest warrants from a Spanish magistrate seeking Pinochet's extradition to face charges of murder, torture and kidnapping of political opponents during his 17-year rule. The court said the former dictator is immune from criminal prosecution in Britain because the alleged crimes occurred while he was head of state. Pinochet also won repayment of his legal costs, estimated to be 350,000 pounds (dolls 560,000).

Lord Chief Justice Thomas Bingham said, however, that Pinochet must remain in custody pending an appeal by prosecutors to the House of Lords, Britain's highest court.

Prosecutors said they will file an urgent appeal Monday. It is uncertain how long the ruling will take. Predictions in the British media ranged from next week to several weeks.

Meantime, Pinochet's lawyers asked for his release on bail. A bail hearing was scheduled for Friday. Magistrates said they would consider holding the hearing at the private London hospital where Pinochet is recovering from back surgery October 9.

He has been detained there since his arrest by British authorities Oct. 16 at the request of Spanish judge who alleges Pinochet, during his rule from 1973 until 1990, was responsible for up to 4,000 murders, including at least one in the United States, and sent agents to Spain to kill opponents.

In his ruling, Britain's most senior judge said it was "of course a matter for acute public concern that those who abuse sovereign power to commit crimes against humanity should not escape trial and appropriate punishment."

But nothing, including the charter establishing the International War Crimes Tribunal at Nuremberg in 1945, invalidated the principle "that one sovereign state will not impugn another in relation to its sovereign acts," Bingham said.

## People in 21st century to live longer, have smaller families

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 29: People are expected to live longer and reduce the size of their families in the 21st century, except for 29 African nations where AIDS is having a devastating impact on life expectancy, a new UN population survey said on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

While contraception has dramatically lowered birth rates, better health care is allowing people to stay alive far beyond expectations.

The global population now at 5.9 billion is expected to climb to 8 billion by October 1999 and 8.9 billion by the year 2050, the report said.

"Since biblical times there has been an attempt to live a long, healthy life and that's what we've achieved. Improvements in mortality are humanity's greatest achievement," Joseph Chamie, Director of the UN Population Division told a news conference.

"That is why fertility has come down, because you don't need six children to have to survive," he said, noting however, that there were still many countries with poor health care. The relatively low global

birth rate has resulted in a slowing of population rates. Ten years ago the annual increase was some 86 million people or 2.05 per cent, now it is down to about 78 million a year or 1.3 per cent.

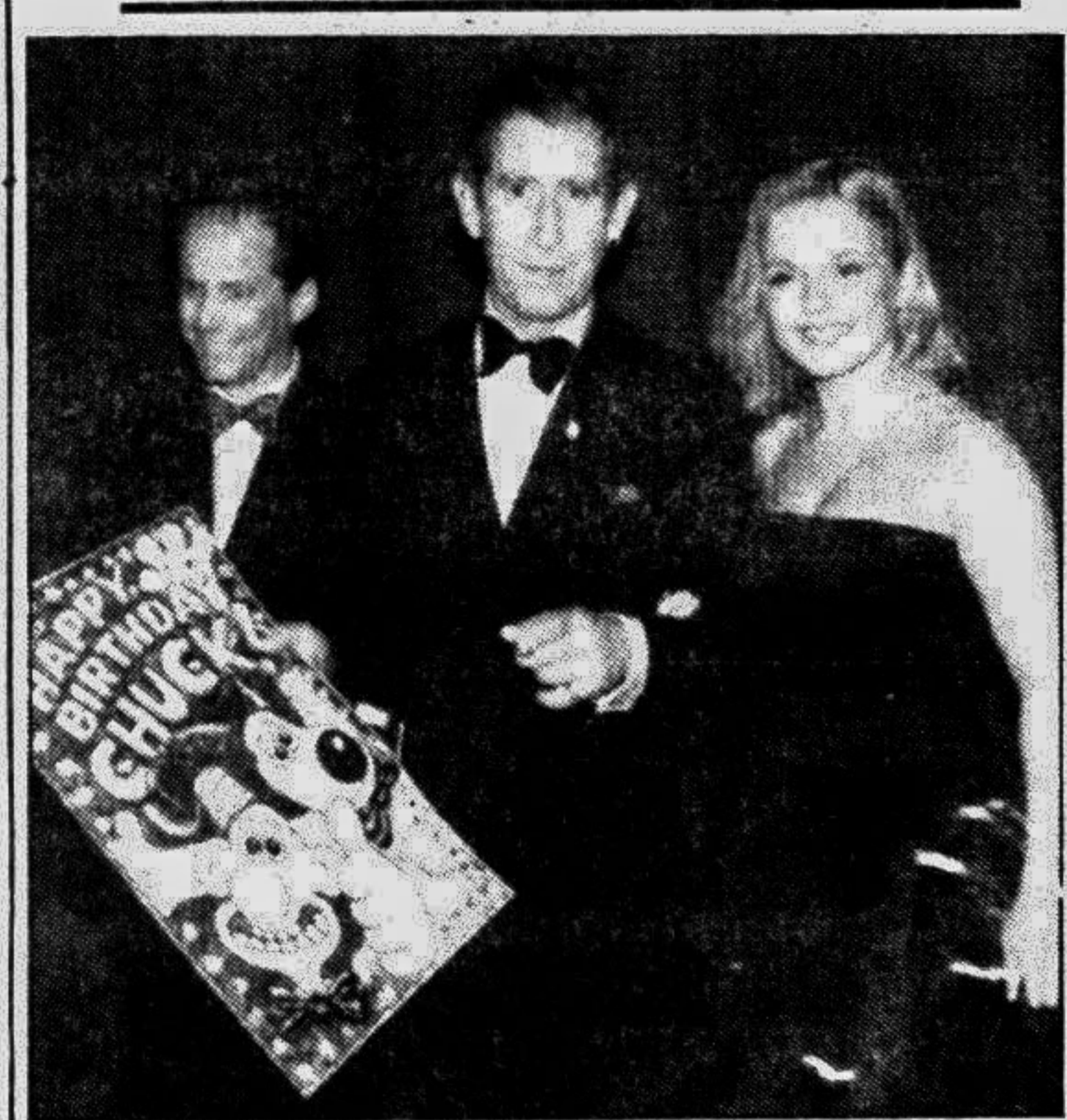
HYDERABAD, Oct 29: In a prize catch, the city police has arrested an accomplice of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agents and seized a kilogram of RDX explosives from his possession, reports PTI.

Police said today that Mohd Munawar Ullah Shaareef alias Munawar, who was arrested on Tuesday last, was a close associate of a Pakistani national and members of the Lashkar-e-Tayyaba based in Pakistan.

Munawar, who had been absconding for the past four months, was nabbed by the task force (west zone) when he visited the house of his in-laws.

## Accomplice of ISI agents held in Hyderabad

## Off the Record



Former Spice Girl Geri Halliwell, right, links arms with Britain's Prince Charles after presenting him with a birthday card backstage at the Lyceum Theatre in London's West End following a royal gala celebration Wednesday. The event, in aid of the Prince's Trust, marked his 50th birthday on Nov 14 and featured a host of stars. — AP/UNB photo

## Drawing by Hitler goes for £7,000

BRIGG, England: A pencil drawing by Adolf Hitler of a quiet village scene sold for 7,000 pounds (11,400 dollars) at auction Wednesday, reports AFP.

The postcard-size drawing, signed by A Hitler, was made in 1908, the year the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts rejected his art work for a second time.

He went on to other things. Instead of becoming an artist, as he had hoped to do, Hitler joined the army, and the rest is history.

Meanwhile, the pencil sketch eventually ended up in England, and it was bought by a local businessman as an investment at an auction in this eastern town Wednesday.

Auction house director Robert Horner said the picture was not particularly good, but was "a piece of history."

"It is quite awesome to hold something like this in your hands and think that had it been a little better or had the judges been a little kinder, the entire history of the world would almost certainly have been different."

## 2000-yr-old shipwreck found near Cleopatra's sunken isle

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt: A 2,000-year-old shipwreck and ancient statues, probably from a temple, have been found in waters around a sunken Egyptian island where Cleopatra lived, an underwater explorer said Wednesday, reports AFP.

During sea searches begun in June, our team discovered a 30-metre-long, 10-metre wide shipwreck in excellent condition," Franck Goddio said at a news conference in Alexandria, whose eastern port the explorers are scouring.

Carbon dating of wood samples showed that the ship dates back to 90 AD-130 BC, said the Frenchman, whose team began making the first scientific map of the area's ruins in 1996.

"The ship's hull is near an ancient jetty in Antirrhodes Isle's private port," he said.

Cleopatra had a palace on the isle, which was royal property during the Ptolemaic era (323 BC-30 AD). The isle sank beneath the waves more than 1,600 years ago after a series of earthquakes.

"The presence of a hole in the ship's hull shows that it probably sank after it was rammed by another boat," Goddio said.

"Ceramic shards and remnants of food and jewelry, including gold rings, were inside the wreck," he said.