

60 killed in Swedish discotheque fire

GOTEORG, Sweden, Oct 30: A fire started by an explosion raced through an upstairs discotheque jammed with hundreds of teen-agers attending a Halloween dance early Friday in Sweden's second-largest city, killing at least 60 people and injuring about 190 others, many seriously, reports AP.

Key state elections next month Sonia opens talks with opposition parties to form alternative govt

NEW DELHI, Oct 30: Indian opposition leader Sonia Gandhi has opened talks with opposition parties to prepare for possible changes following next month's key state elections, party sources said today, reports AFP.

Another guerilla group calls truce in N Ireland

LONDON, Oct 30: One of Northern Ireland's most ruthless guerilla groups, the Loyalist Volunteer Force, has said that its war is over for ever, a British newspaper reported, says Reuters.

Off the Record



Britain's Prince Charles with his youngest son Harry and niece Zara Phillips leaving the Liberal Synagogue in St John's Wood, London, Thursday, after attending the wedding of Simon Sebag-Montefiore and Santa Palmer-Tomkinson. — AP/UNB photo

Lawyers appeal for Anwar's bail to higher court

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 30: Lawyers for jailed dissident Anwar Ibrahim asked a higher court Friday to free him on bail after a lower court refused to do so, reports AP.

Yeltsin to formally curb his powers next year, aide says

MOSCOW, Oct 30: An exhausted Boris Yeltsin left for a Black Sea vacation on Friday, and a senior aide said the Russian president would formally restrict his political powers early next year, reports AP.

Over 100 killed as bandits attack Kenyan villages

NAIROBI, Oct 30: More than 100 people were killed and dozens of others are missing after heavily-armed bandits, many of them from Ethiopia, attacked Kenyan villages near the border, police said today, reports AP.

Justice at last for doctor who treated Lincoln's killer?

SAGINAW, Michigan: The Army was ordered Thursday to reconsider the conviction of a doctor who treated John Wilkes Booth after he assassinated President Abraham Lincoln in 1865, reports AP.

Turkish plane hijack drama ends: Hijacker shot dead

ANKARA, Oct 30: Anti-terrorist squads shot dead a hijacker of a Turkish plane after a seven-hour standoff Friday at Ankara's airport — in a clear message that the Turkish government does not tolerate terrorist actions to promote Kurdish problems, reports AP.



Turkish president leader Rafiq Denktash, right, shakes hands with Pakistani President Rafiq Mohammad Tarrar, as Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze looks on during a ceremony to mark the 75th anniversary of the Turkish republic at the mausoleum of Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey, in Ankara Thursday. — AP/UNB photo

UP says no to play on Nehru

LUCKNOW, India, Oct 30: A Hindu right-wing party has been denied permission to stage a play that depicts India's first prime minister as a lovelorn man pining for the wife of the country's last British viceroy, officials said Friday, reports AP.

Archimedes' work sells for \$2m

NEW YORK: A 1,000-year-old parchment volume that is the oldest known copy of Archimedes' work sold for 2 million dollars at auction Thursday to a private American collector, reports AP.

BRIEFLY

- 26 die in Russian train mishap: The death toll from a collision between five runaway rail cars and a bus rose to 26 on yesterday when two more people died in a hospital, a news agency reported, AP says from Moscow.

Floods ravage Honduran coast as Hurricane Mitch recedes

LA LIMA, Honduras, Oct 30: Hurricane Mitch weaved itself out pouncing the Honduran coast and was downgraded to a tropical storm early Friday. But floodwaters continued to rise, cutting off communities from food, water and medicine, reports AP.

UNSC extends sanctions on Libya

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 30: The UN Security Council on Thursday extended six-year-old sanctions against Libya for a further four months to press Tripoli to surrender two Lockerbie bombing suspects, reports AP.

Shame drives them to suicide

DUBAI, Oct 30: Whether it be by hanging, poisoning or leaping off apartment blocks, dozens of Asian workers committed suicide in the Gulf each year rather than face the shame of going home with nothing to show for their toil, reports AP.



US President Clinton and his wife Hillary watch the space shuttle Discovery head into orbit at Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral Thursday. John Glenn rocketed back into orbit on a mission of science and sentiment, returning as the world's oldest astronaut to the high frontier he pioneered for America 36 years ago. — AP/UNB photo

First American in space becomes world's oldest space traveller

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, Oct 30: Still the hero and still making history, John Glenn roared back into space aboard the US shuttle Discovery, retracing the trail he blazed for America's astronauts 36 years ago, reports AP.