# BUILTIE

First female general in Chile On Nov 17. Mireya Perez will make a bit of history in Chile: she will become the first woman ever to reach the rank of general. AP

reports from Santiago. The promotion will culminate a 32-year-old career of Col Perez in the Carabineros, Chile's militarised national police. The pioneer thinks that others soon will follow. The armed forces have admitted women since the early 1970s, but none of them has yet reached the top.

Jeb Bush elected Florida governor:
Republican real estate developer Jeb Bush son of former US president George Bush won the Florida governor's race Tuesday. Major US television networks said, AFP reports from Miami.

John Ellis Bush, 45, nicknamed Jeb for his initials, beat Budy Mackay the state's democratic lieutenant governor for the seat held by outgoing democratic governor Lawton Chiles, the networks said citing exit polls. His older brother Texas governor and likely republican presidential hopeful George Bush Jr. enjoyed a wide lead in his reelection bid.

Charles visits Romania: The heir to the British throne, Prince Charles arrived late on Tuesday in Bucharest for a three day private visit. The visit takes place ten days after another British senior official, Foreign Secretary Robin Cook visited the Balkan country, Xinhua reports from Bucharest.

Prince Charles met with Romanian President Emil Constantinescu on arrival and then attended a dinner offered in his honour by the latter.

Greek PM wins confidence vote: Greek socialist Prime Minister Costas Simitis won a vote of confidence from parliament early yesterday, boosting his determination to press ahead with policies aimed at entry to the European Union's planned monetary union, Reuters reports from Athens. Despite strains in his own party, he mustered 163 votes in

the 300 seat house, while 136 opposition deputies voted against him, one conservative deputy was absent.

1800 HIV cases recorded in Russia: More than 1,800 new cases of HIV have been reported in Russia in the past six months, and 90 per cent of those who contracted the virus were intravenous drug users, the Health Minister said Tuesday, AP reports from Moscow.

The new cases bring the total number of people with HIV in Russia to 8,867, including 385 children, Vladimir Starodubov told a conference in St. Petersburg, the Interfax news agency reported. An additional 320 Russians have full-blown AIDS, he

Mexican police seizes marijuana: Mexican police have seized about 64 kg of cocaine and 14 tonnes of marijuana, likely headed for the United States, in a series of raids across the country, authorities said on Tuesday, Reuters reports from Mexico City.

Highway patrolmen in the southeastern state of Tabasco uncovered late Monday about 42 kg of cocaine hidden in the false bottom of a cooking-gas tank loaded on the back of a pickup truck. Two women and a man driving the truck north were arrested, police said.

Malaria claims over 270 in S Yemen: An outbreak of malaria has left more than 270 people dead, mostly children, in several parts of southern Yemen, health officials said Tuesday, AP reports from San'a.

The hardest hit is the province of al-Dali, 200 kilometres southeast of San'a, where 156 people have died since early last month, said the officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

India's film industry

struggling for survival

BOMBAY, Nov 4: India's film

industry, the world's largest in

survival amid a growing un-

derworld menace, rising pro-

duction costs and video piracy.

say, reports AFP.

producers and cinema owners

produced, so it was a bad time

for theatre owners," said Rajesh

Thadani of the Bombay-based

theatre owners association.

adding many cinemas were

only saved by takings from the

phenomenally successful Hol-

is commonly known, is the

capital of the Indian film in-

widely acknowledged as the ma-

jor source of funds for the

movie business, which has no

access to cheap bank loans, de-

spite a government announce-

ment in May that it would be

Bombay, or "Bollywood" as it

The Bombay underworld is

lywood import, "Titanic."

"This year we had less films

terms of output, is struggling for

US, UK threaten to use force

## UNSC divided on course of action against Iraq

Tuesday afternoon on a draft resolution submitted by Britain

condemning Iraq's decision and

demanding that Baghdad re-

scind it "immediately and un-

threat of force. And it does not

declare that Iraq is in material

breach of UN resolutions - lan-

guage that could give the United States and its allies the green

The proposed resolution does state that "the situation in

Iraq continues to pose a threat

to international peace and se-

curity." But that language — tough by UN standards — will

probably be dropped because Russia's Deputy Ambassador

Yuriy Fedotov said before the

council meeting began that he

doubts the Iraqi action repre-

sented a threat to peace and se-

light for military action.

It makes no mention of the

conditionally."

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 4: While the UN Security Council stands united in demanding that Iraq reverse its decision to cut dealings with UN weapons inspectors, it remains divided on what to do if Baghdad refuses, reports AP.

The United States and Britain have threatened to use force if necessary, but China has called for dialogue and restraint - and Russia, which is traditionally sympathetic to Iraq, has indicated it wants a peaceful solution.

France recalled its representative in Baghdad for consultations Tuesday and warned Iraq that it faced "total isolation" if it didn't resume cooperation with the weapons inspectors. But diplomats said that France's irritation at the Iraqis did not mean it would support using force against them.

The 15-member Security So the resolution, which Council started discussions isn't expected to be finalised

until later in the week, is likely to be similar to the press statement that the council issued Saturday, hours after the Iraqis halted the work of the UN Special Commission charged with eliminating the country's weapons of mass destruction.
The Russian Foreign Min-

istry condemned Iraq's decision, saying it blocked prospects for lifting crippling after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990. Moscow urged Iraq to comply with UN resolutions calling for the dismantling of the country's weapons of mass destruction — a requirement for sanctions to be lifted. Russia. which is owed billions of dollars from Iraq, has previously called for an early lifting of sanctions. A Russian parliamentary delegation visiting Baghdad this week for talks with Saddam called on Moscow to stop abiding by UN sanctions.



New York governer George Pataki joins hands with his wife Libby, left, and Lt. governer Mary Donohue, as his children, from left, Emily, Allison, and Owen celebrate at the Hilton

Hotel in New York as Pataki claims victory in his race for re-election Tuesday. - AP/UNB photo

### Albright intervenes to settle dispute

## Israel refuses to convene cabinet to approve ME peace accord

JERUSALEM, Nov 4: The new Israeli-Palestinian interim peace deal hit another hurdle on Tuesday after Israel refused to convene its cabinet to approve the accord until the Palestinians met a key security demand, report agencies.

Israel delayed a cabinet meeting meant to approve the land for security agreement signed at the end of a US-Middle East summit last month to await word from the Palestinians that they would jail 30 alleged Palestinian killers of Is-

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke to US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright about the impasse, his spokesman said. Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat called for immediate US intervention.

Madeleine Albright intervened Tuesday over the dispute between Israel and the Palestinian Authority on counterterrorism measures on the West

Albright spoke a second day to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu after following up a call Monday to Netanyahu with a call to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

The State Department spokesman, James P Rubin. said "the Palestinians have met their responsibilities" by submitting a plan to combat terrorism, but "there are other problems we are working on."

Rubin declined to provide any details, but in Jerusalem, Israel's defence minister. Yitzhak Mordechi, said Israel was holding out for a list of 30

Palestinians the Authority had promised to arrest as part of the land-for-security agreement concluded last month.

Mordechai said Israel was also seeking a timetable for the

Netanyahu, meanwhile, postponed a cabinet meeting that was to have considered ratifying the accord. Netanyahu said he had ordered the delay because the Palestinians had not submitted a complete blueprint for fighting terrorism. He declined to say what was omitted.

'We are aware of the problem." Rubin said after Albright talked to Netanyahu.

The US spokesman reiterated the administration's position that the agreement, in which Israel is to swap West Bank land for tighter security. had gone into force on Monday.

## Khamenei for severing ties

TEHRAN, Nov 4: Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Tuesday that the United States is intent on "total domination" of Iran and that severing relations with it was in Iran's interest, reports AP.

"Today, on the surface it appears that the tone of American officials has changed. However, the reality is the same. Khamenei said in comments broadcast by Iranian radio.

America "will not be happy with anything less than the total domination of this country's political and economic resources," said Khamenei, who represents the dominant hard-

line group in the ruling clergy. His comments challenge the softer approach of moderate President Mohammad Khatami, who has suggested cultural exchanges between

#### 10 killed Armed militants storm Tajik city

Iramans and Americans.

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan Nov 4: Several hundred armed militants raided a city in northern Tajikistan early Wednesday, battling government troops and seizing several administrative buildings, officials said, reports AP. The authorities wouldn't

give any immediate information on casualties, but the ITAR-Tass news agency said at least 10 people were killed during the fighting that raged for several hours. Authorities believe the at-

tackers are led by Makhmud Khudoberdyev, a former army colonel who turned against Emomali President Rakhmonov last year and then fled to neighbouring Uzbek-

The assailants seized police and security service headquarters in the city of Khodzhand about 200 kilometers north of the capital, Dushanbe. They also took control of the city airport, said Tajik government officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

#### New test to detect birth defects

test may warn pregnant women of birth defects as early as the first three months of pregnancy researchers said Tuesday, re-

with ultrasound measurements of the foetus to predict a risk for down syndrome, which causes mental retardation and other abnormalities, a team a Northwestern University in Chicago said.

"Overall, we may end up with an earlier test, with a higher detection rate, doing less-invasive procedures and losing fewer normal pregnancies." Dr. Eugene Pergament, a professor of obstetrics who led the study. said in a statement.

Pergament says the new method may catch 90 per cent of cases of Down Syndrome.

Currently, women considered at risk of having babies with birthdefects, including most older than 35, are offered Amniocetesis or Chorionic Villa Smapling (CVS) in the second trimester of pregnancy. Both are nearly 100 per cent

accurate incatching birth de-fects but carry a slight risk of miscarriage.

#### Murdoch junior gets engaged to Wonderbra model

SYDNEY, Nov 4: Lachlan Murdoch, the 27-year-old heir apparent of media tycoon Rupert Murdoch, is engaged to marry Australian "Wonderbra' model Sarah O'Hare, reports Reuters.

Murdoch-owned newspapers reported today that Lachlan Murdoch and O'Hare told friends about their engagement at Tuesdays melbourne cup where they marked their betrothal with a bet on Australian galloper "Tie the Knot."

The younger Murdoch is chairman and chief executive of News Ltd. the Australian media offshoot of Parent News Corp Ltd and has been tipped by his father as his likely successor for the top job. He was described by the Sydney Daily Telegraph as "until yesterday Australia's most eligible bachelor.

### Indo-Pak talks on Siachen Glacier begin in Delhi today

NEW DELHI, Nov 4: India and Pakistan will open talks Friday on the disputed Siachen Glacier — the world's highest combat zone where atrocious weather conditions have claimed more lives than the actual fighting, reports AFP.

Siachen will be the most high-profile topic to be discussed at the November 5-13 peace talks in New Delhi. The 77-kilometre glacier traverses the line of control separating Indian and Pakistan-controlled Kashmir at a height of 7.363 metres above sea level.

Winter temperatures on the glacier plummet to minus 50 degrees Celsius with blizzards gusting at speeds of 160-kilometres per hour.

Maintaining a military presence on Siachen exerts a navy human and financial toll on both sides, even though military commanders admit the strategic worth of the glacier is negligible.

Retired lieutenant general Afzal Karim, who once commanded an Indian brigade on Siachen, said it was simply a "question of prestige" which prevented the demilitarisation of the glacier.

Since both sides deployed troops on Siachen in 1984, casualties from sporadic clashes have not exceeded 150 on either side. However, Karim said some 800 Indian soldiers have lost their lives to the sub-zero weather conditions, while double that number had been

"Everything, including fighting, up there happens in extreme slow motion as the cold low oxygen do not allow the mind to act normally," Karim

"Actual combat claims very few lives but frostbite, avalanches and the blizzards, which can sweep men into crevasses kill more than 40 per cent of all the soldiers deployed

Most of the time, the weather prevents any troops movement whatsoever.

### Army to protect bid to foil assembly session in Jakarta

JAKARTA, Nov 4: The Indonesian military said it would take stern action to prevent protesters from disrupting a

Armed forces commander Gen. Wiranto said his troops would protect the Nov 10-13 session of the 1.000-member People's Consultative Assembly while it debates proposed democratic reforms promised ahead of planned parliamentary elections next May.

Pro-democracy activists have criticized the assembly. saying it is dominated by supporters and appointees of former autocratic President Suharto who was forced to quit office in May after student protests and riots. They say the assembly is un-

likely to support truly democratic reform. Before Suharto stepped

down, thousands of students invaded and occupied the national Parliament building. The assembly is to convene

at the Parliament building next Tuesday. Protest organizers say thousands will take to the streets again.

They complain the government is not moving fast or far enough on political change. A series of protests in recent weeks have been peppered with calls for Suharto's successor. President BJ Habibie, to resign

Speaking to reporters at the state palace in Jakarta, Wiranto said any group that atspecial session of the country's tempts to disrupt the assembly top legislative body next week, would be acting undemocratically and would be in violation of the law and the constitution. Therefore, the military would "take stern action"

against them, Wiranto said. "The meeting will decide the future of the nation, will decide the people's welfare and other good interests," Wiranto said. The government has said

that 30,000 police, soldiers and civilian volunteers will be deployed to safeguard the assem-

#### New drug to reduce arthritis pain

WASHINGTON, Nov 4: US Food and Drug Administration approved a new drug called Enbrel for Rheumatoid arthritis. the New York Times reported Tuesday, says Xinhua.

The drug developed by Immunex Corporation which is a biotechnology company in Seattle was shown in clinical trials to reduce pain and swelling in the joints of many patients with severe arthritis. However it does not cure arthritis or reverse damage that has already been done to bones and



A model shows Sotheby's highlights of its forthcoming sales during a press briefing at Geneva, Switzerland, on Tuesday. This magnificent diamond necklace combination made by Van Cleef & Arpels in 1949 will be auctioned in Geneva, on Tuesday, Nov 17. The necklace is estimated to sell for US dlrs 260,000, the brooch 260,000, and the two pendant diamonds at the bottom at between 2-3 million - AP/UNB photo each.

#### budget productions were granted "industry" status. Film producers have to borshelved," said Thadani. Police chief warns of

COLOMBO, Nov 4: Police are asking hotel owners to report new arrivals to the authorities and to be careful about renting rooms to strangers following reports that Tamil Tiger rebels were planning bomb attacks in the capital, a newspaper said

Wednesday, reports AP. The Island newspaper said alert from Inspector General of Police Lucky Kodituwakku came after sleuths from the anti-terrorism department arrested two rebels who under interrogation revealed plots to attack Colombo. When contacted by The Associated Press. Kodituwakku's staff said he was busy in a meeting and declined to take calls.

Thousands of visitors come to the Sri Lankan capital daily

March 5 bus bomb attack at a busy Colombo intersection that killed 43 people. A month earlier, a rebel suicide bomber blew herself up at the gates of air force headquarters in downtown Colombo, killing eight

LTTE attack in Colombo

row from private financiers at

crippling annual interest rates

of around 48 per cent. With in-

'tlustry status confirmed they

could receive bank financing at

ing has fuelled a demand that

the underworld has been only

ing as a creditor, organised

jolt in September last year

when flamboyant producer Gul-

shan Kumar was shot dead, and

attempts were made on the lives

of a couple of other top produc-

carried out because the produc-

ers' refused to pay out protec-

killing, the industry cut down

on production, nobody wanted

to be targeted and so flashy, big-

The murders were reportedly

"After Gulshan Kumar's

crime still demands its cut.

The restricted access to fund-

And even when it is not act-

Bollywood received a major

15 per cent.

tion money.

too happy to supply.

The Liberation Tigers of

to get jobs done in government departments and courts. A sizable number are ethnic Tamils.

Tamil Eelam is the main rebel group fighting a 15-year-old separatist war in the north and east of this island nation off India's southern coast. They often attack targets in Colombo to either dramatize their homeland campaign or to cause economic losses to the govern-

The LTTE was blamed for the

quashing Pinochet's arrest LONDON, Nov 4: With moves under way in seven European countries to extradite Gen. Augusto Pinochet, Britain's highest court will decide whether to quash his arrest at a London hospital and send the former

Chilean dictator straight home, reports AP. Five judges, sitting round a horseshoe shaped table in a committee room at the House of Lords, will start hearing an appeal by British prosecutors on Wednesday against High Court ruling last week that Pinochet's Oct 16 arrest on a Spanish war-

Foreign Minister Pierre Moscovici.

rant was illegal. To the dismay of victims, the High Court said that Pinochet.

state, has immunity from prosecution for acts committed during his 17-year rule. The present Chilean government says some 3,000 political opponents

Bangladesh Ambassador to France Syed Muazzem Ali recently presented his credentials to

the French President Jacques Chirac at a ceremony at Elysee Palace in Paris. Photo

shows, the French President (R) the Bangladesh Ambassador (C) and the French Deputy

House of Lords to decide on

The hearing on whether the 82-year-old general should be extradited to face charges of murder, torture and kidnapping

hearing Thursday. Legal experts say the war-

were killed or disappeared. base north of London - to more trouble in Chile on Tuesday a coali-

was scheduled to last two days. The judges, headed by Lord Justice Gordon Slynn of Hadley, were not expected to rule immediately after the

become irrelevant if the Lords also throw out the arrest. However, Pinochet could fly home - a special medically equipped jet is waiting at an air

other extraditions moves will

tion of centre-left parties that support President Eduardo Frei appointed a legal panel to examine the possibility of Pinochet standing trial in his native land. As a senator-for-life and under laws he initiated, Pinochet has so far had immunity from prosecution in Chile.

rant-issued by a Spanish mag-Chilean senators also said they will seek a constitutional istrate investigating human rights abuses after Pinochet amendment allowing members of congress to resign their seats.

#### as a foreign former head of seized power in 1973 - and other people. 9000 dead, 2m left homeless so far

## Death toll from Hurricane Mitch soars up by the hour

MANAGUA, Nov 4: Stunned by the devastation wrought by Hurricane Mitch, officials in Central America said Tuesday the death toll rose dramatically to more than 9,000 and would keep rising, reports AFP. Barely an hour went by

reflecting the extent of the tragedy that affected some of Latin America's poorest coun-Close to 15,000 people were missing, more than two million lost their homes and thousands awaited aid, some perched on

the roofs of their flooded

houses, dehydrated, hungry and

without new, horrifying figures

exhausted. Rescue teams were unable to cope with the sheer immensity of the disaster and braced for yet more rain and possible landslides as the storm, which had fizzled out, gained strength again. Crop losses were massive, roads and bridges covered in mud or torn away, and authorities warned of the risk of massive outbreaks of conta-

the weekend.

In Honduras, the worst hit country, authorities said it would take decades and two billion dollars to restore what had

been lost. In Nicaragua, army officials said 70,000 landmines buried during the civil war of the 1980s were brought up to the surface by flooded river and landslides and dispersed over several kilometers - posing yet another deadly threat

Returning from a visit to the worst affected areas in the Honduran capital, an evidently shocked presidential spokesman, Nahum Valladeres said that "There isn't a city that has been as hard hit as Tegucigalpa." The capital's mayor was killed in a helicopter crash over

Emergency teams said Tuesday they were unable to reach some 172 communities in northwestern and central Nicaragua, where thousands of people prayed for help as they battled hunger and dropping

In the Nicaraguan capital. thousands of people were evacuated as Lake Managua rose to alarming levels, following week

of pounding rain. At the same time, President Arnoldo Aleman Tuesday urged people living near volcanoes to move to safer zones, to avoid being buried under a landslide like the one that killed hundreds of people in Posoltega.

The mayor of the northwestern Nicaraguan town, Felicitas Zeledon said Tuesday "The desert of mud and volcanic rock" left by Friday's landslide would also be the final resting place of those whose bodies could not be retrieved. Rescuers found 1,100 bodies

but feared the toll could be far higher. Hundreds of jittery residents fled in panic Tuesday after

rumbling sounds from the volcano hinted at another landslide.

NICARAGUA: Varying official reports of 1,800 to 2,400 "They came covered in mud. killed, most at the Casitas Volexhausted and hungry," said

Lorenzo Alverado, a municipal official in the nearby Chichigalpa community. "The worst part is that in the shelters here. we have no food, no medicine, 222 dead, 135 missing, 50,000 no water, no electric power."

teams, unable to land in flooded areas of the remote mosquito coast, dropped supplies from helicopters. Further north, in the once idvllic island of Guanaja, bod-

In Honduras, emergency

ics floated by a destroyed village as residents in ragged clothes buried their dead amid uprooted palm trees that no longer offered protection from the harsh Caribbean sun. Latest reports of damage caused by Hurricane Mitch. by

HONDURAS: Officials report an estimated 7,000 dead, 2 million driven from their homes, most highways and bridges damaged, 70 per cent of crops destroyed.

cano. Damage to 500,000 homes. Many cities cut off. Widespread crop damage. EL SALVADOR: Massive flooding. Officials say at least

forced from their homes.

GUATEMALA: Flooding and mudslides. President Alvaro Arzu says 157 dead, including 11 Americans in plane crash on Sunday. At least 51,000 people evacuated, 21 bridges destroyed. 30 highways blocked. MEXICO: At least six dead, including one American in a

boating accident near Cancun

on Oct 26 and five people near

Tapachula, near the

Guatemalan border on Monday. Several thousand evacuated. COSTA RICA: Four dead, four missing in floods. BELIZE: Tens of thousands fled homes early last week, but the hurricane veered away and there were no reports of deaths. CARIBBEAN: Schooner Fan-

tome with 31 crew aboard miss-

ing. Searchers report finding

debris from the vessel.

#### in foetus WASHINGTON, Nov 4: A new ports Reuters. The test combines a check for two proteins in the blood