### Golkar faction of MPR proposes to put Soeharto under house arrest

JAKARTA, Nov 22: The dominant Golkar faction of Indonesia's People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) has proposed to the government to put former president Soeharto under house arrest, Antara news agency reported today, says Xinhua.

"Such decision should take effect starting on the date of its issueance" the faction's spokesman Marzuki Darusman, said here Saturday evening.

The move was necessary as part of concrete legal steps to solve the former president's alleged involvement in corrupt, collusive and nepotistic prac-tices as quickly as possible, An-

tara quoted Marzuki as saying. Referring to the government's announcement to set up an independent committee to probe into Soeharto's wealth amassed during his 32 years of rule, he said the decision to put him under house arrest could be made before or at the time when

the committee has been set up. State secretary & minister Akbar Tanjung disclosed Sat-urday that President BJ Habibie will soon set up a committee that will probe into the wealth of Soeharto as decreed by the

MPR.
The special session of the MPR which ended on November 13 agreed to add a provision to decree on clean government. preventing centralisation of power, corruption collusion

and nepotism. Political parties public figures and students have urged the government to implement the decree immediately so as to push forward sweeping reforms in the country.

Tanjung said the committee will be made up of figures with strong intergity and credibility and that the president himself will appoint the members of the committee.

Marzuki suggested that the committee be made up of experts from various disciplines. In September President Habibie set up two teams to investigate the wealth of Soeharto, last week, the attorney general's office revealed that the government had found

# Tension rising again over UN arms searches: Iraq

BAGHDAD, Nov 22: Iraq warned Saturday that it could come under attack "within weeks," saying tension was rising again over UN arms searches less than a week after deadly US and British strikes were aborted, reports AFP.

In London a spokesman for British Prime Minister Tony Blair said it was a "bad sign, that Iraq was refusing to head over key weapons documents, while diplomats in Baghdad said the issue could fuel a future

Babel, run by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's elder son Uday, said attack could be launched in the near future, between now and the end of January or mid-February at the latest, or even in the next three weeks.

"Tension is rising between Iraq and the United Nations, we are convinced that a plan for attacking Iraq is being prepared behind the scenes, the newspaper said.

Babel's comments came amid intense wrangling be-

tween Iraq and the United Nations over key documents related to Iraqi weapons of mass

destruction programmes. UN arms chief Richard Butler has repeatedly called for Baghdad to had over the documents since UN weapons inspectors resumed work Tuesday, but Iraq has branded the demands 'provocative rather than professional."

The exchanges follow Iraq's resumption of cooperation with UN weapons inspectors in the last week after a three month suspension, in a move that narrowly averted threatened US and British military strikes.

Baghdad-based diplomats on Saturday said the dispute over the documents could sow the seeds of a future confrontation. In addition to Saturday's in-

spection, teams of chemical, nuclear and biological weapons experts from UNSCOM visited a separate site, examining "several buildings to verify the equipment on hand and inspect the work going on there," said

Amin quoted by the official news agency INA. "Iraq accorded the inspec-

tors all facilities necessary to perform their duties," he said. He added that a US U-2 surveillance aircraft violated Iraqi airspace while observing several regions' and said that UNSCOM crew also performed routine maintenance work Saturday on cameras that monitor several Iraqi military installa-

Meanwhile Iraq's Babel newspaper run by the eldest son of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Üday said military strikes on Baghdad could take place in the next few weeks.

"Tension is rising between Iraq and the United Nations after the exchange of accusations between UN arms chief Richard Butler and Iraqi diplomats, the daily said.

We are convinced that a plan for attacking Iraq is being prepared behind the scenes, Babel said in an article entitled what could happen.

# 'Two-thirds of humanity denied permanent representation at UN'

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 22: India has made a strong case for a place for itself and for some other developing nations as permanent members in an expanded Security Council. Speaking during a debate on council reform and a discussion on a related draft resolution in the General Assembly, India's Permanent Representative Kamlesh Sha-rma said that two-thirds of humanity was denied permanent representation at the top decision- making level of a body which is supsally. posed to represent the peoples of the world. He said permanent representation to developing nations was "all the more imperative" at a time when the council had begun to address economic, environmental, social and human rights issues as

"Developing countries (must have) an effective say in the decisions of the council since the vast majority of those problems existed in their part of the

world," Sharma said. He said

being relevant to questions of

peace and security, reports

any increase in permanent membership should be governed by objective and not subjective and selective criteria. "India believes that on any objective grounds, it would be considered as qualified for parti-cipation in the expanded membership of the council," he said. Permanent mem-bers, he said, were to assume global and not regional responsibilities. While the rotational model might be acceptable to some, such alter-natives could not be applied univer-

The exclusion of developing countries from the council, as pointed out by India, was also decried by a number of countries, including Colu-mbia and Vietnam. The draft resolution refers to the develo-ping nation agreement at the September Non-Aligned Mov-ement (NAM) summit in South Africa that any UN resolution with Charter amendment implications must be adopted by a two-thirds majority of UN members as referred to in Article 108 of the Charter. According to Article

108, amendments to the present

Charter shall come into force when adopted by a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly members and ratified by two-thirds of the UN members, including all the permanent members of the Security Coun-

The Assembly would stress, if the draft text was adopted that reform was of such fundamental importance that it could not be subjected to any imposed time-frame and therefore would recognise the need to allow member states adequate time to further reflect on the issue. The draft is co-sponsored, among others, by Afghanistan, Pakistan, Indonesia, Qatar, Argentina and South Korea. Amendments to the draft were tabled by Belgium. Sharma said that crucial to the understanding of the draft resolution was the fact that the decisions of the NAM on council reform were a package. "The decision on Article 108 was one element in that

package, with no special emphasis placed on it," Sharma

## 6 killed in attack on churches in Jakarta

JAKARTA, Nov 22: Hundreds of Muslim rioters on Sunday set fire to a Protestant church and a gambling hall and hurled rocks at soldiers who fired warning shots and tear gas. At least six people were stabbed to

death, reports AP. Mobs also ransacked a Roman Catholic church while a wedding ceremony was underway, smashing stained glass windows, chalices and a statue of the Virgin Mary and flinging pews and Bibles onto a bonfire.

The ethnic and religious violence was the latest sign that the military is increasingly hard-pushed to keep order in Indonesia's sprawling capital of 11 million people. The nation of 202 million is also-enduring the strain of economic hard-

In the rioting Sunday, crowds blocked fire trucks from reaching the burning Christian Church of Ketapang and a police helicopter hovered above thousands of people roaming the streets. Soldiers with helmets, sticks and shields eventually pushed them away.

Shops were shut in the area. which is less than a kilometre from the state palace of President BJ Habibie.

The fighting in north Jakarta was sparked by re-

Sunday, AFP reports from Singapore.

nations, AP reports from Beijing.

said Sunday, AP reports from Beijing.

surgical procedure.

reports from Tirana.

Manila.

transport his body home.

sentment among local residents towards Christian civilian guards of a gambling hall who had come from the eastern Indonesian city of Ambon. Residents said a group of Ambonese had attacked a mosque early

Sunday morning. "Islam is the power in this area," one man said. Ninety per cent of Indonesians are Mus-

Two dozen worshippers attending a service at the Protestant church fled when mobs attacked. Firemen pumped water from polluted canals to fight the blaze, but the church was

Mobs threw rocks at an open-backed military truck carrying 20 Ambonese that raced away and boys poked sticks at the occupants through the vehicle's protective wire

them," the rioters screamed.

Officials of the Indonesian Red Cross said they had recovered five bodies of Ambonese who had been stabbed to death with knives and broken bottles. At the nearby Sacred Heart Church, a wedding party fled a crowd that burst in, breaking altar ornaments and tearing up

priests robes.

BREFLY

Singapore's ex-PM Lee hospitalised:

Singapore's former prime minister Lee Kuan Yew has been

admitted to hospital with an infection, local television reported

Saturday for treatment for an infection arising from a minor

Albanians vote on new constitution:

Albanians were to vote yesterday on their first constitution

since the collapse of the former communist regime in 1990, AFP

the (ex-communist) Socialist-led coalition government of

Prime Minister Pandeli Majko and the opposition led by for-

mer President Sali Berisha who has called for a boycott of the

Jiang begins Russia, Japan tour:

Chinese President Jiang Zemin set off Sunday on a tour of

Russia and Japan, looking to push forward ties with both

first to Russia, where he and his ailing counterpart, Boris Yeltsin, were expected to sign a statement on border demarca-

tion and discuss broad issues of expanding cooperation between the former Cold War rivals. It will be their sixth summit meet-

Quakes leave 30,000 homeless in China:

Some 30,000 people are living outside in cold winter conditions

following a series of earthquakes in southwest China, officials

Two earthquakes Thursday in the Ninglang Yi Autonomous

County in Yunnan province and neighbouring Yanyuan County

in Sichuan province killed three people and injured 1,543, at least 211 of them seriously, officials and state media said.

Marcos's military chief dies:

General Fabin Ver, the seared military chief of late deposed

dictator Ferdinand Marcos, has died in Thailand, the

Philippine government said Saturday, AFP reports from

Philippine Embassy in Thailand confirmed Ver died early

Saturday and his family was looking for a private plane to

300 tortoises stolen in Malaysia: Some

300 tortoises have been stolen from a temple in northern

Penang state, believed to be the work of a gambling syndicate

using the reptiles for "racing," a report said yesterday, AFP reports from Kuala Lumpur.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon said the

Leaving behind a snow-covered Beijing, Jiang was travelling

The referendum takes place in a climate of tensions between

Lee, 75, was admitted to the National University Hospital



South African President Nelson Mandela is escorted by African National Congress official Ebrahim Rasool in Athlone township near Cape Town Saturday. Mandela Started his election campaign in the Western Cape ahead of next year's general elections.

## - AP/UNB photo Turkey boycotts Italian goods as Rome refuses

to deport Kurdish chief ANKARA, Nov 22: A boycott of Italian goods gained pace in initials MKEK, also called on Turkey Saturday as a state firm announced it would ban military imports worth up to 300 million dollars in protest at

Rome's refusal to hand over Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan, reports AFP. Anatolia news agency said the state mechanical industry and chemical company's move against a wide range of Italian made weapons and ammunition would remain in force as

Workers Party (PKK).

long as Italy refuses to deport

Ocalan, head of the Kurdistan

Israeli Prime Minster Ben-

jamin Netanyahu reaffirmed in

response that members of the

Muslim militant group Hamas

or Palestinians "with blood on

their hands" would not be

among the 500 additional pris-

oners he has promised to re-

square km of territory around

the self-ruled city of Jenin on

Friday, Israel freed 250 de-

tainees — but 150 of them were

felons convicted of car theft and

other non-political crimes.

Pulling back from 500

Turkey's private sector to review defence industry contracts with Italian firms, the report

Seven Turkish companies or organisations have taken action against trade or business with Italy since the powerful Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry called last Monday for an economic boy-

Italy has said it would not extradite Ocalan to Turkey. where he faces a possible death

#### CIA obtains full set of East German spy records

WASHINGTON, Nov 22: The US government obtained a complete set of secret spy records from East Germany in a move considered one of the greatest triumphs of Cold War espionage shortly after the fall of that country's communist government. The Washington

Post reported, reports AP. The files contained the names and other information about citizens of the United States, Britain and West Germany who worked for the foreign operations wing of the East German state security organization known as the Stasi, the newspaper said in Sunday edi-

Information from the files was used to convict two people -Theresa Marie Squillacote and Kurt Alan Stand - of espionage in Virginia earlier this month, according to court records.

#### Malaysia to set up taskforce to tackle foreign interference

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 22 Malaysia will set up a special taskforce to tackle foreign interference in its domestic affairs, information minister Mohammed Rahmat said Saturday, reports AFP.

The taskforce would use the information department and the national radio and television network to strengthen patriotism among the public, he was reported as saying by the official news agency Bernama.

The foreign attack on the country is too big, but if the people love the country and stand united, they can reject any propaganda aimed at humiliating us, he said. No other details were available.

Malaysia has accused US Vice President Al Gore of meddling in its domestic affairs when he praised brave Malaysians calling for reforms in weekly protests by supporters of ousted deputy premier Anwar Ibrahim in his speech here Monday.

#### Official probe report on Diana's death

# Car crash caused by pursuing paparazzi

LONDON, Nov 22: The official probe into the Paris crash that killed Diana, Princess of Wales, will produce evidence that it was caused by a pursuing paparazzi motorcyclist which blocked an exit road before the tunnel where the collision occurred, it was reported today, reports AFP.

The report has concluded that the presence of a motorbike on the righthand lane alongside Diana's car could have forced the driver, Henri Paul, to go at high speed down the Alma tunnel. The Sunday Telegraph reported.

It quoted a lawyer in the case as saying that if this scenario was correct "manslaughter charges could be upheld against certain photographers" who had been pursuing Diana in a high speed chase on the night of August 30, 1997.

Nine photographers and a dispatch rider are facing charges of involuntary manslaughter and of having failed to assist persons in danger.

Citing extracts from the 100page report, the newspaper said that this theory was supported by several witnesses who said they saw at least one motorcycle close to the Mercedes as it approached the tunnel.

Once in the tunnel, Paul lost control of the vehicle and struck one of the tunnel's pillars killing himself, Diana and her companion, Dodi Fayed. Bodyguard Trevor Rees Jones survived but was seriously in-

The report by French investigating magistrate Herve Tephans Concludes that Paul had wanted to leave the riverside expressway and branch off to the right - a more direct route to Dodi's apartment at L'Etoile, the Telegraph said.

One witnesses, Theirry H said in a statement to police that he was overtaken on the approach to the tunnel by the fast moving Mercedes with a motorcycle carrying two people immediately behind it, according to the newspaper.

# Storm Dawn hits Vietnam: 30 killed

HANOI, Nov 22: Over 30 people were killed and many others missing as tropical storm Dawn hit Vietnam's central region from November 18-21, local press reports said today, reports

Xinhua. Da Nag city was the hardest hit by the storm. Leaving 15 people dead 50 houses pulled down, and 13,467 other immersed in water, some 115 fishing vessels had failed to return home and 25 of them were missing, the reports said.

Torrential rains also flooded many residential quarters of the city with water levels measuring between 1-1.5 me-

Nine people were killed and four others reported missing as the storm hit Thua Thien Hue Province, with many areas in the province submerged under water levels measuring between 0.3 -1.5 metres. The storm also pulled down houses and blocked traffic in several sections of the national highway across the province.

In Phu Yen province, the storm killed one person and injured two others and inundated thousand hectares of rice and subsidiary food crops

Six people were killed and one was missing as torrential rains hit Quang Ngai province

## US urged to press Israel to release more **Palestinians**

sentence.

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 22: JERUSALEM, Nov 22: Pales-Malaysian police detained an opposition leader late Saturday tinians urged Washington on after using chemical-laced wa-Saturday to press Israel to reter cannon to diperse the latest lease more Palestinian politiprotest by supporters of ousted cal detainees after common deputy premier Anwar Ibrahim, criminals were included in a reports AFP. group of 250 prisoners freed in a West Bank land handover, re-Tien Chua, a human rights

ports Reuter.

activist who heads the People's Coalition for Democracy, was seen being dragged into an unmarked van full of plainclothes agents opposite a mosque in the residential neighbourhood of Kampung Baru around midnight. He was detained a couple of

Pakistan to pass

nuclear safety

ISLAMABAD, Nov 22: Pak-

istan will pass a nuclear safety

law to tighten control on the

export of sensitive technology,

Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz

said in a report in The News

Daily here Saturday, reports

strengthening control on export

of sensitive technology and ma-

terials and to prevent possible

accidents will be presented to

parliament in two months, he

lated issues including export

controls and preventing possi-

ble accidents, he said, adding

that all countries with nuclear

power were required to make

Malaysian police

detain opposition

leader Chua

safety laws.

It will cover all safety re-

The proposed law for

hours after riot police sprayed a chemical-laced yellow dye to disperse between 100 and 200 protestors outside the mosque. Chua had been chatting with

a foreign diplomat and a reporter when two policemen grabbed him.

Palestinians welcomed the withdrawal, which President Yasser Arafat told reporters had "proceeded fine," but said Israel's release of common criminals violated the spirit of the Wye River land-for-security deal signed at the White House last month.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said he sent a letter to US Middle East envoy Dennis Ross asking him to intervene immediately to secure freedom for 150 political detainees.

In a statement, Erekat said he sent a separate letter to his Israeli counterpart Danny Naveh demanding their release. A Palestinian official said Bothmen would hold talks in the West Bank town O Jericho today to try to resolve the dispute.



President Clinton toasts South Korean President Kim Dae-jung during a dinner in - AP/UNB photo Clinton's honour Blue House in Seoul, South Korea, Saturday.

'North Korea-Aland of political

slogans, few vehicles, no sunglasses'

## Trial of Anwar Ibrahim resumes today

The politically charged corrup-tion trial of Anwar Ibrahim resumes Monday amid growing outcry to US Vice President Al Gore's remarks supporting the ousted Malaysian deputy prime minister, reports AP.

The Malaysian government had recessed Anwar's trial so it would not interfere with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit of 21 Pacific Rim leaders, which ended last

The week-long pause, how-ever, only intensified the global spotlight focused on Malaysia and the government's treatment of the former No. 2 leader.

ber 20, weeks after his firing by Mahathir sparked massive anti-government protests. The current trial involves four counts of corruption. Anwar will be tried on another corruption count, as well as five of sexual misconduct, at a later

The 51-year-old dissident and says they're part of a political vendetta orchestrated by his former mentor Prime Minister

Malaysia, meanwhile, has accused US Vice President Gore of meddling in its domestic affairs, following a speech he de-livered during the APEC summit in which he expressed support for the political reform

gered a nationalistic fervor. A hotline advertised in the government-backed New Straits Times was hooked up over the weekend for callers to register anti-US sentiments.

Information Minister Mohamad Rahmat said a task confused and think there are force would be set up to many high-ranking officials in strengthen patriotism and the tour group," one Hyundai tackle foreign interference. tour official quipped.

The South Korean visitors CHANGJON, North Korea saw only one North Korean Nov 22: Some 800 South Koreman wearing sunglasses in a ans returned Sunday from an unprecedented sightseeing tour in North Korea with impressions of a communist land of political slogans, few vehicles

and no sunglasses, reports AP. During their four-night, five-day tour to a scenic mountain on the North's east coast the South Koreans were repeatedly told not to wear sunglasses.

Tour organisers explained that in North Korea, sunglasses are regarded as a status symbol for high-ranking government officials or military generals. North Korean leader Kim

Jong Il often appears in newspaper photographs or on television wearing sunglasses during his inspection trips to military units and other facilities. "If you wear sunglasses, ordinary North Koreans may be

chauffeur-driven car with a Pyongyang plate number. His identity was unavailable.
As 11 sleek tour buses drove down a cement-paved road exclusively built for tourists,

shabby-looking North Koreans walked across fields or along dirt paths running alongside, many carrying heavy bags on their heads or backs. Many also were working in

the fields, using only small tools such as shovels, picks and hand carts. None appeared to pay any attention to the visi-

During a one-hour drive, South Koreans saw only two trucks, two military motorized bikes and one tractor-driven cart, in which several people

were riding. With limited means of transportation, walking has become a routine part of life for most North Koreans.

The General (Kim Jong II) has said that walking is good for health," Chung Kum-chul, a North Korean tourist worker,

North Korea is awash with

signs and slogans demanding or pledging loyalty to leader Kim Jong Il. You can't turn a corner or pass a hill without seeing a slogan or sign for Kim Jong II and his philosophy of self-reliance.

There are more political slogans than road signs on the streets. Every place visited by the

late Great Leader Kim Il Sung and his son, Kim Jong II, have been made historical sites with huge evolutionary signs. The first slogan which came

into sight as the tourists arrived at Changjon port aboard a cruise ship last Thursday was: Let's protect with life the revolutionary headquarters led by Comrade Kim Jong II."
The carving produced 370

truck-loads of rock fragments.



UNSCOM arms inspections. - AP/UNB photo

# **KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 22:**

Anwar was arrested Septem-

leader denies all the charges

Mahathir Mohamad

movement started by Anwar. Gore's remarks have trig-