

Pinochet's legal bills mounting high

LONDON, Dec 3: Former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet is expected to run up a legal bill of around one million pounds (1.67 million dollars) by Christmas in his fight against extradition, according to a report today, reports AFP.

Indonesia announces poll timetable, drops independent probe of Suharto

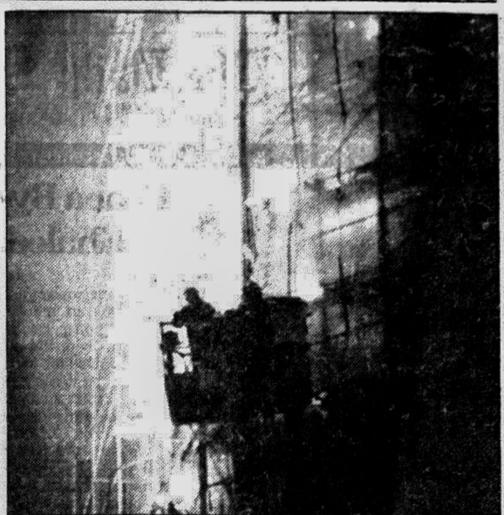
JAKARTA, Dec 3: Indonesia on Thursday announced an election timetable for next year, a move that failed to appease student protesters campaigning for the immediate ouster of President B J Habibie, reports AP.

Some students welcomed the timetable, but others who want a transitional government now rejected it. Many have demanded the ouster of Habibie, who took office from Suharto in May after riots and protests against his 32-year authoritarian rule.

Instead, Habibie again ordered Attorney General Andi Mohamad Ghalib to investigate Suharto. A previous inquiry by Ghalib turned up no evidence of wrongdoing and opponents labeled it a whitewash.

ary elections after a meeting with Habibie and key Cabinet ministers at Parliament. The nation's highest legislative body, the People's Consultative Assembly, will then meet in August to elect a new presidential poll.

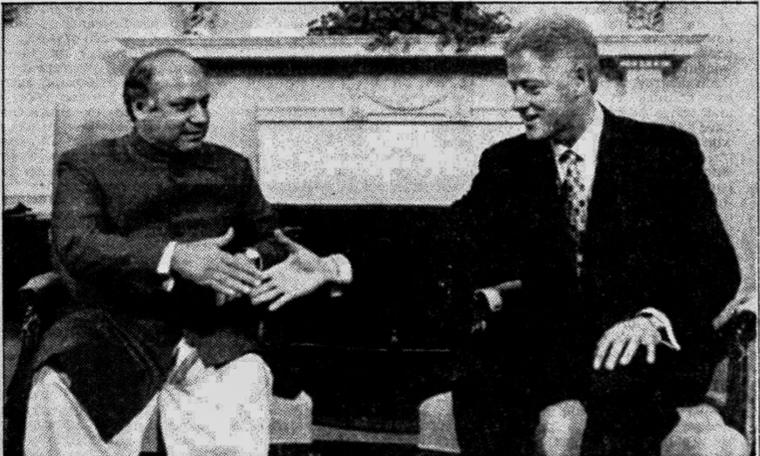
Habibie is expected to run for president, but his ruling Golkar party has lost credibility because of its role as an instrument of Suharto's rule for decades.



Firefighters try to extinguish fire on a scaffolding of an unfinished building in downtown Moscow, Wednesday. A fire swept through at least 15 floors of an unfinished building of Russia's Supreme Court on Wednesday. People working in the main courthouse next door were evacuated. No casualties were reported. —AP/UNB photo

Clinton's lawyers to put vigorous defence

WASHINGTON, Dec 3: Lawyers for US President Bill Clinton told the Congressional Impeachment Panel in a letter released late Wednesday that they would mount "a vigorous defence," reports AP.



President Clinton shakes hands with Prime Minister Mohammed Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan before a meeting in the Oval Office at the White House Wednesday. —AP/UNB photo

Clinton admin rejects Israeli conditions to accord with Palestinians

WASHINGTON, Dec 3: The Clinton administration dismissed new Israeli conditions for a pullback on the West Bank and demanded that the Wye accord with the Palestinians "should be implemented as signed," reports AP.

Jerusalem of an Arab street cleaner, apparently slain by an Israeli extremist. In Jerusalem, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Wednesday that troop pullbacks would be delayed unless Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, stops saying he will establish a Palestinian state next May, whatever the outcome of negotiations with Israel.

could relinquish another chunk of the West Bank and free 750 Palestinian prisoners only if Arafat undertook new measures designed to protect Israel from violence.

surrender to the Arabs under UN Security Council resolutions at the end of the 1967 and 1973 Middle East wars.

BRRIEFLY

**Honduran police seize drugs:** Honduran police seized 1,400 kilos of marijuana and destroyed 303,000 cannabis plants in an operation Wednesday, officials said, AFP reports from Tegucigalpa. Police also arrested five people following the haul in San Ignacio, 80 kilometres north of the capital.

Little progress achieved in Clinton-Sharif talks

WASHINGTON, Dec 3: US President Bill Clinton held talks here Wednesday with Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif toward preventing a full-scale South Asian arms race but little progress was achieved, reports AP.

New technique to help kidney transplants

BOSTON (USA) Dec 3: Researchers at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and Leiden University in Holland, involves introducing certain maternal HLA antigens — not normally inherited — into the donor shortly after birth.

Iraq urges UN Ask US to stop aggression

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 3: Iraq asked the United Nations to denounce the United States for its acts of aggression and "flagrant interference" in Baghdad's internal affairs, according to a UN document released Wednesday, reports AP.

US warns DPRK against missile test:

The United States has made clear to North Korea that any further missile tests would have serious consequences for US-North Korean relations, the State Department said Wednesday, AP reports from Washington.

Anwar's pro-reform movement plans to form political party

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 3: Former Malaysian Deputy Premier Anwar Ibrahim's pro-reform movement plans to submit an application this weekend to form a political party, The Sun newspaper reported today, says AFP.

Fire kills 27 in Manila orphanage

MANILA, Dec 3: At least 27 people, mostly children, were killed in a pre-dawn fire Thursday which raged through an aging Manila orphanage, fire officials said, reports AP.

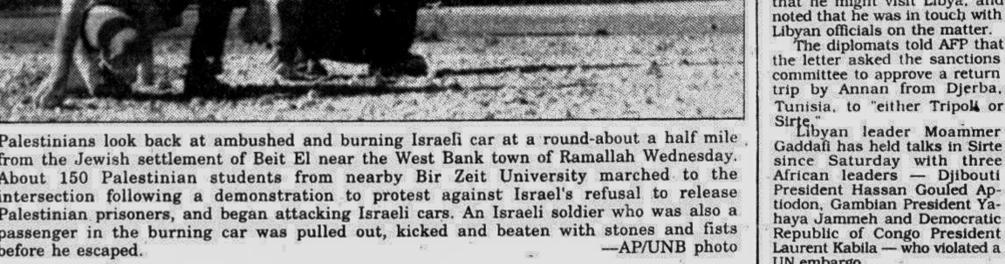
Annan likely to visit Libya

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 3: UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Wednesday asked the UN Sanctions Committee for permission to make a return trip from Tunisia to Libya on Saturday, western diplomats said, reports AP.

Blast kills 7 in India: Seven Indian villagers, including a child, were burnt to death when an overturned truck carrying petrol exploded in the northern state of Rajasthan yesterday, the Press Trust of India said, AFP reports from New Delhi.

Yemen asks for int'l aid: Yemen, one of the world's poorest countries, called Wednesday for international aid to combat malaria, which has killed around 2,000 people in two months, AFP reports from Sanaa.

US to sell weapons to Taiwan: The United States intends to make certain Taiwan has the weapons it needs to remain secure, the State Department said Wednesday, AP reports from Washington.



Palestinians look back at ambushed and burning Israeli car at a roundabout a half mile from the Jewish settlement of Beit El near the West Bank town of Ramallah Wednesday. About 150 Palestinian students from nearby Bir Zeit University marched to the intersection following a demonstration to protest against Israel's refusal to release Palestinian prisoners, and began attacking Israeli cars. An Israeli soldier who was also a passenger in the burning car was pulled out, kicked and beaten with stones and fists before he escaped. —AP/UNB photo

US welcomes Cuba move: The State Department welcomed on Wednesday Cuba's reinstatement of Christmas as a holiday and called on President Fidel Castro to give the Cuban people the gifts they deserve — "democracy, respect for human rights and economic freedom," AP says from Washington.

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Kashmiri leader says Media failed to play its due role

MUZAFFARABAD, Dec 3: World Print and Electronic media has not played its due role on Kashmir and has not highlighted Kashmir issue in its true spectrum, reports AP.

Anti-smoking campaign gains momentum among teenagers

MIAMI, Dec 3: The screen shows a room of bagged corpses and an orderly wheeling in another casualty. The camera cuts to doctors at work on a dying man — and then to a grave as flowers tumble in.

half of 500,000 Florida smokers, took a wait-and-see approach to whether the ads can curb youth smoking.

ing "to fool young people," compared with 6.5 per cent in April. And 58 per cent thought smoking has "nothing to do with whether or not a person is cool."

now," he said. "That's an outrageous question."

Blair fails to break impasse BELFAST, Dec 3: British Prime Minister Tony Blair emerged from seven hours of grueling talks in Belfast early Thursday without breaking the impasse between Protestant and Catholic politicians, reports AP.