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THE KABUL TIMES

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VOL. VIII, NO. 48

KABUL, SUNDAY, MAY 18, 1969 (SAUR 28, 1348 S.H.)

PRICE AF. 4

VENUS-6 LANDS ON MYSTERIOUS PLANET

Venus-5,6 send data on Venusian atmosphere

MOSCOW, May 18, (Tass).—The Soviet automatic interplanetary station "Venus-6" Saturday completed its long journey to Venus a day after the descent of the station "Venus-5".

The station entered the planet's atmosphere some 300 kilometres away from the place where "Venus-5" had entered. The station's detachable capsule smoothly descended through the atmosphere for 51 minutes. During descent various characteristics of the planet's atmosphere were measured and reported to the long-range space communications centre.

Just like "Venus-5", the station "Venus-6" delivered to the planet pennants with a bas relief of Lenin and the USSR coat of arms.

The programme of studying Venus by means of automatic spacecraft is being consistently and successfully implemented in the Soviet Union.

The study of Venus by means of automatic space apparatuses was started by the Soviet Union for the first time in the world in 1961, when the first Venus probe, "Venus-1", was launched. On February 27, 1966 the Soviet automatic station "Venus-2" flew near Venus while on March 1 of the same year the station "Venus-3" was the first to reach the planet, delivering there a pennant. On October 18, 1967 Soviet science and technology scored a new outstanding victory. For the first time

in the history of space studies an instrument capsule of the station "Venus-4" smoothly descended through the atmosphere of Venus and measured its parameters. Unique scientific data was thus obtained about the physical characteristics of Venusian atmosphere.

The stations "Venus-5" and "Venus-6" continued studies of the planet, enriching science with important scientific data and expanding knowledge about Venus. They made a new wonderful contribution to the science of the universe. During the flight which lasted for more than four months "Venus-5" and "Venus-6" conducted important studies of physical processes in inter-planetary space. This was achieved due to the constant and reliable communication with the stations. 73 radio communication sessions were held with "Venus-5" and 63 with "Venus-6".

Throughout the flight the onboard systems and scientific equipment of the stations functioned flawlessly. A permanent temperature in the compartments of the stations and a permanent orientation of their solar batteries on the sun were ensured. During communication sessions the parabolic directional antennae were oriented on earth. All this points to the high scientific and technical level of the automatic stations.

The reliable performance of all onboard systems of the stations ensured the fulfilment of the flight programme and the smooth descent of instrument capsules through the planet's atmosphere.

The instrument capsules of both stations descended through the planet's atmosphere as planned: on its nightside. The scientific instruments were employed during descent to measure the chemical composition, pressure, density and temperature.

(Continued on page 4)

Kosygin to pay official visit here end of May

KABUL, May 18, (Bakhtar).—Alexei Kosygin the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union will pay an official and friendly visit to Afghanistan towards the end of May at the invitation of Prime Minister Noor Ahmad Etemadi, the Information Department of the Foreign Ministry said.

Kosygin will participate in the 50th anniversary of the establishing of the friendly relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

In the joint communique issued at the end of Prime Minister Noor Ahmad Etemadi's visit to the Soviet Union on November 12, 1968, it was stated that the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union has been invited to pay an official and friendly visit to Afghanistan on the above mentioned anniversary. The invitation was accepted by Alexei Kosygin.



Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin

Apollo-10 ready to start 8-day moon journey today

CAPE KENNEDY, May 18, (Reuter).—U.S. Space Agency engineers appeared Saturday to have solved a technical problem which had threatened to delay the scheduled launch of the Apollo-10 round-the-moon mission today.

After several fruitless attempts earlier, yesterday engineers succeeded in the afternoon in priming a system which removes excess water from the oxygen which astronauts Thomas Stafford, Eugene Cernan and John Young will breathe during their eight-day flight.

The system, known as a suit heat exchanger, supplies oxygen to the astronauts while they are dressed in their space suits.

Components of the system, called "wet wicks" must be permeated with water before the exchanger works properly. It was not until afternoon that the wicks could be made to hold water in their porous metal surfaces.

The countdown for the launch set for 1649 GMT went into a scheduled ten hour, 49 minutes pause at 2000 GMT.

The first colour television pictures from outer space will be beamed back to earth today, shortly after the Apollo-10 astronauts begin their eight-day journey to the moon and back.

The astronauts are scheduled to make the first of 11 broadcasts at 1949 GMT, using a 15 pound (6.75 kilograms) colour camera.

Also for the first time since the Apollo-7 crew pioneered prolonged television transmissions last October, the astronauts will be able to act as "directors" as well as cameramen, using a "mini-monitor" built into the Apollo Command Service Module.

The calling card-sized monitor, measuring two and three-quarters inches square, will give the astronauts a black and white picture of the scene they are filming.

The astronauts will also carry a 4.5 pound (two kilograms) black and white television camera for use in the event trouble develops with the colour camera.

The colour camera produces its pictures by means of a rotating colour wheel. While the picture can also be viewed in black and white, it will be converted to a colour signal by the manned spacecraft centre here, using its network antenna at Goldstone, California.

Still another first involved in Apollo-10's television broadcasts will be the use of a variable focus "zoom" lens which can be used for close up shots of the moon's surface.

Malaysian disorders claim 124 lives

KUALA LUMPUR, May 18, (Reuter).—The official death toll in Malaysia's bloody racial rioting leapt overnight to 124.

A government announcement carried by Radio Malaysia this morning said this total included people who had died in hospital from injuries and bodies which had just been found by roving security force patrols.

The announcement also said that 316 people were still on the injured list—one less than the previous figure. Other upto date totals were 154 houses burnt—almost double the previous figure—and 109 vehicles, an increase of seven.

Heavy firing broke out on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur Saturday as the racial violence that has wracked the Malaysian capital for the last five days appeared to be dying down.

With the heat apparently going out of the situation, the curfew-bound city's main preoccupation became the quest for food. There was also the prospect of newspapers resuming publication, under censorship.

But late in the morning heavy firing broke out in the vicinity of Kampong Bahru—a major trouble spot on the outskirts of the capital—as a house went up in flames and the blaze engulfed a whole block despite heavy rain.

One eyewitness said the house was near a street that had already been almost totally gutted by fire.

The latest total of arrests around Kuala Lumpur is more than 600, but it is not yet known whether this includes 93 "hard core terrorists" who the prime minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, said last night had been arrested in a block of flats in the city.

The curfew in some parts of Kuala Lumpur was relaxed for three hours this morning to enable people to buy urgently-needed food. But queues were long at the shops that did open, and some people went away either empty-handed or inadequately satisfied.

The curfew was, however, maintained in more than half a dozen districts of the capital where the racial killings and arson have been worst, and people had to rely on government mobile food deliveries.

House committee discusses prices of textiles

KABUL, May 18, (Bakhtar).—The Minister of Commerce Dr. Noor Ali accompanied by the President of the Afghan Textile Company Mokhtarzadah, yesterday morning attended the meeting of the Commerce Committee of the House of Representatives and answered the questions of the deputies on the production and prices of textiles.

The Financial and Budgetary Affairs Committee continued its discussion on the development budget for the current Afghan year. It later issued its decision and sent it to the secretary for consideration by the general meeting. The Interior Committee considered the petition by some people from the Baghran district on land problems.

The Public Health and Pashtoonistan Committee discussed matters related to them. The Cultural Affairs Committee discussed the issue of the students who have failed in the Kabul University entrance examinations. The Committee invited the Minister of Education Dr. Mohammad Akram to attend its meeting today and answer the questions of the deputies on the subject.

The Law and Legislative Affairs Committee discussed the law on post and telegraph. The answers of the Ministry of Planning and the Afghan Electric Institute on the lack of electricity in Khaikhana area of Kabul were considered by the Mines and Industries Committee.

The Foreign and International Affairs Committee discussed the Afghan missions abroad and the opening of new branches and personnel accounts. Meanwhile, the Senate Petitions Committee in its meeting yesterday presided over by Senator Sayed Ashraf considered some petitions and sent in its decisions to the secretary of the Senate for consideration by the general meeting.

The Law and Legislative Affairs Committee discussed the amended articles of the Land Survey Draft Law and decided to refer them to the general meeting. The amended articles are nine and eleven. Senator Mohammad Amin Khogiani presided.

The Foreign and International Affairs Committee presided over by Senator Abdul Hamid Aziz discussed Afghanistan's membership in the World Postal Union and International Telecommunication Union and issued its decision to be discussed by the general meeting.

KABUL, May 18, (Bakhtar).—A telegram of congratulations on the National Day of Norway has been sent on behalf of His Majesty to His Majesty the King of Norway, the Information Department of the Foreign Ministry said.

U.S. B.52 bombers strafe Viet Cong supply routes

SAIGON, May 18, (Reuter).—American armoured cavalry troopers firing from tanks killed 50 North Vietnamese in the central highlands yesterday evening.

A U.S. command spokesman said today some of the estimated 130 North Vietnamese engaged in close hand-to-hand fighting with the troopers, and others were killed as they climbed aboard damaged tanks to gain better firing positions.

The battle started shortly before dusk when a spotter plane accompanying the cavalrymen saw North Vietnamese in thick jungle 13 kms southwest of Kontum city in Kontum province, not far from the Laotian border.

The spokesman said the tank force moved in and attacked the North Vietnamese who fought back with rocket grenade fire. He said 40 North Vietnamese dead were counted after the one hour battle. Two Americans were killed and five wounded.

American B-52 bombers pounded North Vietnamese and Viet Cong supply and infiltration routes and base camps on the edge of the Laotian border in Kontum province last night.

It was the 19th bombing mission in Kontum in five days. Tay Ninh province further south, bordering on Cambodia, also came under heavy B-52 attack last night and again before dawn today, the spokesman said.

Other U.S. cavalry troopers fought

a fierce battle with North Vietnamese yesterday afternoon, in Quang Ngai province, 116 kms south of the big military base at Danang.

The spokesman said helicopter gunships backed the troops who killed 27 North Vietnamese. He said four U.S. soldiers were killed and 13 wounded in the action 13 kms northwest of Quang Ngai city, on the north central coast.

The command reported 12 shelling and rocket attacks on military and civilian targets throughout the country last night.

South Vietnamese infantry yesterday killed 31 Viet Cong in the Mekong Delta province of An Giang, near Cho Moi district town 122 kms west south west of Saigon.

He said government casualties were very light.

Meanwhile American paratroopers were reported killing 38 North Vietnamese regulars in a short sharp battle through rubber plantations only 30 kms north west of Saigon.

An American spokesman claimed there were no U.S. casualties in the 50-minute clash.

Commandos report big raid on Israelis

AMMAN, May 18, (AFP).—A spokesman for the "Palestinian armed fight command" claimed here last night that several Israeli soldiers had been killed and wounded in a series of engagements with Palestinian commandos in the Jordan valley yesterday.

One violent clash occurred in the early hours of yesterday morning when a commando unit raided and captured an Israeli observation post in the Shaasha sector, the spokesman reported.

He claimed that during this operation several Israeli rest camps were destroyed as well as four sub-machinegun post, a mortar position, a radio transmitter and one vehicle.

A number of Israeli soldiers were killed or wounded, the spokesman said.

The commandos themselves had two wounded but were able to bring them out when they withdrew from the captured post several hours later after planting explosives.

The spokesman listed the other engagements as:

A surprise attack on an Israeli advance post in the Ineydiye sector, northeast of the Damia bridge. According to the spokesman a munitions dump was blown up and mortar and sub-machinegun positions were destroyed in the attack, which cost the Israeli a number of dead and wounded in return for no commando casualties.

An ambush in the Tallat al-Kattaf sector, south of Kfar-Rubine, in which two members of an Israeli infantry patrol were killed.

A coordinated mortar attack on several Israeli artillery positions in the Tallat al-Kattaf and Zor-el-Saghir sectors. Two of the positions were destroyed, the commando spokesman claimed.

Meanwhile, Israeli sources in Tel Aviv claimed that twelve Palestinian commandos and one Israeli soldier were killed in a one and a half hour long pre-dawn battle six miles south of Damia bridge.

They said this was the worst clash in the Jordan valley since the 1967 six day war.

The El-Fatah group, some 30 men strong, penetrated 200 yards inside Israeli territory from across the Jordan with the intention of storming an Israeli post manned by reservists.

It then divided into two squads, 20 men taking position on a hill to

cover an assault party. The latter armed with sten guns and grenades managed to crawl to within a few yards of the Israeli position when an Israeli machine gunner gave the alarm, and opened up against the assailants.

The commandos then rained bazooka shells on the Israeli position—also located on a hill—apparently hoping that the garrison would withdraw to their bunkers and allow the assault group to retreat.

But the Israeli garrison kept pounding them with a deadly and well sustained fire.

At dawn, the bodies of 12 commandos were counted and traces of blood indicated that the cover group also had suffered casualties.

This morning Defence Minister General Moshe Dayan, chief of the general staff general Haim Bar Lev and central front commander Rehavam Zeevi went to inspect the battle site.

Referring to the large-scale assault by the El-Fatah commando group, a high ranking Israeli army officer said cooperation between the Jordanian army and the commandos has recently become a regular practice.

UN committee on decolonisation flies to Tanzania

LUSAKA, May 18, (Tass).—The participants in the session of the United Nations committee on decolonisation yesterday flew from Lusaka to Dar Es Salaam. The committee will continue its work in Dar Es Salaam. During a week that it worked in Lusaka, the committee heard representatives of the National Liberation Movement of Angola, Mozambique, Rhodesia, the Republic of South Africa and Namibia and expressed complete support for their struggle for freedom and independence.

During the general discussion on the Rhodesian question it was stressed that the British government is fully responsible for the situation in Rhodesia that threatens peace and security in this part of the world.

It was stressed during the discussion that the situation in Rhodesia cannot be viewed apart from the situation in South of Africa as a whole where western powers support the military political alliance formed by the Republic of South Africa, Rhodesia and the Portuguese colonialists, the alliance that is aimed to suppress progressive forces all over Africa.

Students leave for higher studies abroad

KABUL, May 18, (Bakhtar).—Fazel Rahim Mohmand the director general of the statistics department in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation left here yesterday for Iran to study the results of the survey made on the standard of living of families in Kabul.

Shah Mahmoud and Sayed Qorish, officials of the Helmand Valley Authority, left here yesterday for the United States under a USAID programme to participate in a training course on the improved wheat seeds.

Ainuddin Wardak, Sayed Jalandar, Mohammad Qasim, Mohammad Nasim Kamal, Ghulam Aishan, Maula Dad, Kohyar, Ghulam Sakhi, Abdul Samad, Mohammad Rasoul, and Abdul Wakil, officials of the Helmand Valley and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation left here under a USAID programme to study agriculture in Iran for six months.

Najiba Mirzad, an official of the education college of Kabul University left here under a USAID programme to study English literature in the United States.

Poher stresses need for unity among Frenchmen

PARIS, May 18, (Reuter).—Acting head of state, Alain Poher, a leading candidate in the French presidential election, yesterday stressed the need to reunite all Frenchmen following the divisions of last month's referendum.

In his first television broadcast of the campaign, the 60-year-old centrist politician, said: "There are still several ditches between Frenchmen which we must fill in. France will have need of all Frenchmen tomorrow to face the future".

The remarks, in a speech devoted

entirely to internal politics, followed a warning Friday night by the Gaullist candidate, Georges Pompidou, of a "bad summer and a dangerous autumn".

In a job at Pompidou, who has advocated a more liberal policy to attract centrist voters, Poher said, "I have always defended the same ideas and the same policies. If someone has changed it is not me".

Poher repeated his idea of the president as a guarantor of public and constitutional freedom and as a referee, assuring equilibrium between parliament and the government.

"There cannot be two governments—one at the hotel Matignon (home of the prime minister) and the other at the Elysee," he said. The president must create unity between daily government action and overall, previously-defined ideas.

Defending his action in remaining interim president, Poher said by remaining at the Elysee he could maintain political order and the best objective conditions for the campaign.

"I believe above everything that we should avoid the state becoming the property of one group or one party, as France belongs to all Frenchmen," he said.

In a campaign radio interview, Michel Rocard, candidate for the extreme left party, P. S. U., said the most urgent task was to reconstruct the left and a socialist programme.

He said neither Poher nor Pompidou had begun to deal with the serious problems of the future prospects for agricultural workers threatens against employment and chaotic university conditions.

The reconstruction of the left could only be done around a true socialist programme which answered the questions that everyone asked, Rocard said.

Deck 18



JUN 17 1969
SD

THE KABUL TIMES

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Food For Thought

Intelligence, reflection and judgment, reside in old men and if there had been none of them, no states could exist at all.

Marcus Tullius Cicero

Extending man's knowledge

The successful completion of the missions of Venus 5 and Venus 6 reflect another major achievement of mankind in its endeavour to explore outer space. The scientific and technical data received from the two interplanetary stations is sure to throw light on the atmosphere and characteristics of this mysterious planet, which, some scientists are getting to believe, has some form of life.

As the race for conquering other planets becomes more intense, man's criticism of devoting so many resources on outer space explorations becomes all the more stronger. But the fact is that spending on projects for conquering the moon or Venus or other planets in the universe takes place on earth. It is not the money or the resources that are sent out to the universe. In fact every space exploration programme employs thousands of human beings, offers financial and learning incentives and provides the ground for man to elevate his standard of knowledge and solve more mysteries of the universe. Taken in this light, the spending of resources on space programmes may not be a waste. It is in fact an investment for learning.

But what may be added is that duplication of work in the field of space ventures if possible should be avoided through cooperation of all nations. This way much money will be saved and better results could be obtained.

What is most interesting about the two Venus ventures of the Soviet Union is that they were not mere repetition of the preceding experiments. Although the results of the explorations are awaited, it is certain that from the 71 different contacts they have had with the stations on earth, more knowledge about Venus will be provided.

The successful descent of the two Soviet interplanetary station on distant Venus reveals the high standard of technology in the Soviet Union, the technique for distant control and the electronic industry. The 350 million kilometre trip all the way from the earth, which took more than four months, and the opening of the parachutes on Venus from the remote control earth stations, the 300 km distance between the two Venus spacecrafts are all manifestations of the magnificent precision of technical calculations.

While we congratulate the Soviet technicians and scientists on their great achievement, we consider this important feat as a victory for the whole of mankind in its endeavours to explore and to learn.

to this country would like to take home small presents to their relatives and friends as a memento of their visit.

However, many of them who have no time to look round for suitable presents cannot buy the things they want.

It is therefore necessary that all hotels and guest houses open souvenir shops inside the premises so that the tourists can make last minute purchases.

The editorial also called on the producers of handicrafts and jewelry to become more imaginative and produce articles which are not only unique but also have utility value.

The paper printed photos and news about the election of college deans at the universities of Kabul and Nangarhar.

HOME PRESS AT A GLANCE

Yesterday's *Anis* carried an interview with the Education Minister Dr. Mohammad Akram in connection with the death of Aseel Mohammad, a seventh grade student of Rahman Baba school. The death of the student had led to rumours that he might have died as a result of clashes between students and police.

The minister in a press conference shed light on the problem. First of all according to the rumours the student was registered at Ibone Sina school. The minister explained that this was not so. He produced documents showing that the student in fact was registered at the Rahman Baba school.

He said Aseel Mohammad had died a natural death after attempts by doctors at Nader Shah Hospital failed to revive him from a deep coma. According to the hospital record the student had died from acute kidney trouble.

One of the minister's aides, according to the paper, had read statements by two of the student's classmates who had taken Aseel Mohammad to the hospital.

Answering a question on whether an autopsy was carried out afterwards on the deceased student the minister said the doctors wanted to do this but before the formalities such as getting the consent of the deceased relatives could be completed other students, who were demonstrating, forcefully took away the dead body to the university campus.

The same issue of the paper carried an editorial on International Telecommunications Day which was observed throughout the world on May 17. Representatives of 20 countries 104 years ago by signing the international telegraph agreement laid the foundation of the international Telecommunications Union, it said.

The organisation has now expanded by leaps and bounds and has 136 sovereign members. While in the beginning it was in charge of organising and regulating matters relating to international wireless and landline telegraphy it is now dealing with a variety of advanced communications system including radio, television, telephone, telex and communications satellites.

The editorial said communication is a fast growing field of science and technology and in the future it will undoubtedly have greater responsibilities to shoulder. It expressed hopes for its success and closer cooperation of its members in the attainment of its goals.

The paper also carried an editorial on the need for opening of souvenir shops in all hotels. Foreign guests and tourists alike who come

to this country would like to take home small presents to their relatives and friends as a memento of their visit.

However, many of them who have no time to look round for suitable presents cannot buy the things they want.

It is therefore necessary that all hotels and guest houses open souvenir shops inside the premises so that the tourists can make last minute purchases.

The editorial also called on the producers of handicrafts and jewelry to become more imaginative and produce articles which are not only unique but also have utility value.

The paper printed photos and news about the election of college deans at the universities of Kabul and Nangarhar.



Izvestia Thursday carries a reportage from the enterprise, where the "Venus" stations were made. One of them Thursday descended in the atmosphere of the "morning star".

Five stations are being built simultaneously for tests. While units are fitted together on the technological machine, the men search for the best composition, check and adjust automatic devices. A sister ship is being tested on the vibration stand, radio technicians are busy on a model of the aerials, heat expert do their job, while endurance specialists simply smash up the machine made available to them and only after all these tests are over, the flight of the main machine is okayed.

Commenting on the rioting in Kuala Lumpur the *Times* said in editorial.

"The Tunku may be able to restore the political balance if the violence can be contained quickly. After twelve years at the head of an independent Malaya he knows that the Chinese must be given a fair partnership in political life. He should realise that there was nothing about the election results to encourage racial antagonism".

The *Guardian* said: "The Tunku now deserves the support of all groups to tide the country over the next dangerous weeks as the election results from Sabah and Sarawak come in.

At the end of it, the alliance will still have a majority, though a precarious one. It will need to use its defeat to revitalise itself and some of the newly expanded opposition parties may need to be invited to join a coalition. Like Congress in India the alliance will also have to learn to live with opposition states. The resulting challenge may be good for it".

There are indications that Soviet vessels shadow all U.S. warships, from cruisers upwards, every day of the year, according to the monthly

Regulations

On duties of election commissions

Following is an unofficial translation of the regulations governing the responsibilities of each of the chairman and members of the elections supervisory commissions. These commissions will supervise the 13th parliamentary elections in Afghanistan. These regulations have been drafted in accordance with article 3 of the decision of the central supervisory election commission dated 13 Saur, 1348 (May 3, 1969).

The duties and authority of the central supervisory election commission:

ARTICLE 1:

In accordance with articles 20, 37 and 43 of the Elections Law, the duties entrusted to the central supervisory election commission are partly legal and partly administrative, they are carried out in accordance with the principle of separation of responsibilities and are given to the chairman and other members of the aforesaid commission as follows:

A. The duties of the chairman of central supervisory election commission:

ARTICLE 2:
The chairman of the central commission shall supervise all matters related to the chairman of the provincial and local commissions and also judicial matters related to elections.

ARTICLE 3:
He certifies as a judge the blank voting ballots with his signature while the

PART I

members of the central supervisory elections commission sign as witnesses.

ARTICLE 4:
Sealing and signing of the bags containing voting ballots by the chairman.

B. Duties of the attorney general:

ARTICLE 5:
The attorney general has the following duties as a member of the aforesaid commission: adopts measures to legally control activities related to parliamentary elections.

2. Is general supervisor of the attorneys, who according to article 14 of the election law, are members of the provincial election supervisory commissions.

3. Adopts measures for all the attorneys in the provinces and districts to facilitate the immediate preparation of claims in evidential crime arising from elections, crimes related to elections, and crimes committed in the polls and adjacent areas.

4. Sends voting ballots to the local and provincial commissions in sealed and protected bags.

5. Answers administrative queries and gives legal advice to the members of the provincial, district and local election supervisory commissions, and to governors, chief commissioners and commissioners.

6. Sends the final results of the elections to the Ministry of Interior and other related offices for publication.

7. Fixes elections symbols in accordance with article 37 of the Election Law.

C. Duties of the deputy minister of interior:

ARTICLE 6:
The deputy minister of interior as a member of the central supervisory elections commission performs the following duties:

1. Receives analytical crime reports related to electioneering, and other information received and shows them to the attorney general.

2. Seeks cooperation between the central supervisory election commission with the government in the sphere of security.

3. Enforces the decisions of the commission.

4. Adopts necessary measures to protect documents and security of the central supervisory election commission.

5. Supervises all matters related to registration of voters and their birth certificates.

6. Presents reports and statistical data about the women and nomad voters.

ARTICLE 7:

The Rector of the University of Kabul as a member of the central supervisory election commission has the following duties:

1. Coordinates the officials of the government.

2. Establishes relations between the central commission and the ministry of education.

3. Supervises the press department of the central commission.

Apollo-10 mission

Racing to within 16 kms of the moon

By Walter Froehlich

Man's closest approach to the moon.

That is expected to be one accomplishment of Apollo-10, America's next manned spaceflight.

Due for launching today the eight-day flight will be by far the most ambitious and sophisticated venture into space to date.

Yet, Apollo-10 will very likely be remembered best not for its own epochal pioneering, but as the last major prelude for a subsequent space mission.

For, if Apollo-10 achieves its objectives, American astronauts will thereafter be ready to attempt a moon landing. That historic landing—one of the greatest events in all human history—could come as soon as mid-1969 during the Apollo-11 flight now scheduled for launching on July 16.

From the technological point of view, the purpose of Apollo-10 is a last thorough in-space test of the spacecraft and the techniques which Apollo-11 astronauts must use to travel to and land on the moon, and return to earth. Apollo-10 will perform this test without attempting any moon landing.

The climax of the Apollo-10 flight will come when, as part of this test, two of the three astronauts in the crew descend to within 50,000 feet (15,000 metres) of the moon's surface.

The crew for the forthcoming mission is made up of three of America's most experienced astronauts. They are Thomas P. Spafford, 38, commander; John W. Young, 33, command module pilot, and Eugene A. Cernan, 34, lunar model pilot.

During about 100 minutes in earth orbit, the Apollo-10 astronauts will check all equipment, and if it is in proper working order near the start of their second orbit they will re-ignite their rocket bit for a "translunar injection" (TLI)—a trajectory toward the moon.

Shortly after they have started on this path, the astronauts will begin a complex manoeuvre. They will need to re-assemble a portion of the spacecraft.

During launch and for nearly all of the mission, the astronauts live in the Command Module, a funnel-shaped vehicle containing spacecraft controls and the necessities of life. Attached to it is the Service Module, a larger cylindrical section containing supplies and equipment such as electricity-generating fuel cells and the craft's main engine, the Service Propulsion System (SPS).

But a third section will also be needed on the Apollo-10 flight. That is the Lunar Module designed for moon landings, but to be used on this flight only for bringing two of the astronauts to their close moon approach.

During launch and the ascent through the atmosphere, the Lunar Module remains packaged in a cylindrical metal container protecting it from the severe aerodynamic forces of the early parts of the flight. However, on the way to the moon, the Lunar Module must be unrapped and extracted from its container—which is known as the "SIA," or Spacecraft Lunar Module Adapter.

To extract the Lunar Module, the astronauts must first detach their combined Command and Service Modules from the SIA. (Continued on page 4)

ITU Day

200 million phones in the world

PART II

The first digit of each country's number is the number of its zone. Thus, for example, Argentina has the number 54, and Venezuela 58. The USSR is the only country which has a unique single-digit number, while the single-digit number 1 will be used by all the countries in North America which are included in its integrated numbering plan. The European world numbering zone is unusual, since it has a very large requirement for two-digit country numbers which can only be satisfied by assigning it numbers 3 and 4. Typical country numbers are 20 for the United Arab Republic, 33 for France, 44 for the United Kingdom, 61 for Australia, 81 for Japan, 91 for India, 233 for Ghana, 595 for Paraguay, 855 Cambodia and 964 for Iraq.

A subscriber wishing to dial a complete world telephone number will have to dial between 13 and 15 digits which make up the following four parts of the number:

- 1) The international prefix which connects him to his own country's international exchange (2 or 3 digits).
- 2) The number of the country he wishes to dial (1, 2 or 3 digits).
- 3) The trunk number within that country.
- 4) The number of the individual subscriber he is calling (this, together with the trunk number, will have a maximum of from 8 to 10 digits).

The world-wide routing plan which has been adopted uses principles currently accepted in national automatic exchanges. It is designed to ensure speed of service and high technical quality. These principles were established by a CCITT study group; implementation of the plan is discussed at plan committee meetings.

The routes of the plan pass through a hierarchy of international exchanges. These comprise three categories known as CT1, CT2 and ST3. CT1s are the prime international transit exchanges—each CT1 would be directly connected to all other CT1s and would be the parent switching centre for a region of the world. It would handle calls to and from CT2 exchanges in its region. Similarly, the next order of centre, the CT2, would be a parent exchange handling the calls of all CT3 exchanges under its control.

A selection of several CT1 centres was made by the plan committee. There will be other CT1 centres in the future, particularly in Africa and South America. Each African CT2 will home on a European CT1 and each South American CT2 will home on the North American CT1.

These international automatic exchanges will contain "memories" to store numbers being dialled. (Continued on page 4)

Middle East

Lebanon commandos agree not to disagree

Lebanon is enjoying a breathing space after armed clashes between Palestinian commandos and the Lebanese army earlier this month.

Four days of talks between Lebanese civilian and military leaders and commando heads, on whether guerrillas should be allowed to operate from Lebanon against Israel, ended this week without any official statement. But informed sources said the two sides had "agreed not to disagree".

Authoritative Lebanese sources said the talks were held in an atmosphere of "brotherly frankness".

The sources said it was agreed that commando action should be coordinated with Lebanese officials "in order to achieve its goals in Palestine while safeguarding the sovereignty and integrity of Lebanon".

Commando sources said it had been agreed that the guard over Palestinian refugee camps by security forces would be lifted and that those arrested in recent demonstrations would be freed.

The commando sources said: "The situation governing the talks is now considered frozen in the hope that another formula will be found in the future". Further talks would be held but no date had been set.

The commando delegation was led by Yasser Arafat who is chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and a leader of the Fatah commando organisation. Arafat arrived in Beirut unexpectedly from Damascus on May 8 to meet another hurried visitor to Lebanon, Dr. Hassan Sabry al-Kholy, the personal envoy of Egypt's president Nasser.

Dr. Kholy's visit was seen as an effort by the United Arab Republic to solve differences between the commandos and the Lebanese government.

The Lebanese army blamed the Syrian-backed Asiga guerrilla organisation for starting the fighting in southern Lebanon in which several commandos and soldiers were killed and wounded.

The fighting brought to a head the crisis which began on April 23 in which 15 people were killed and many wounded in violent clashes between security forces and demonstrators calling for freedom of movement. (Continued on page 4)

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THREE FACES OF THE KOOCHIS

Life is slowly changing



Progress is progress and when it hits no one is immune, not even the Koochis, the nomads of Afghanistan, whose ambulatory way of life resists change about as much as anything does.

But this summer in Koochi camps near Kabul or along the road from Kabul to Ghazni one can see a new element added to their traditional way of existence: New white tents pitched beside the black over spreading canvas tents under which you found the women, children and animals gathered whenever the caravan set up housekeeping.

The new tents are hardly radical innovations but they certainly look more comfortable and are doubtlessly cooler to live in during the summer. They are almost a second room in which to do the living while the belongings can be stored under the old black canvas.

Other little signs also indicate accommodation to the modern world, a radio and oil can or a hurricane lamp swinging behind a camel or perhaps a wave of the hand to the motorist speeding down the highway.

The camel will probably be their primary means of locomotion for a long while to come, but even here things are beginning to change. Some nomads have turned to the bus and lorry to transport themselves and their animals during their seasonal migrations.

A not uncommon sight these days is to see a private bus pull up outside of Kabul either on the road coming from Jalalabad or from Kandahar. A whole caravan of people get out and take down tents, sheep rugs and other piles of their possessions. The emptied bus or lorry pulls away and the nomads set up camp until the next moving season comes.

The gypsies, too, knows as the Lats, keep constantly on the move throughout the country using jeeps, buses and anything else on four wheels.

Shah Rukh's role in building Herat

By A. Mutamedi

Among the enlightened Timurids who contributed, a great deal towards the enrichment of the so-called Timurid Renaissance, Shah Rukh was the first to ascend the throne, immediately after the death of Tamerlane in 1404.

In spite of the fact that Tamerlane appointed his grand son Pir Mohammad as his sole heir, Shah Rukh the fourth and youngest son of Tamerlane was able to bring the greater part of Tamerlane's vast empire under his control, after dealing with some political feuds.

He made Herat his capital and appointed his eldest son, Ulug Beg, the governor of Samarkand. Prince Baisunghar, his second son, a talented poet and a calligrapher, became one of the best bibliophiles and patrons of art in Herat.

Shah Rukh was a man of high literary taste. His first concern, at the beginning of his rule at the age of 28, was to rehabilitate the devastated land and restore peace, and he was greatly assisted by his Queen Gawhar Shad; she was formerly a Chagatay princess, who was true to her Mongol heritage in accepting the equality of women throughout most of Tamerlane's Empire.

Under the patronage of this peace-loving and constructive monarch, all forms of art and beauty were developed during his reign. The Renaissance of Persian literature and arts, together with the creation of a local Turk Chagatay literature, mainly inspired by Persian models, started to bloom specially around Herat, making the city the great cultural centre of the world at that time.

In the field of architecture, also, there were many innovations, such as glazed tiles which played the main part in exterior decoration, and the egg-shaped dome a good example of which is the Mausoleum of Gawhar Shad in Herat.

The glazed tile had been in the Persian tradition for several centuries but the highest refinement of it was attained during the Timurid Period. The dominant colour was turquoise blue, but for details many colours were used. The decorations are cut in many fragments of tiles with extreme care, so that many intricate designs and Kufic writing are mingled in the most delicate mosaic.

Queen Gawhar Shad, started to build at Herat a great complex of a musalla, a place of worship and madrasa and a place of learning, and it was constructed between 1417 and 1437. These buildings were comparable in scale and grandeur with Tamerlane's finest in Samarkand. The madrasa with its enormous courtyard, surrounded by eight minarets and several domes were all sumptuously decorated with mosaic faience. Only two minarets crowned with stalactites are left of this splendid achievement.

Four other minarets found in Herat are from the madrasa complex built by Hussain-i-Baigra, the last Timurid monarch.

Gawhar Shad's greatest monument and the best Persian architecture of the 15th century is to be found in the mosque, or the shrine of Imam Reza in Meshad. The exuberant colours, a dominant cobalt blue and turquoise in the finest quality of tile, are supported by an ensemble of solid tower-like minarets.

Gawhar Shad's mausoleum, built for her when she was murdered in 1457 stands in the Park-i-Bihzad in Herat. The egg-shaped, ribbed dome is very similar to the Gur Emir Mausoleum in Samarkand, in which Tamerlane was later buried.

The dome is decorated in Persian-blue, while flutes are patterned with royal blue and rust-red yellow or white tiles. The frieze is covered with calligraphic script in white against a royal blue background.

Shah Rukh's main architectural contribution was made in 1428.

When he restored Gazargah, the holy shrine built around the tomb of the famous 11th century Sufi poet and philosopher Khwaja Abdulah-i-Ansari (1006-1088 A.D.), a few kilometres to the northeast of Herat.

Timurid taste is all vividly represented in a profusion of colours and details with the main tone of royal-blue and Persian blue. The tall arched iwans, so popular in Timurid times with their towering effect built in nearly 30 meter walls topped with five arches and two cupolas at Gazargah represent the most varied example of Timurid decoration in Herat. Intricate designs in geometrical and floral mosaics adorn the fine script repeating praises to God.

The artistic and literary taste of Shah Rukh were well shared by his two sons Ulug Beg and particularly Prince Baisunghar. The latter, founded in the 1420's a library and an academy where outstanding masters of calligraphy, miniature painting and book-binding were gathered together.

It was in this court, that Persian miniature painting reached its peak of refinement and perfection by successfully integrating the Highbur-Seljuq-Chinese styles and by achieving artistry in execution; the so-called Baisunghar style became the artistic yardstick by which all later Islamic painting was evaluated.

This style became the definite model for all the important schools in the 16th century, a weakness for wine shortened Baisunghar's life; he died while still young.

Shah Rukh died in 1447, leaving only one son, Ulug Beg. He had been the governor of Samarkand, where with his unusual interest in astronomy, he built an observatory with a wall of 40 metres in diameter. He even made an astronomical table, which remained for a long time the most accurate of its kind.

Ulug Beg took over the throne from Shah Rukh, but this reign lasted only for three years. He was murdered by his son Abdul Latif, who only remained Emperor for six months in 1450. He was also assassinated by Ulug Beg's loyal servants. Queen Gawhar Shad was also murdered during this period.

After a long period of anarchy, Sultan Hussain Baigra, one of the greatest personalities among the Timurid sovereigns, and the last one, succeeded in restoring peace and order in 1468. His reign lasted for 38 years, and he was assisted by a talented prime minister, Amir Sher Ali Nawai, who was also famous for his prose writings unfolded the brightest chapter of the Renaissance of art and literature of the Timurid Period, establishing the art forms and sources of inspiration for the Mughol Dynasty in India and the Safavid Dynasty in Persia.

language properly. This, moreover, is Dr. Becka's third visit to Afghanistan. He came here for the first time six years ago at the invitation of the Afghan government to study Pashto. Two years ago he was a member of the International Manuscripts Seminar which was held in Kabul. His current visit will last two months and he will be working closely with the members of the College of Letters on his new study which will compare Farsi and Pashto literature in the modern era.

Dr. Becka is no stranger to Persian literary studies. He has already written in Farsi a book (Continued on page 4)

Soviets do research on Kushanid era

By J. Massimov

A new season has opened for archaeologists of the Archaeology Sector of the Sh. Batory Institute of History, who are working in cooperation with the Leningrad Affiliation of the Institute of Archaeology of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

The scientists set about investigating the already known monuments to learn more about antiquity, as well as probing new archaeological sites. Accordingly, a few parties have been organised under the leadership of the Archaeology Sector to study the monuments dating from Neolithic times to the later Middle Ages.

The 1968 research proved a success for the Archaeology Sector's scientists and their Leningrad colleagues. Round the third run of the Kara-Kum canal the investigators collected abundant materials revealing valuable evidence on the antiquity of the people that had inhabited the territory of present-day Turkmenia.

Thus, three parties of archaeologists excavated at Gek-Tepe. The party under the leadership of O. Berdayev, studied Neolithic monuments at the settlements Chopandep, Togolok-depe and newly discovered Pessezhik-depe, or low "depe". The latter is thought by archaeologists to date from the Jaitun period.

At all the sites the ancient layout of dwellings and household buildings was revealed and a wealth of ceramic ware and labour tools discovered. When the term of archaeological research had ended, it was found that the party had collected enormous scientific materials supplementing the evidence at hand and discovered new facts of high archaeological importance.

and the early middle ages, had brought equally important findings. The excavation of the medieval township Chugundur some 25 km north-west of Artyk was especially rich in discoveries. The township, overwhelming in size, comprises the town proper—Shakhristan—a citadel and a cemetery including a mausoleum bearing the same name. The surface of the township is littered with remains of ceramic ware and burnt brick. This has furnished some ground to conclude that the township was one of the major centres in the Middle Ages. Indeed, when one looks at the numerous mounds all over the townships one can imagine the market places alive with urban activity, tireless craftsmen praising their craft, dealers in spices, ornaments and clothes and skilful jewellers.



Growing interest in modern Afghan literature

Most people who are acquainted with Afghan literature usually are familiar with the great poets of the past. Most anthologies of literature of this area mention the great names of Dari poetry and often leave people with impression that nothing is happening in the current literary scene.

This impression will soon be rectified by Dr. Jiri Becka, professor of languages in the Oriental Institute of Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences who has come to Kabul to do a study of contemporary Afghan literature from the 19th century to the present.

Dr. Becka prefers the modern writers and those poets and authors who try to develop their own style and write poetry of their generation rather than try to imitate the greats of the past. He wants to see a collection of modern poets and prose writers of Afghanistan so that these writers can be more widely read at home and also be conveniently introduced abroad.

He mentions the poet Abdul Halim Shaiq and the short story writer Asadullah Habib as two literary figures who he especially

likes. Dr. Becka also plans to write a special article about the poet Khalilullah Khalili who has been a prominent figure on the Afghan literary scene for a long time.

Dr. Becka has long been interested in literature of this part of the world. He is fluent in Farsi and teaches the language to a seminary in the Oriental Institute at Prague. He is also fluent in Pashto and has just written a book on the stress pattern of the language.

He says that unless a person masters this stress pattern he will never be able to learn the

By Our Own Reporter



Dr. Jiri Becka

art & culture

Middle East

(Continued from page 2)
 mando action from Lebanon against Israel. A five-day state of emergency was declared.
 On April 25 Premier Rashid Karami formally resigned saying no government could take sides on the commando question without splitting the country. He was asked to remain in office until a new government was formed.
 With the immediate problem of the Lebanese-commando confrontation temporarily shelved, Lebanese leaders will now go back to tackling the thorny question of forming a new government.
 Observers expect this to be a difficult task as any new government must have solid backing to deal with the commando issue when it arises again. Karami is still favoured to form the new government.

Airlines

MONDAY

DEPARTURES:	FLIGHT	TIME
Kabul-Kandahar-Lahore-Amritsar	FG304	0700
Kabul-Kunduz-Mazar-Herat	FG-240	0800
ARRIVALS:		
London-Frankfurt-Istanbul-Tehran-Kandahar-Kabul	FG 702	0945
Herat-Mazar-Kunduz-Kabul	FG241	1645
Amritsar-Kabul	FG-305	1730
Iran Airlines:		
DEPARTURE:		
Kabul-Tehran	IR-733	1000
Arrival:		
Tehran-Kabul	IR-732	0900

Pharmacies

OPEN TONIGHT
 Farhad-Jade Maiwand
 Jawad-Kute Sangi
 Tareque Moh-Jan Khan watt
 Asri Habib-Jade Maiwan
 Roshan-Jade Malwand
 Ahmad Shah Baba-Jade Temour Shahi
 Nasim sec-Pule Kheshti
 Ansari-Share Nau
 Naseri-Share Nau
 Watan-Jade Nader Pashtoon
 Bu Ali-Darwaze Lahori
 Kesmat-Bibi Mahru
 Zaman-Labe Darla Khujan
 Karte Char and Pashtoonistan
 Medical Depot Tel: 41252-20523.

Important

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 Traffic Department —41700
 Airport —21283-20872
 Fire Department 18
 Telephone repair 29

Weather

Skies in the northern, north-eastern, northwestern, and central regions will be cloudy. The other parts of the country are clear. Yesterday the warmest area was Kandahar with a high of 34 C, 93 F. The coldest area was Shahrak with a low of 5 C, 41 F. Yesterday Mazare Sharif had 16 mm rain, Herat had 12 mm rain, Baghlan had 22 mm rain, Fariab had 22 mm rain, and Bamian had 4 mm rain. Today's temperature in Kabul at 11 a.m. was 17 C, 63 F. Wind speed was recorded in Kabul at 6 knots.

Yesterday's temperatures:

Kabul	17 C	11 C
	63 F	52 F
Mazare Sharif	22 C	16 C
	72 F	61 F
Herat	23 C	15 C
	73 F	59 F
Ghazni	19 C	9 C
	66 F	48 F
Jalalabad	28 C	11 C
	82 F	52 F
Baghlan	20 C	14 C
	68 F	51 F
Laghman	27 C	16 C
	79 F	61 F
Farah	31 C	20 C
	88 F	68 F
Fariab	15 C	13 C
	59 F	55 F
Bamian	15 C	10 C
	59 F	50 F



ARIANA CINEMA:
 At 2, 5, 7, and 9 p.m. Italian American colour cinemascop film dubbed in Farsi 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea with Kirk Douglas and James Mason.

PARK CINEMA:
 At 2, 5, 8 and 10 p.m. Italian and French colour cinemascop film dubbed in Farsi LA VENDEDITA DI SPARTACUS with Rogers Browne and Scille Gable.

Soviet plane designer talks about year-2000 aircraft

MOSCOW, May 18, (Tass).—Planes that will be created by the end of this century will have the speed of 7-10 thousand kilometres an hour. They will take not more

Soviet scientists want chemical weapons outlawed

MOSCOW, May 18, (Tass).—Distinguished Soviet scientists declared that chemical and biological weapons "must be outlawed everywhere". They called upon all upright scientists of the world to expose work on the development and stockpiling of such weapons, to press for a United Nations decision banning the manufacture and stockpiling of such weapons. All countries should accept this decision.

"Patents and processes for the manufacture of toxic chemicals, developed by Nazi Germany, are being reproduced and multiplied now in the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany and other countries. We are seriously worried over the threat to mankind," says an open letter of Soviet scientists to all scientists of the world.

Signed by the President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR Mstislav Keldysh, Academician Mikhail Millionshchikov, nobel prize Laureate Nikolai Semyonov, Minister of Public Health Boris Petrovsky and others, the letter was read out at a press conference in Moscow.

Mikhail Dubinin expressed confidence that the call of the Soviet scientists to all scientists in the letter will become a banner in the struggle for the prohibition of the use of chemical and biological weapons. "The letter of the scientists, worried over preparations for chemical and biological warfare, reflects the anxiety of Soviet public," he said.

Apollo-10 mission

(Continued from page 2)
 and rocket, and then turn their Command-Service Module combination in a half-circle until the pointed end of the Command Module faces the SIA. Panels covering the SIA open and are jettisoned automatically, and through this opening the Command Module's pointed end can "dock" (connect) with the Lunar Module and pull it out of the SIA.

For three days, as they coast for more than 200,000 miles (300,000 kilometres) toward the moon, the astronauts may have to make slight midcourse corrections of their trajectory by use of the jets of their craft's Reaction Control System (RCS) or, for any major path change, with the SPS. By firing the SPS again as they arrive in the vicinity of the moon, the astronauts will reduce the velocity of their craft so as to insert it into an egg-shaped orbit with a high point of 195 miles (312 kilometres) and a low point of 70 miles (112 kilometres).

Later, they will adjust it to a circular orbit with an altitude of 70 miles (112 kilometres) above the moon.

Stafford and Cernan will crawl through a tunnel from the Command Module into the Lunar Module and separate the Lunar Module from the main craft. For the first time in history, two manned space vehicles will now be in moon orbit simultaneously.

Stafford and Cernan will activate the Lunar Module's descent engine—the engine which will on future flights land the craft on the moon—so as alter their path to a highly elliptical orbit. Its high point will be 70 miles (112 kilometres) above the moon, and its lowest point will be only 50,000 feet (15,000 metres) above the moon's surface.

Subsequently, they will alter their orbital path several times, and finally they will activate the Lunar Module's "ascent engine" which is designed to lift the craft on future flights from the moon's surface for reunion with the mothercraft.

After six hours of independent operation, Stafford and Cernan will return the craft to a circular 70-mile (112-kilometre) orbit to rejoin the main craft which will have been operated by Young alone during their absence.

Once all three astronauts are together again in the Command Module, they will disconnect the Lunar Module, leaving it floating behind in lunar orbit, and they will fire their SPS to insert themselves on a path for the two-and-a-half-day flight to earth.

Splashdown is to come in the Pacific Ocean about 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometres) southwest of Hawaii, a location that will become the regular landing place for all American moon flights. With about three days to be spent travelling from earth to moon and two and one-half days for the return, plus about two and one-half days in moon orbit, the flight is expected to require about eight days.

than two hours to reach any point on the globe, Soviet designer Alexei Tupolev believes.

Tupolev said that such speed will be necessary because in modern inter-continental liners fatigability of passengers is higher than normal.

Tupolev is chief designer of the Soviet supersonic passenger plane "TU-144" that made the first flight on the last day of 1968. He said that the plane is being tested successfully.

The aircraft designed delivered a lecture on the prospects of civil aviation at Moscow's polytechnical museum.

Tupolev said that supersonic planes of the year 2000 will be much larger than the present planes since carriages by air will greatly increase by that time. Planes will be built that will carry up to one thousand passengers. It will contain convenient armchairs separated from one another. T. V. sets for every passenger, service will be quick and robots will perhaps be used instead of air hostesses. He believes it will take not more than two minutes for passengers to get into the saloon.

Tupolev said that the plane "TU-144" is a prototype of the passenger planes of the future.

Tupolev said that the flight to Delhi will take the 120-seater "TU-144" two hours and the flight to Paris or London 80 minutes.

The aircraft designer said that on short air routes it is better to use subsonic planes. He believes that planes with vertical takeoff and landing should be used on such routes.

Tupolev believes that cargo planes will for a long time have the speed of under one thousand kilometres an hour.

World news in brief

WARSAW, May 18, (Reuters).—Wladyslaw Gomulka, the Polish communist leader, last night criticised President Nixon's eight-point Vietnam peace proposals for certain omissions and unacceptable terms but said they constituted a basis for negotiations.

Gomulka was answering a question from the audience at a parliamentary election meeting in a Warsaw suburb.

TARPON SPRINGS, Florida, May 18, (Reuters).—U.S. coast guard helicopters and private boats yesterday rescued more than 100 men, women and children when a chartered pleasure craft exploded and sank in flames five kilometres off Tarpon Springs.

The boat, the Miss Go Go, was crowded with a holidaymaking party of boy scouts and members of the Mormon church.

BAGHDAD, May 18, (AFP).—Seven people, two of them soldiers and five civilians, have been sentenced to death in their absence by a revolutionary court here. It was learned last night.

The seven, found guilty of offences involving conspiracy and corruption, have six months in which to surrender if they wish to appeal against the sentences.

BUDAPEST, May 18, (Tass).—The President of the Hungarian People's Republic has ratified the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

LONDON, May 18, (Reuters).—Britain's third heart transplant patient was fully conscious and comfortable, a bulletin said last night, 24 hours after the operation in a London hospital.

BELFAST, Northern Ireland, May 18, (Reuters).—Fighting flared up for the second successive night on the borders of Belfast's Catholic and Protestant areas, raising fears of fresh religion-inspired violence in northern Ireland.

Police reinforcements on stand-by since breaking up a fight last night in Crumlin road—flashpoint of past religious feuding—rushed to the area as petrol bombs were thrown in the new clash.

JAIPIUR, India, May 18, (Reuters).—About 2,640 people died of disease in four famine-stricken districts of the desert state of Rajasthan between last October and May 15, the state's health minister said yesterday.

SHANGHAI, May 18, (Hsinhua).—The military delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic, led by Major General Moustapha Tlass, chief of the general staff of the army and armed forces and first deputy minister of defence of the Syrian Arab Republic, arrived here by special plane from Peking yesterday. The delegation is accompanied by Hsiao Ching-Kuang, Chinese vice-minister of national defence.

HAMBURG, May 18, (Tass).—The President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Nikolai Podgorny and the personages accompanying him arrived Saturday morning in Hamburg, the administrative centre of South Hamgen province.

ANKARA, May 18, (DPA).—Five Soviet warships sailed through the sea of Marmara Friday headed for

Afghan week in review:

His Majesty congratulates the teachers

Teachers' Day was marked throughout Afghanistan with special ceremonies. His Majesty the King received the representatives of the teachers in audience at Gulkhana Palace and talked with them about their noble profession and the role of teachers in the development of society.

His Majesty, addressing the representatives of teachers, said "Now that our country has entered a new stage of national life, all the people of Afghanistan, especially you, are put to an historical test".

Referring to the role of teachers in a society His Majesty said "The success of a society depends on the spirit of its people and the understanding of its national goals. We hope that you will be successful in this immense national task by educating the present and future generations on the basis of national culture and requirements of the time to create patriotism and inculcate selfless service".

On the occasion of Teachers' Day a message was also issued by His Majesty the King addressing the professors and teachers. Congratulating the teachers on this "auspicious day" His Majesty has said that "The nation's prosperity and progress cannot be assured except through an effective system of education".

"Now that the new constitution as a national document lays down the main guidelines for a new system aimed at achieving a prosperous and comfortable life for the people of Afghanistan, and has prepared the ground for the enjoyment of the individual liberties and political rights of others and public interests it is necessary to make use

of its lofty ideas with complete foresight and wisdom for the welfare of the country", said His Majesty.

The Education Minister also made a speech on the occasion. After congratulating the teachers on their day he said that the very observance of the day showed admiration and respect for them by the people of this country.

Afghanistan will export more natural gas to the Soviet Union during this year. A news release last week said that in 1969 Afghanistan will export 2,000 million cubic metres of natural gas to the Soviet Union. Last year the USSR received 1,500 million cubic metres of gas.

Since Afghanistan is a landlocked country she has been trying hard

to smooth the flow of her transit goods by all means possible. Afghanistan has already signed agreements with some neighbouring countries aimed at speeding up the shipments of goods to and from Afghanistan.

Last week a Turkish delegate arrived here to discuss with Afghan authorities about the arrangement and conclusion of a transit agreement between the two countries.

The approval of a \$ 5,000,000 loan from the International Development Bank for the maintenance and preservation of the highways in Afghanistan was also announced last week. According to the announcement an Afghan delegation has left for Washington to negotiate the terms of the loan.

Blaiberg in hospital to rest from exhaustion

CAPE TOWN, May 18, (Reuters).—Dr. Phillip Blaiberg, the world's longest surviving heart transplant patient, was back in a hospital bed yesterday apparently because he does not know how to take things easy.

The former dentist, whose 61th birthday falls a week today, was taken to Groote Schuur hospital Friday by ambulance from his Cape Town flat where he was ordered to rest suffering from exhaustion earlier this week.

His wife Eileen, who called doctors in on Tuesday, said he had been put to bed in the flat "because he has been running round like a machine".

Last Sunday alone he went fishing, visited a ship and had 30 people in to watch an American film about his operation.

"When I told the doctors what he had done, they nearly collapsed", she exclaimed.

But apparently not trusting him to rest on his own, Groote Schuur

doctors decided to readmit him for what a brief hospital bulletin described as "observation and investigation following his recent setback".

For the journey to the hospital, where he became the world's third transplant patient 16 months ago, Dr. Blaiberg wore a sterile mask and was accompanied by a masked nurse and two attendants.

Mrs. Blaiberg, who visited him in the evening with their daughter, Jill, told reporters later that he was fine and there was nothing to worry about. He was chirpy and "sitting up in bed talking to the nurses", she added.

Jill said he had taken a whiff of oxygen before going to hospital, but had not needed it on the journey. Mrs. Blaiberg expected her husband to be out of hospital by Monday after X-rays had been taken.

ITU Day

(Continued from page 2)
 led. The call routing signals will not be transmitted to the line until most of the digits have been dialled. When the call is connected, a signal will come back to the caller to show that the number is ringing. If it is not, the call will be disconnected immediately and the dialler must start again.

In addition, an intercontinental signalling system has been standardised and is already in operation. The assessment of service quality, maintenance procedures, transmission standards and many other aspects of telephone operation have received and continue to receive extensive study.

One of the positive aspects of the ITU World Plan for telecommunications is that it gives reason to hope that future national and international telecommunication plans will be a harmonious combination of the different transmission systems, including the satellite links system. Each of these will be chosen to the extent that its technical and economic characteristics best meet the needs of a modern network conceived on a world-wide scale for fully automatic operation, the rapid transmission of data, television transmissions and other applications of telecommunications that cannot be foreseen.

(ITU SERVICES)

Iraq warns oil firms not to increase yield

BAGHDAD, May 18, (Reuters).—Dr. Rashid al-Rifa'i, Iraq's minister of oil and minerals, has warned foreign oil companies that they would bear the consequences of increasing oil production of other states at the expense of Arab oil.

In a statement published by the official Iraq news agency, he said: "We shall not permit an increase in the production of any country at the expense of Arab oil produced in the region in general and of Iraqi oil in particular".

Iran had asked Western oil companies operating on its territory to increase production so that its oil revenue would not be less than \$1,000 million annually.

The Kuwaiti premier last week warned oil companies in Kuwait of increasing their production elsewhere at the expense of their production in Kuwait. He said that this would lead to a reconsideration of the companies' oil concession agreements.

Venus-6

(Continued from page 1)
 rature of the Venusian atmosphere. For the first time in the world, studies of the atmosphere of Venus were carried out practically simultaneously in two of its areas.

Meanwhile, astronomer Sir Bernard Lowell said yesterday Russia's twin Venus probes had harvested valuable data about the mysterious planet.

Sir Bernard, director of Jodrell Bank space-tracking station said Moscow's scientists had apparently completed the experiment successfully.

Jodrell Bank received strong signals from the instrument packed capsule of Venus 6, for 53 minutes Saturday as it descended by parachute towards the planet, they lost contact at 0658 GMT.

Her sister space probe Venus 5 transmitted for 55 minutes yesterday.

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