US official in Islamabad

Husseini to steer Palestinian team

Israel has said it will not

meet with Palestinians from

the city, which it regards as its

Jordan has accepted PLO

proposals which allow the or-

ganisation substantial back

seat role at the Madrid peace

conference without giving

israel an easy excuse to back

out, Palestinian sources and of-

up a joint command, led by

King Hussein and PLO

Chairman Yasser Arafat, and a

second-level supervisory body

of Jordanian cabinet ministers

and PLO executive committee

The two sides will an-

nounce agreement on a joint

team including Palestinians

acceptable to Israel but ulti-

mately directed by the

Palestine Liberation

Boris Pankin said today

Moscow would push to solve

the problem of Jewish settle-

ments in Arab occupied terri-

tories during the Middle East

porters at Amman airport be-

fore leaving for Cairo as part of

a tour to wind up preparations

for the conference, co-spon-

sored by Washington and

Moscow, welcomed Israel's

decision on Sunday to join the

was one of the issues we dis-

cussed in Jordan and the

"This point (settlements)

Pankin, speaking to re-

Soviet Foreign Minister

Organisation, they added.

peace conference.

conference.

members, they said,

Jordan and the PLO will set

ficials said in Amman today.

indivisible capital.

AMMAN, Oct 21 Palestinians from Jerusalem will be on an advisory committee directing the delegates enter the conference room at Madrid, Palestinian

A Palestinian delegate to the talks, Ghassan Al-Khatib, told Reuters that to circumvent Israeli objections the agreement includes a steering committee of Palestinians who do not meet Israel's conditions to be in the delegation itself.

There will be invitations to a number of Palestinians not as members of the delegation but as an advisory team or steering committee that will consist of Palestinians from Jerusalem and the diaspora," he said.

Palestinian sources in Jerusalem said on Sunday that activist Faisal Al-Husseni would direct the delegation and Hanan Ashrawi would be its spokeswoman.

The two negotiators, who have met Secretary of State James Baker on at last 10 occasions over the past eight months, are from Jerusalem and openly speak for he PLO.

"It's like watching shadow puppets, now you see the PLO. now you don't," said one US assurances to the PLO

on the Madrid talks were still insufficient, PLO Chairman Yaser Arafat said in Cairo. Asked about the thorny

problem of representation for Palestinians from East Jerusalem, he said, "Wait until the conference to see how we

Diarrhoea claims

69 more

flood-hit districts deteriorated

further with 69 deaths

3,699 people were also at-

tacked with the disease during

the period and total o

toll from diarrhoea rose to

1,869 since it erupted with

flood onslaughts early last

While the situation improv-

ing in the northern belt, the

disease is spreading in

Jamalpur, Tangail, Netrakona

and Kishoreganj districts, they

had the highest number of 12

followed by Kishoregani 10.

Bogra 8 and Jamalpur, Tangail

died of diarrhoea in 16 north-

ern districts of the country

the deaths are: Panchagar 59.

Thakurgaon 78. Dinajpur 63.

Nilphamari 214; Lalmonirhat

37. Kurigram 73. Gaibandha

72. Rangpur 59, Joypurhat 58,

Bogra 86, Naogaon 93,

Chapainawabganj 6, Rajshahi

36. Natore 32, Sirajganj 28

teams working in the affected

areas has been increased to

2,396 to cope with the situa-

The number of medical

Authorities have ordered

more makeshift medical

camps to be set up in addition

to 384 already in operation in

Appleal rejected

From Page 1 Col. 8

who appeared on behalf of the

appellant M. Saleem Ullah.

Advocate submitted that in

view of the 12th Amendment

to the Constitution there re-

mains no cause for prosecuting

the appeal for invoking the

repealed by the 12th

petition leave to appeal before

the Appellate Division against

the judgement of the Division

Bench of the High Court

Division which had summarily

rejected it but issued a certifi-

cate to file an appeal to the

Appellate Division of the

India

From Page 1 Col. 4

6.5 to seven occurred once a

decade and one with a force of

7,5 to eight took place once a

century along the northeastern

the Himalayas, the foothills of

which are in India, and which

"perched on a layer of rocks in

motion" are the springboard

for all major Asian quakes, the

earthquake in the area, in

August of 1988, an estimated

900 people died in the Indian

state of Bihar and neighbouring

Nepal. Tens of thousand more

were left homeless.

In the last major

.The "thrust fault" lay along

M. Saleem Ullah, had field a

A total of 1,122 people have

District-wise break-up of

and Habigani 5 each.

since September 1.

and Pabna 128.

the affected areas.

Amendment.

Supreme Court.

faultline.

reports said.

Of the 69 deaths, Netrakona

month.

1,24,635 since September 1.

Monday, reports UNB.

Diarrhoeal situation in 29

Officials said on Monday

With the fresh deaths, the

Kazi Zafar From Page 1 Col. 8

Division against the judgment of the Vacation Division Bench of the High Court Division given on September 16 which had rejected his applications for ad-interim bail.

One case had been filed against Kazi Zafar Ahmed for abuse of power as a minister regarding import of sugar by the TCB at a higher rate than the international tender rate causing financial loss to the government.

Another case concerned violation of the detention order under Section 7(B) of the Special Powers Act.

The trial began on May 13 in absentia as Kazi Zafar remained a fugitive from law and justice since December 26, 1990. The Court earlier framed the charge against him under Section 7(B) of the Special Powers Act, 1974.

Kazi Zafar was arrested on May 16 from near the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban and was sent to Dhaka Central Jail

Abdul Malek, senior advocate and Shamsul Huq Siddiqui, Advocate-on-record appeared for the petitioner.

Alhaj M Shamsul Alam, Deputy Attorney General and Sharifuddin Chakladar, Advocate-on-record appeared for the state.

Five-party

From Page 1 Col. 7 turned into a political

problem and, hence, needs political move for a solution Inu said.

Apart from the alliance move, the JSD leader said, his party was raising volunteer squads with students to guard against campus violence, crippling academic life.

He said his party and the alliance would also initiate agitations soon on the basis of a sixpoint programme. relevant articles that had been

The programme includes removal of the process of usurping power, freeing the administration from bureaucracy and economy from looters and elimination of communalism.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: The Five-Party Alliance said the Prime Minister's statement on the situation in northern districts was "unfortunate and devoid of

It reiterated that faminethose districts and urged the government to realise the reality and face it unitedly.

The alliance said that the people expected that the Prime Minister would visit the areas and make herself abrest of the situation and take appropriate measures to cope with. But without doing this, she like the previous rulers ignored the problems by saying that it was a mere propaganda by some newspapers, the alliance said.

The Five-Party observed that the Awami League government in 1974 had also ignored the reality.

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at Madrid conference Soviet Union, being one of the main sponsors, will do all it can to help solve this issue,

Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians, as well as the United States and the Soviet Union, say Jewish settlements on territories occupied on the 1967 war are an obstacle to peace.

The Arabs want Israel to stop building new settlements as soon as the Madrid talks

Israel, which is trying to absorb tens of thousands of Soviet and other Jewish immigrants, refuses to do so.

The three-phase peace talks will be held on the basis of UN resolutions 242 and 338, which call for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories in exchange for peace with its Arab neighbours.

Israel today set free 14 Lebanese Muslim prisoners held by its proxy militia in South Lebanon, in a step which could lead to the release of more Western hostages in Lebanon, military sources in Tel Aviv said.

The measure follows reports that Israel on Saturday received conclusive information on the death of one of its soldiers missing in Lebanon since February 1986.

Sunday UN officials in Lebanon said an American hostage held by a pro-Iranian Shifte movement would be released within 24 hours if Israel freed some of its Lebanese de-

Israeli jets bomb south Lebanon

SIDON (Lebanon), Oct 21: Israeli fighter jets today, bombed a deserted base of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah movement in southern Lebanon, regional security sources said, reports AFP.

The 0830 GMT attack targeted a base near the Nabatych district where three Israeli soldiers were killed and two injured in a blast Sunday for which Hezbollah's military wing claimed responsibility. A spokesman for the Israeli

army in Jerusalem confirmed the attack and said the Israeli aircraft returned safely to base after "destroying objectives in Hezbollah bases near Jibsheet.

Before the air raid Israel's Proxy militia in Lebanon pounded with shells for 30 minutes three villages near israel's self declared security zone in south Lebanon in reprisal for the Sunday bomb attack.

Israeli officials Sunday held Syria responsible for the attack against its soldiers and said the matter would be raised at the Middle East peace conference due to begin October 30 in Madrid.

Israel will raise Syrian responsibility in operations by terrorist organizations carried out from the Bekaa valley, which is under Syrian control, Israeli cabinet director Yossi Ben Aharon said on state radio Sunday.

Syria currently maintains around 35,000 troops in Lebanon, mostly in Beirut and in the eastern part of the country.

10th Amendment From Page 1 Col. 8

provides for 30 seats to be reserved exclusively for women members who shall be elected by the 300 Members of Parliament to be elected from single territorial constituencies by direct election under Article 65(2) of the

Constitution The Rule was issued on 13.12.90 by a Division Bench of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court comprising Justice Fazle Hussain Mohammad Habibur Rahman and Justice Abdul Hasib on the state and others.

The petitioner alleged inter alia that the Amendment violated the basic structure of the Constitution and cut and destroyed the very root of democracy and a democratic system of election, and that the members elected in the general election to Parliament like situation was prevailing in having not been empowered by the electors to elect the women members in the reserved seats, the amendment is ultra vires and invalid being contrary to Article 122(1) of the Constitution, which provides that "The election..... to Parliament shall be on the basis of adult franchise."

19 die in Gujrat road accident

NEW DELHI, Oct 21: At least 19 persons were killed and nine others injured today when a luxury bus collided with a petrol tank truck in the western Indian state of Gujrat, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported. PTI quoted police as saying the accident occurred near Haripur village in Rajkot district, no further details were immediately available. reports AFP.



Zeenat Barkatullah and Sarwar Ahmed on stage at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium Monday on the occasion of the 10th founding day of the Academy Officers - Star photo Association.

Fighting drags on in Y' slavia despite truce

ZAGREB, Oct 21: Overnight fighting around Dubrovník, the Adriatic jewel of secessionist Croatia, killed six people and fighting was also reported around the east Croatian stronghold of Vukovar, media said Monday, reports AP.

Zagreb radio and TV said fighting was only sporadic around Dubrovník Monday, but that six civilians were killed in the area overnight. An army statement carried by the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said one soldier, was killed in a Croatian mortar attack in the

Hostage Turner freed

BEIRUT, Oct 21: Lebanese kidnappers freed US hostage Jesse Turner in Lebanon today, ending nearly five years in captivity. He was heading for Damascus, security sources said, reports Reuter.

The army meanwhile was reported to have withdrawn 1,100 of the 3,000 soldiers it has remaining in Slovenia, Croatia's neighbouring repub-

Under an agreemen reached last week, all federal troops are to leave Slovenia by Friday with equipment will remain in three depots, guarded by Slovene security forces and maintained by 120 civilians. Like Croatia, Slovenia de-

clared independence on June 25. Despite initial skirmishes with the army, Slovenia, which is ethnically homogenous, has progressed peacefully toward independence, Reuter adds: Croatian radio

described clashes on Sunday near Dubrovník, as a cataclysm The world famous resorts of

Zupa, Kupari, Plat and Mlini are unrecognisable. Not a single hotel is still whole.

Feasibility of flood management pilot project undertaken

By Staff Correspondent

TANGAIL, Oct 21: Feasibility study of a pilot project under the Compartmentalisation Flood Action Plan at Tangail started Monday.

Dutch experts along with officials of the Water Development Board (WDB) would conduct the feasibility study in nine months. Both visited the project site Monday.

The pilot project covers 13,700 hectres of land between Dhaleshwari and Pungli rivers near Tangail town.

The purpose of the pilot project is to see if the flood control system could be improved through controlled drainage and embankments because it has been found that unplanned construction of dams for flood control caused water stagnation.

If successful, this would ensure intensive agriculture, fisheries and integrated rural and urban development. Sluice gates and drains would be used in the project.

Minister for Agriculture Irrigation, Flood Control and Water Development M. Majidul-Haq, State Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation Lutfar Rahman Khan accompanied the Dutch delegation, now on a visit to Bangladesh.

A group of journalists were invited to visit the project site and were transported to Tangail.

Neither the District Administration nor the WDB officials brief the journalists about the project. The reporters were not taken to the project site. only 3 kms away from Tangail town.



Water Development Board officials taking Dutch experts around the project site in Tangail.

Babri Masjid body demands UP govt's dismissal

NEW DELHI, Oct 21: The Babri Masjid Movement Coordination Committee (BMMCC) today demanded dismissal of the Uttar Pradesh government for its failure to prevent the VHP from starting excavation near the disputed shilanyas site, reports PTL

This was nothing short of abdication of constitutional and legal responsibility by the state government, which should have stopped the commission of a patently 'illegal act', the BMMCC convenor, Syed Shahabuddin, said here and demanded intervention of the central government. Condemning the VHP and

the UP government for this 'illegal act' Shahabuddin said, 'this is more than connivance or abetment, collusion or conspiracy' No less a person than LK Advant has confirmed that the

real purpose of the acquisition of the disputed land is to pave the way for the construction by VHP, he said. Another report said: The cabinet committee on political affairs today discussed the sit-

uation arising out of the UP

government's decision to ac-

quire land near the disputed shrine at Ayodhya. This was the first assessment of the situation in Ayodhya by the highest political body of the government after the Prime Minister's re-

turn from Harare.

Before leaving for Harare, the Prime Minister had stated that the government was planning to convene a meeting of the National Integration Council to consider the vexed

Quake From Page 1 Col. 4

ning out over the hills bringing in victims.

A separate helicopter had left the capital carrying geologists and seismologists to the devastated districts to assess the possibility of severe aftershocks or new tremors, officials said.

Dwivedi said that, luckily, the flying weather was good and reconfirmed that Indo-Tibetan Border Forces as well as their medical personnel were flying and trekking down from the nearby border with Tibet to assist with relief operations.

So far, he said, the injured were being treated at improvised district disaster centres because of the impassibility of the roads, while food and medical supplies were being flown in.

Border Security Force troops were working with the Indo-Tibetan Border Force on road clearing and bridge repair, the officials said.

The quake shook vast areas of northern India, including the nine million residents o the capital, New Delhi, panicking millions, but damage in most areas away from the epicenter was minor, officials and residents said.

PM shocked

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Monday expressed deep shock and grief at the disastrous earthquake in northern India yesterday resulting in death and devastation on a large scale, reports

In a message to the Indian Prime Minister, PV Narasimha Rao, Begum Khaleda Zia extended heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the members of the bereaved families.

The message said: "It is with a deep sense of shock and grief that we have learnt about the disastrous earthquake which shook parts of northern India yesterday resulting in death and devastation on a large scale. On behave of the govern-

ment and the people of Bangladesh and on my own behalf I extend to you, excellency, and through you to the members of the bereaved families, our heartselt condolences and sympathies. Please accept, excellency

the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mizan demands adequate steps to protect Chandpur town

From Our Correspondent CHANDPUR, Oct 21: Acting Chairman of Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury today demanded of the government proper steps to save the Chandpur town from erosion of Meghna river. Addressing cross section of

people while visiting some af fected areas of the town, he al leged that government plan was too inadequate to the need to save the town. Moreover, most of the construction and reconstruction works are being done through the contractors belonging to the ruling party who are not doing their work honesty and stncerely, he

The Midnight File

to discuss irritants ISLAMABAD, Oct 21: A senior United States officials arrived in Pakistan today for the first of two high level visits expected to focus on Pakistan's nuclear programme and other irritants that have chilled relations Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Teresita Schaffer, the State Department official covering South Asia, will have three or four days of talks in Islamabad before going on to new Delhi, a US source said reports Reuter.

Mobutu sacks Prime Minister

KINSHASA, Oct 21: Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko today sacked Prime Minister Etienne Tshisekedi following repeated skirmishes between the two men over who could hold ultimate power in the central African nation. The official Azap news agency carried a decree from Marshal Mobutu dismissing Tshiskedi, an outspoken critic of the President who was named Prime Minister following widespread riots last month, reports AFP.

Man with gun held at UN

NEW YORK, Oct 21: A man armed with an automatic pistol and 100 rounds was arrested Monday morning as he entered the United Nations. Santiago Lopez, 42. United Nations security guards grabbed at 10:05 a.m. (1405 GMT), after he tripped a metal detector at the General Assembly, and found a .22-caliber automatic pistol on him and the rounds in a plastic bag. Lopez told security guards he wanted to speak with a member of the Human Rights Division, reports AP.

Tajul leading

From Page 1 Col. 4

husband Khandker Straful Islam when she was working as a typist in the office of former minister Reazuddin Ahmed Bhola Miah, now an MP of the Jatiya Party.

Attorney General Aminul Haque during the cross-examination showed two affidavits by Shamshun Nahar and one kabinnama. Of the two affidavits one was related to the divorce of her former husband on March 6, 1981, while the second to the divorce of Tajul Islam on January 4, 1984. The kabinnama of the marriage between Tajul and Shamshun Nahar was signed on July 11,

Shamshun Nahar gave notice to the Kazi Office in Goran, Dhaka dated June 2, 1984, to the effect that she had divorced Tajul.

Tajul Islam shouted. "completely false", when the Attorney General asked him to comment whether he was living with Shamshun Nahar immorally and against Islamic Shariah (law).

Attorney General: Like in the West you are behaving as if you are living together.

Tajul: You are at liberty to comment on whatever you like, (sitting in the armchair). Whatever people may say, we are a very happy couple. In her affidavit on divorcing

Tajul, Shamshun Nahar Begum stated that Tajul had been putting pressure on her to hand over her ornaments, realise her share of her paternal property and take advances from her office. She stated that Tajul abused her filthily and treated her with cruelty threatening assault and molestation.

The copy of the affidavit made available to the press showed that Shamshun Nahar stated that fearing harm and injury she decided to divorce Tajul with effect from January 4. 1984.

She further said that the ties of marriage with Tajul had been repudiated and as such Tajul was no more her husband as a result of divorce at her Tajul stated that what was

written in the affidavit was not true. In reply to another question, he said he did not see the affidavit through which Shamsun Nahar Begum had divorced her previous husband. "I heard and believed that she divorced him," he added. Tajul, who denied that he was expelled from Kurigram College, as alleged by the pros-

ecution, however said he had to take TC from that college to get admitted into a Bogra college for he was involved in students politics during 1962. Yesterday's cross-examina tion also touched upon the scheme to purchase an aban-

doned house in Dhanmondi by

the Jatiya Party. To most of the questions Tajul answered in the negative. When asked whether they used the influence of Ershad to purchase the house No 104 in road No 3 at an "astonishingly low price." Tajul said the allegations are not true. To another question, he

said he was not aware of any Court case pending against the said house. Earlier, as the Court started at 10-50 am with Judge Mohammed Ali Khan in the chair, Chief Defence Counsel Serajul Haque requested both

the Attorney General and the

Defence Witness to help maintain the sanctity of the Court. The last day of cross-examination (October 14) had witnessed exchanges of hot and unpleasant words between the Defence Witness and the Attorney General leading to

the Court's adjournment. Defence Witness Tajul Islam Chowdhury expressed his sorrow for what had happened on October 14. He also stated that he did not describe the Attorney General as "liar" as reported in newspapers. Judge Mohammed Ali Khan also said that he did not hear the Defence Witness pass any comment like this at Attorney General.

Cotton production

From Page 1 Col. 7 ject site today.

Dr. Rahman said last year Bangladesh had the highest ever production of 60,000 bales of cotton. The quality was better than that of many cotton producing countries of the

The actual production this year is expected to be even higher even though the cotton growing areas of Rangpur, Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra and Kushtia have suffered major damage due to floods because of the introduction of high yielding varieties, Dr. Rahman said.

The EEC mission headed by Juan Prat was impressed at the success of the project.

Dr. Rahman of CDB said a half of the Taka 400 to 500 crore worth of annual cotton imparts could be saved by promoting the production of cotton.

Exchanging views with the officials of CDB Juan Prat said that the Mission felt proud because of the success of the project which, he said, proved useful to Bangladesh.

Dr. Rahman told the delegation that a new variety evolved by the Board could give a yield of upto three tonnes a hectare (2.5 acres), higher than that in many cotton producing coun-

He said Bangladesh is now capable of producing the entire requirement of HYV seed. This year HYV seed has been distributed for about 25,000 acres out of 100,000 acres under cotton cultivation.

In next two to three years all the cotton growing areas can be covered by HYV seed, he told The Daily Star.

Replying to a question he

said there was a Taka 17 worth of gain for every one taka invested in cotton development during the last five years.

The Cotton Development Board set up in 1973 could not develop much for about a decade due to various obstacles. Décision was taken in the early Eightics to expand research and development activities and the EEC-funded cotton seed multiplication and training project was started in

The second phase of the project is due to end in December, Dr. Ayubur Rahman said. The requested the EEC for further extension of the project to help Bangladesh achieve a breakthrough in cotton output.

The EEC mission later visited a cluster village at Bhawalpur. The EEC is helping promote economic activities in the cluster villages set up by the government. EEC has committed 11 million US dollars for the cluster village development project.

Soviet parliament session opens

MOSCOW, Oct 21: The Soviet legislature, the Supreme Soviet, opened its first session here today since being re-modelled in the wake of the fatled August coup, reports AFP.

President Mikhail Gorba-

chev was present at the

opening, but only seven of the 12 remaining republics sent deputies to the session. Two republics - Azerbaijan and Mildova - sent groups of "observers".

Ukraine, Armenia and Georgia did not send anyone to the opening session.