

### Congress probing links between CIA and BCCI

WASHINGTON, Oct 25: The acting director of the CIA defended in Congress Friday the intelligence agency's dealings with the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, reports AP.

BCCI, which had branches in the United States and many foreign countries, has been accused of running an international network of drug smuggling, arms peddling, money laundering and bribing of public officials.

The CIA had accounts at BCCI but later found out about its illicit dealings and used the bank to monitor drug traffickers and terrorists, CIA Acting Director Richard Kerr said.

CIA did not assist any wrongdoing on the part of BCCI or its employees, Kerr testified at a hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on terrorism, narcotics and international operations.

Kerr said the CIA did not impede any criminal investigations or prosecutions of BCCI, and did not participate in BCCI's alleged "black network" of illicit activities around the world.

BCCI "was used on an extremely limited basis for legal banking transactions," he told the subcommittee, which has held hearings this week on the scandal involving the Luxembourg-based bank.

The CIA used BCCI both to support its activities abroad, such as paying agents, and to funnel money to guerrilla groups supported by the United States in Nicaragua and Afghanistan, officials have said.

The CIA was criticized by some lawmakers this summer for allegedly failing to act on information about BCCI that it gathered in the 1980s.

Kerr said Friday the CIA distributed its information about the bank's activities to a spectrum of federal agencies, including the departments of State, Treasury and Commerce, the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Federal Reserve.

On Wednesday, former federal budget director Bert Lance told the subcommittee he is convinced the CIA recruited its Pakistani founder, Agha Hasan Abedi, in 1984 in order to use the bank for CIA purposes.

Lance's statements buttressed testimony Tuesday by Abdur Sakhiya, a former top BCCI official who said that

Abedi apparently had been taken off the intelligence agency's "watchlist" around 1984.

But Kerr called the idea that the CIA recruited Abedi "baseless."

One of the things the CIA discovered, according to State Department officials, is that the radical Palestinian terrorist organization of Abu Nidal was banking at BCCI in Europe and using the money to support front companies in Poland and East Germany.

Meanwhile, Reuter adds, depositors from around the world with money frozen in the scandal-hit BCCI bank met in London for the first time today to open a campaign to recover losses totalling 19 billion dollars.

Their money was frozen when operations of the bank were closed down in July in a swoop by regulators in several countries.

Regulators acted on what they said might be the biggest fraud in the history of world finance.

"Our members are angry people," said Adil Elias, chairman of the BCCI Depositors Protection Association, as the group's London meeting opened.

"They feel that bank regulators and others have betrayed their trust. They plan to take actions necessary to recover their losses."

The depositors were considering legal measures and prospects for lobbying politicians to rescue their money.

A big concern of depositors is that various US authorities seek to levy fines of hundreds of millions of dollars on BCCI.

If they succeed in doing so, the fines will be paid out of BCCI assets which should go to depositors, Elias said.

The association is composed of individual depositors. Its committee members have a minimum deposit of 500,000 dollar and some represent tens of millions of dollars.

BCCI operated in nearly 70 countries and had around 1.1 million depositors worldwide. It is 77.4 per cent owned by Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al-Nahayan, ruler of Abu Dhabi, and by investment institutions in the Gulf Emirate.

The Bank of England, Britain's central bank, led the global action against BCCI in July after a report from auditors price waterhouse alleged fraud.

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 25: Atauil Karim, a former UN Ambassador from Bangladesh, will head civilian operations in a small UN advance team going to Cambodia shortly following the signing of a peace treaty, diplomats said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

French Brigadier-General Jean-Michel Lardon has already been selected as military commander of the unit.

The initial operation, to be called the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC), will include 50 military officers and 20 experts in mine sweeping plus 75 international and 75 local staff for support and technical services. In addition Australia is sending a 40-member communications unit.

UNAMIC forces are expected to leave for Cambodia within the next two weeks to be on hand for the arrival of Prince Sihanouk in Phnom Penh on November 14.

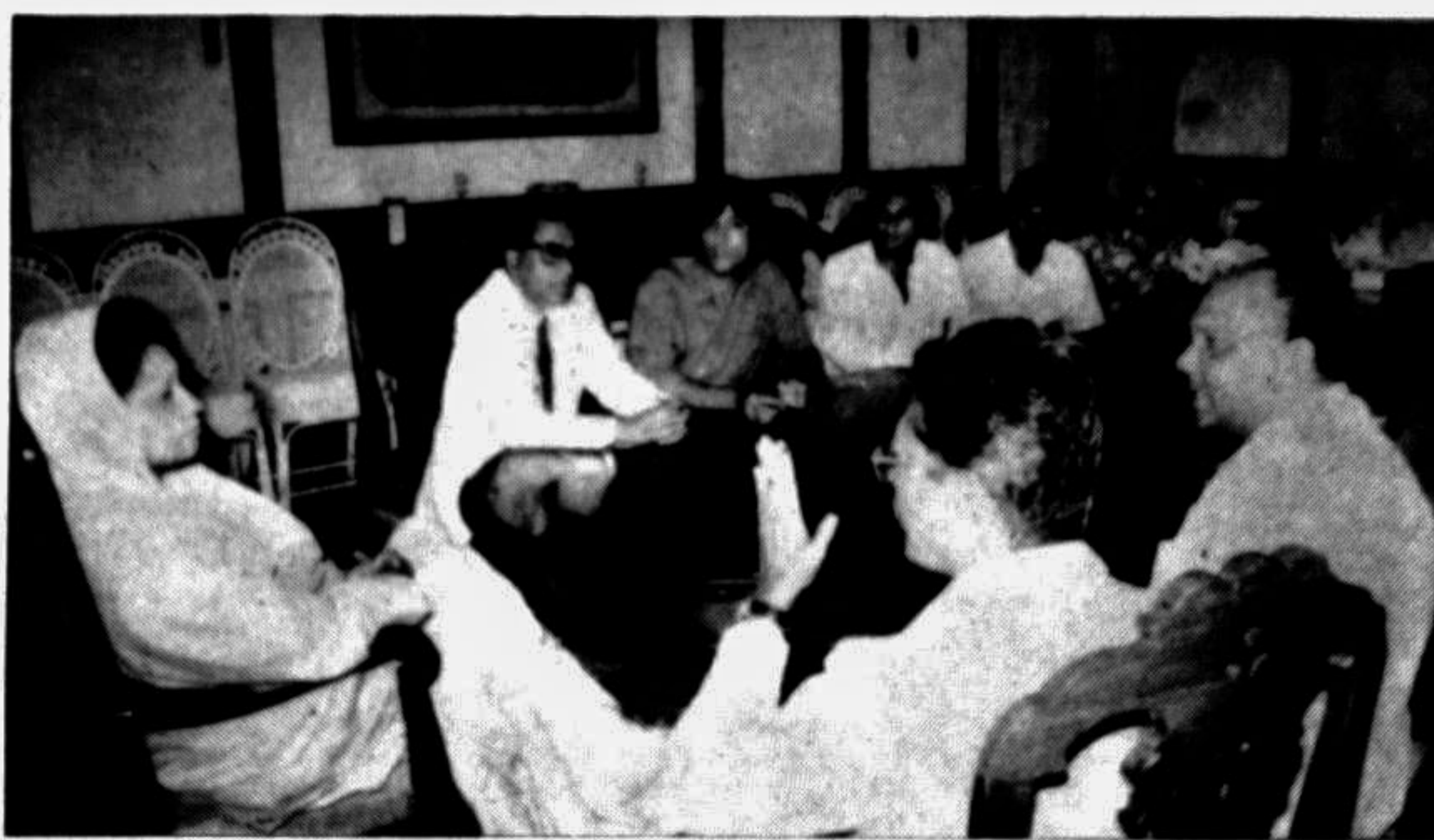
Cambodia's warring factions on Wednesday signed a landmark peace treaty which gives the United Nations a central role in administering the country, demobilising the combatants and organising elections.

Not decided yet is who will head the main UN mission, the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which is expected to begin operation in 1992, stay in the country for 18 months and cost close to a billion dollars.

Pressure is being put on Under-Secretary-General Rafeuddin Ahmed, a Pakistani who has been in charge of the mission to date, to go to Cambodia as the Secretary-General's personal representative.

So far he has declined for personal reasons, one name mentioned to replace him is Mohammed Sahnoun, an Advisor to the President of Algeria and a former Ambassador to the United States, France, Germany and the United Nations.

Also not settled is who will run UNTAC's military contingents, diplomats said. Australia has put in a bid for the chief military officer's post as it will probably contribute more than 1,000 troops to the operation.



Prominent businessmen of Rajshahi led by AKM Mustafizur Rahman, President, Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her Sugandha office Friday and joined the BNP. — PID photo

### UP administration barred from erecting structures in Ayodhya

NEW DELHI, Oct 25: The Allahabad High Court upheld today the acquisition of land around a controversial holy site by an Indian state government controlled by a Hindu-revivalist party, reports AFP.

But the court also barred the Uttar Pradesh state administration from erecting any structure of a permanent nature in the town of Ayodhya, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Ayodhya, in Uttar Pradesh, lies at the heart of a Hindu-Muslim dispute over a proposed shrine to the Hindu lord Rama. Hindu fundamentalists want to build a temple to Rama on the site of a 16th century mosque. Muslims oppose any changes to the mosque.

The Uttar Pradesh government, controlled by the Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), this month acquired 2.14 acres (0.8 hectares) of land at the site to promote "tourism and pilgrimage" in Ayodhya.

The acquisition drew immediate protests from political parties and Muslim groups, who branded it an attempt by the state government to help its ally, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP, or World Hindu Council), build the Rama temple.

On October 18, the VHP launched a 40-day religious ceremony and demolished several buildings at Ayodhya. Three days later it organised token work on the Hindu shrine.

Friday's court ruling followed two petitions challenging the land takeover.

In a related development, the centrist Janata Dal (People's Party) urged Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to stop VHP activists from conducting excavations around the disputed site so as not to damage the mosque.

If the government failed to take action, the Janata Dal would conclude New Delhi was "in collusion with those elements who are trying to undermine the secular character of our Constitution," a party spokesman said here.

PTI adds: A delegation of the Babri Masjid Movement Coordination Committee (BMMCC) led by Syed Shahabuddin, MP, today called on President R Venkataraman in New Delhi and submitted a detailed memorandum on the situation in Ayodhya with special reference to illegal excavations and demolitions by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad on the disputed land.

During the 30 minute meeting, the delegation requested, the President to advise the central government to take all possible steps to stop the illegal activity by the VHP and dismiss the Uttar Pradesh government for its collusion with VHP.

Shahabuddin said that the President assured the delegation that he would discuss the matter with the Prime Minister and do whatever was possible.

The other members of the delegation included Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait, Prof Saifuddin Soz, S M Jaffer and Ejaz Aslam of Jamat-i-Islami Hind.

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### Anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla's birth today

The 118th birth anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Huq will be observed all over the country today in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

In the capital different organisations have chalked out programmes to observe the birth anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla who had dedicated his whole life for improving the lot of the commonman, spreading the light of education among them and saving the peasantry from exploitations.

"Sher-e-Bangla Jatiya Smriti Sangsad", "Sher-e-Bangla Jatiya Gobeshona Kendra" and "Sher-e-Bangla Jatiya Foundation" will jointly hold a discussion meeting in his mazar premises at 8-30am today. Quran khawani and milad mahfil have also been arranged at the mazar site.

Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Shaikh Razaque Ali will attend the discussion as chief guest.

A seminar on Sher-e-Bangla will be held in his mazar premises at 4 pm today under the joint auspices of Bangladesh Human Rights Organisation and "Bangladesh Jatiya Bektittaya Gobeshona Kendra".

### AL to observe Jail Killing Day

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League Friday announced its programme to observe the "jail killing day" on November 3.

According to a press release, a discussion meeting will be held at 3 pm on the day at the party central office. AL chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting which will be addressed by the party central leaders.

The day's programme also include: hoisting party flag halfmast and also black flag atop the central and branch offices of the party all over the country, garlanding the portrait of Bangabandhu

### The Midnight File

### Y'slav army reaches Dubrovnik city limits

ZAGREB, Oct 25: The Serbian-dominated federal army on Friday reached the city limits of the ancient port of Dubrovnik, Croatian defense officials said. They said the Croatian forces had withdrawn to Gruz harbor, about 600 meters (yards) north of the old walled town, reports AP.

### Fresh tremors jolt UP

NEW DELHI, Oct 25: Two fresh tremors were today felt in earthquake ravaged Uttarkashi district of Uttar Pradesh but no further damage was reported, reports PTI.

### Autonomy of Radio, TV vital, says Huda

Information Minister Nazmul Huda Friday said autonomy of Radio and Television was needed for the overall welfare of a nation, reports BSS.

Addressing a seminar on 'News of radio and television: Some proposals' here in the evening, the information minister, however, said autonomy of the two electronic media would also bring along responsible use of them.

"If we consider use of independent radio and TV as a licence, we will commit mistake", he cautioned.

The seminar, organised by 'Bangladesh Sangbad Pathak Samity', was held at the Dhaka Club. It was chaired by president of the samity Aminul Huq.

Information Secretary Nooruddin Al Masud attended the seminar as the guest speaker.

Muhammad Jahangir read out the keynote paper on behalf of the organisation.

Journalists Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Ataus Samad and Rezauddin Ahmed and Director General of Radio Bangladesh Dr Sadat Hossain, among others, took part in the discussion.

Nazmul Huda said there was no restriction now in the radio and TV to air opposition news.

"I have ordered radio and TV men to collect opposition news even if they do not supply information", he said.

The information minister said the democracy is now in a "fragile condition", we all should nurture it carefully.

He stressed the need for concerted efforts to institutionalise democracy and consolidate and strengthen different democratic institutions.

The information secretary underscored the importance of dissemination of objective and timely news in the local electronic media so that the people need not to tune overseas media like BBC and VOA.

He also stressed the need for development of news sense and independent news gathering. The electronic media carries

and of late, were dismantling the facilities from the project site.

The tough Japanese stand led the Bangladesh government to explain through its ambassadors the 'actual situation' and government stand on the issue to those governments so that no misunderstanding and confusion were created. The friendly relations between Bangladesh and those countries.

The six-member sub-committee formed by the Council of Ministers comprises Information Minister Nazmul Huda, Energy Minister Dr. Khondoker Mosharrar Hossain, Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Planning Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan and State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan. Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan is the convener of the sub-committee.

### Hasina: democracy

From Page 1 Col. 8

Hasina said that though in the opposition, the Awami League was distributing relief and feeding people from gruel kitchens it opened in the affected areas.

Awami League leaders Abdur Razzak MP, Abdul Mannan and Sultan Muhammad Mansur Ahmed also addressed the rallies.

Addressing a wayside rally at Gobindganj in Gaibandha district on way to Rangpur, the Opposition Leader criticised Jatiya Party and Jamaat-Islami for "hobnobbing" with the ruling party.

She said the BNP had opposed discussion in Parliament on the situation in northern district despite insistence from Awami League.

Hasina said though Awami League staged walkout from the House protesting the ruling party's attitude, JP and Jamaat members sitting inside were "exchanging smiles with members of the Treasury Bench."

She pointed out that even Mizan Chowdhury and Shah Moazzem who were elected from Rangpur did not join the Opposition walkout and preferred to stay with the ruling party members.

Hasina was critical of the ruling party's "failure" in tackling the situation in the northern region.

Had Awami League been in power such a situation would not have been created, she said.

"Awami League, as an organisation of this soil, will always stand by the people in their weal and woe."

Hasina will visit the affected areas in Kurigram today (Saturday).

### Anti-brothel campaign

From Page 1 Col. 5

While visiting the brothel area, this correspondent found a sort of 'gruel kitchen' set up by the owners of nine multi-storey buildings the prostitutes are housed in.

During today's incidents that began after the Juma'a prayer all the business establishments remained closed.

The panicky people ran helter-skelter for safety.

The UARC activists after their past few days' campaign for eviction of the two brothels in the town had planned to hold a public rally and bring out a procession to press home their demand.

Accordingly, processions from different mosques in the town started converging at the No 1 Rail Gate near the bus terminal after the Juma'a prayer.

Committee leaders, including ex-commissioners of the paurasava Rafiqul Islam and Jahangir Alam, president of Narayanjan Imam Samity Abdul Awal, Alhaj Jane Alam, Khwaja Mohiuddin and Iqbal Ahmed addressed the meeting.

They expressed their firm determination to make their movement a success. They also accused the members of the local administration, including the policemen, of patronising the illegal activities.

Later, they brought out a procession and paraded the main thoroughfares including the Bangabandhu Sarak. The processionists, numbering several thousands, repeatedly tried to enter the brothel area. But heavy contingents of police deployed since morning at all the entry points of the brothels obstructed them.

The angry processionists were then scattered and proceeded towards different destinations, damaged five buses, 15 rickshaws and attacked two shops at Chasharha. They also ransacked the fruit shops at Falpatti. Owners of these shops alleged that their goods were looted by the processionists.

At this stage, police lathi-charged the unruly processionists injuring 17 of them. Two of the seriously injured persons, who received head injuries were treated at the Narayanjan hospital.

Besides, three policemen — Habibur Rahman, Superintendent of Police, Tajul Islam, Assistant Superintendent of Police and Saifur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sonargaon — were also wounded in brickbat by the processionists.

Chase and counter-chase also took place during the clashes, which led to a halt to traffic movement in the town's main area.

Meanwhile, the UARC leaders met the Home Minister at his residence last night. The meeting was also attended by Advocate Abul Kalam, MP and Sirajul Islam, MP. In the meet-

### CHT peace process

From Page 1 Col. 4

Rangamati expressed their grievances over the situation. Chairman of Rangamati district council Gautam Dewan expressed concern and resentment over the delay in transferring all the administrative subjects and declared that he would, if necessary, launch movement to realise the powers for the elected councils before his tenure ends on June '92.

So far, two thousand five hundred insurgents both with arms and without arms surrendered till the declaration of the fifth amnesty. The first amnesty valid from October 3, 1983 to April 26, 1984 drew 146 insurgents with arms and 766 without arms. The second valid from April 26, '84 to April 26, '85 drew 648 with arms and 323 without arms. In the third amnesty effective from April 22, 1989 to June 22, 1989, 140 insurgents surrendered with arms and 152

without arms and in the fourth amnesty that lasted from August 23, 1989, to September 30, 1989, only 7 insurgents surrendered with arms and 30 without arms. After the amnesty period till September 1991, 134 Shantibahnimen surrendered with arms and 163 without arms.

### Quake shakes northern Japan

TOKYO, Oct 25: A moderate earthquake with an intensity of 5.9 on the Richter Scale rocked northern Japan today, the meteorological agency here said, reports AFP.

### Boarder found dead

Police Friday recovered a body from a hotel in Mirpur and took into custody four hotel staff for interrogation. UNB

### CHANGE OF FAX NO.

All concerned are requested to Please note the following change

OLD NUMBER	NEW NUMBER
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33, Dikusha Commercial Area, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

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