Malaysia shelves plan to

deport Bangladeshis

Nothing finalised on Tinbigha, says WB Minister

CALCUTTA, Nov 11 Nothing has been finalised on the leasing out of the Tinbigha Corridor in Cooch Behar district to Bangladesh, the West Bengal Information Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharya, clarified in a statement here Saturday, reports PTI.

Seeking to allay the impression created in a section of the press on the Tinbigha issue at the official-level talks, the Minister said that the state government would chalk out its next step after ascertaining the views of the local people of the area, who had "some real problems".

"We will have to hear them," Bhattacharya who would be accompanying the Chief Minister Jyoti Basu, on his November 12 visit to the enclave, said.

Asserting that no timeframe had been fixed about the leasing out of the Corridor and that there were certain aspects in implementing the Indo-Bangladesh agreement, the Minister said, it depended on fulfillment of "different conditions" and on administrative decisions.

NEW DELHI, Nov 11 : Maoist guerillas Sunday blew up a paramilitary vehicle killing at least nine troopers and injuring 13 in the western state of Maharashtra, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, re-

Eleven of the injured were A departmental vehicle car-

rying an unspecified number of Maharashtra's Special Armed Police Force (SRPF) ran over a landmine planted by Naxalites, or Maoist guerillas, at Turumgonda village in Maharashtra's Gadachiroli dis-

The guerillas from the outlawed People's War Group (PWG), who were hiding behind bushes, also opened fire on the SRPF troopers soon after the blast, A V Krishnan, Special Inspector-General of

Malaysia has shelved its plan to deport illegal foreign workers because the plantation and construction sectors would suffer big losses, Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba said on Sunday, reports Reuter.

He said the December 31 deadline for more than 100,000 illegal workers to register and obtain work permits had been extended to

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 11:

"They need not fear being trapped and deported when they come for registration ... we will keep our word," he said at the end of a three day convention of the United Malay Nationalist Organisation (UMNO), dominant partner in the ruling coalition.

Ghafar said the reprieve applied to foreigners working in the construction and planta-

tion sectors, which depend on foreign workers, and those working as domestics.

Malaysia planned to deport the illegal workers, mostly from Indonesia, and domestic maids before allowing them to return with valid travel documents. The plan included a levy of between 360 and 2,400 ringgit (131 and 876 US dollars) per worker.

The Home Ministry had given illegal foreign workers

until December 31 to register. and a nationwide operation to flush out illegals, including Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans and Filipinos, was to have begun on

Ghafar said employers were responsible for ensuring their foreign employees were regis-

"The registration is important because when Malaysia to longer needs foreign workers, we can send them back."

No agreement on ME talks venue yet

WASHINGTON, Nov 11: US President George Bush, returning to the White House from his Camp David presidential retreat on Sunday, indicated that Washington was still working on winning agreement for a venue for the resumption of Middle East peace talks, reports AFP.

Asked by reporters as he entered the White House if the city of Washington would play host to the next round of peace talks, the president said: "We'll let you know as soon as we have something locked up.'

Bush returned to the capital from Camp David in Maryland by motorcade, as a combination of rain and fog grounded his helicopter.

The Middle East peace conference opened in Madrid last month and is to proceed with bilateral talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

Palestinian delegation spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi was quoted Sunday as saying that the bilateral talks would Soviet Foreign Minister resume on November 22 in meet Rabbani's delegation, said Washington. There has been no official confirmation from Washington. aimed at "launching the peace

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Sunday reiterated his preference that bilateral talks be held in the Middle East.

Report from Jerusalem says: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Sunday reiterated his preference that bilateral Arab-Israeli talks resume in the Middle East, government sources here said.

sovereignty until national elections expected in 1993.

It is still not clear when other leaders of the guerilla factions, which include the radical Khmer Rouge, will return to the capital.

They must arrive before a meeting of the SNC expected before the end of November.

Leaders of the Khmer Rouge, the group responsible for more than a million Cambodian deaths during its communist rule in the 1970s, have expressed fears about their security when they re-

The Khmer Rouge emptied Phnom Penh at gunpoint when it seized power on April 17, 1975, and the city was left a ghost town until Vietnamese troops invaded in late 1978 and installed the current government.

Sharif urges Islamic countries to pressurise India on Kashmir

ISLAMABAD, Nov 11 Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif urged Islamic countries Sunday to persuade India to agree to a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute, reports AFP.

Speaking at a banquet in honour of the visiting Crown Prince of Qatar Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa al- Thani, he said the Islamic world should call upon India to "end its brutal repression" in Kashmir.

Off the Record

Dong Dong does it!

BEIJING: Dong Dong the panda, who was artificially inseminated in April, has given birth for the first time. And it's

twins, an official report said Monday. Dong Dong gave birth to the pair at the Wolong Nature Reserve in southwestern China two months ago, the Xinhua

news agency reported. Announcement of panda births are usually delayed because most cubs born in captivity die in their first weeks. Scientists are not sure why.

The Xinhua report said both cubs were growing fast. The larger cub weighs 7.5 pounds and the smaller 2.2 pounds. Xinhua said the mother favours the larger cub and has left the smaller one, but did not give details.

Chinese Zoos are increasingly using artificial techniques to reproduce pandas because the animals do not breed readily in captivity.

Pandas are seriously endangered in the wild by human settlement and logging that have destroyed their natural habitats in southwestern and central China. Poachers also hunt them for their skins. Only an estimated 1,100-1,500 pandas remain in the wild.



ZAMBALES: Imelda Marcos caresses a supporter's baby from the window of her car during her barnstorming tour through this province, which was recently affected by the eruption of Mt Pinatubo volcano. Mrs Marcos received a warm and festive welcome from supporters.

-AFP/UNB photo

She likes kinky things

NEW YORK: A judge ordered fashion designer Mary McFadden for the second time - to pay her estranged husband dlrs 600 a week in temporary support, report AP.

State Supreme Court Justice Edward Lehner on Wednesday told McFadden, 53, to make back payments plus interest to Kohle Yohannan, 23, and to pay his lawyer, Raoul Felder, dirs 8,500.

The couple, married in 1989, are involved in a stormy divorce. She has described him as a homosexual "toy boy" and says he abandoned her two months after the wedding. He has depicted her as an abusive drunk who liked kinky sex.

Lehner said he was ordering the interest payments because the defaults were "willful," But he denied Yohannan's request to find McFadden in contempt of court. McFadden said she would appeal.

"I'm going to fight. I don't think he deserves a penny," she

Former pilot giving proxy for Rajiv

AMETHI: A close friend of Rajiv Gandhi is running for Parliament in the assassinated leader's old district, portraying himself as the faithful servant of a once and future dynasty. reports AP.

Satish Sharma, who was an airline pilot like Gandhi, says he wants to preserve the Amethi seat in case the former prime minister's widow eventually decides to take it or until the next generation of Gandhis is old enough.

"I will be keeping the seat alive only for her," Sharma says in his campaign for Saturday's by-election, referring to Sonia time she decides to enter politics, I will vacate. The best way to honor and perpetuate Rajiv Gandhi's memory would be to

vote for me." Nehru's daughter, Indira Gandhi, assumed he mantle and wanted to pass it to her younger son, Sanjay. When Sanjay was killed while stunt-flying a light plane, she induced the reluctant Rajiv into the family business of politics.

His friendship with Sharma began in the 1970s, when they were pilots for Indian Airlines, the domestic air service. Sharma became a candidate after Sonia Gandhi refused the

Congress Party's request to run for the seat. "We are allowing Satish Sharma only on the condition that

he will remain only until Sonia comes to us," said Zia-ur Rahman, a wealthy grain merchant in the district.

That possibility appears remote because of Mrs. Gandhi's distaste for public life. Gandhi loyalists know this and have sought to project her daughter Priyanka and son Rahul as the future of the Nehru- Gandhi dynasty.

Rahul, 21 and studying in the United States, is closer to the minimum age of 25, but Priyanka, 19, has shown a greater

affinity for politics. Sonia Gandhi, who is Italian, and her children lead an pri-

vate life. They rarely appear in public in India and are not known to give press interviews.

Read my lips, buy house or car: Bush

WASHINGTON, → Nov 11 : President George Bush is trying to put a good face on glum economic news by urging Americans to go out and buy a new home or car in a bid to revive the sluggish economy of the

"Some of the liberal Democrats that control this Congress thing the only chance they have to defeat me is to talk this country into hard times," President Bush charged in an interview on Friday with Houston television station.

United States, reports AP.

"The lack of consumer confidence worries me because tf they hear all this bad news all the time, people are going to get gloomy about it," It's good time to buy a house. It's a good time

to buy a car," the President

South China Sea

President Bush and his wife Barbara were flying to Maine on Saturday for a first-hand look at their personal woes : the damage an Atlantic storm inflicted on Walker's Point, their oceanfront summer home in Kennebunkport.

The Bushes were only in Washington a few hours before leaving having returns after a two-day political swing through Texas, where the President raised upwards of two million dollars for his reelection drive and lashed out at his Democratic critics.

At a second fund-raiser in Dallas that raised another \$1 million-plus for his campaign, President Bush again targeted his Democratic critics in Congress, singling out Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine,

for the sharpest jabs.

The President charged that Mitchell was trying to force him to veto a jobless benefits bill again for "demagogic" purposes.

"If he sends me down a bill that's going to bust the budget agreement, I'm going to veto it and send it right back," said President Bush. "He is not going to dish it out and then be unable to take it.

"I refuse to catch his javelina anymore," the President

He bluntly urged the Federal Reserve of Friday to lower interest rates to boost the recovery, which Bush insisted was underway despite Friday's rise in the unemployment rate to 6.8 per cent and the first decline in eight months in

the index of leading economic indicators. "I don't want to be a rosy

scenario man, said Bush. But he said the gross national product grew 2.4 percent in the third quarter and the jobless rate is "substantially lower than it was in the heights of the last recession.

He predicted the economy wil be "the driving factor" in the 1992 elections. President Bush was basking in

90 per cent approval ratings earlier this year after the Gulf war.

But George Bush's ratings have tumbled as the economy sputtered and Democrats charged he was spending too much time abroad and neglecting problems at home/

7 more Kashmiri militants killed in gunbattle NEW DELHI, Nov 11: Indian

security forces shot dead seven Muslim militants in gunbattle in the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir late Saturday and Sunday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, reports AFP.

Two militants were killed when they exchanged gunfire with security forces in Kashmir's Baramulla town Sunday, a state government spokesman was quoted as say-

Four militants were shot dead when they tried to enter Kashmir illegally at an unspecifled curfew-bound border area from Pakistan late Saturday. the spokesman said in Srinagar, Jammu and

Kashmir's summer capital.

Maoist rebels blow up car in India: nine troops killed Police, was quoted as saying. The SRPF troopers were on

their way to relieve colleagues at an outpost in the region when they were ambushed. PTI said it was the third major attack by activists from the PWG the most active of

ports AFP. in a serious condition, police officials were quoted as saying.

Naxalite groups, on security forces in the region in two years. The PNG is split into various factions. Eight police personnel were killed in an ambush last

> neighbouring Chandrapur district in 1990. The PWG has a relatively large following parts of south-

year in Gadhachiroli and 11 in

eastern Andhra Pradesh state. The extremist movement originated through a failed armed uprisal of landless peasants at Nazalbari, from which it takes its name, a remote village in eastern West Bengal state in 1967.



OIC calls for saving Babri mosque The 46-members Organisation of the Islamic Conference has condemned attempts by Hindu extremists to demolish a Muslim mosque and urged the Indian government to protect its Muslim community, repots Reuter from Nicosia.

OIC Secretary-General Hamid al-Gabid said in a statement sent to Reuters on Sunday he was concerned by renewed efforts by Hindu fundamentalists to demolish a 450-year-old mosque at Ayodhya along the Ganges river and build a Hindu temple in its place.

Israel worries Soviet Union: The Soviet Union on Monday voiced worry over a new Israeli settlement in the Golan heights, saying it would jeopardize progress made in the Mideast peace process, Tass news agency reported, says AFP from Moscow.

"This activity is contrary to interest expressed by the Israeli leadership on confidence measures between the two side," the Soviet Foreign Ministry said in a statement reported by Tass.

"This activity does not correspond to the creation of a favourable atmosphere in the Mideast," the statement said. The Soviet Union "hopes that the Israeli government will react in a constructive way to this worry."

Mandela to visit US next month: ANC President Nelson Mandela will visit the United States next month to speak at former President Jimmy Carter's annual Human Rights Award ceremony in Houston, Carter's office said on Monday, reports Reuter from Atlanta.

Mandela, President of the black nationalist African National Congress, will give the key not address at the December 8 ceremony "No one can convey better than Mandela a message of courage and dignity. No one could set a better standard of

commitment to truth and freedom," said Houston Philanthropist Dominique de Menil, co-sponsor of the ceremony, in a statement. The ceremony will also include a posthumous award of the 100,000-dollar Carter-Menil Human Rights Prize to six Jesuit priests murdered in El Salvador in late 1989, the

announcement said. Shamir, Herzog pay tribute to Maxwell: Hundreds of Israelis, led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and President Chaim Herzog, paid giant was buried at mount

of Olives Cemetery, reports AFP from Jerusalem. The body, covered by the talit, a traditional Jewish prayer shawl, was brought first to the palace of nations in Jerusalem,

carried by four rabbis. Maxwell, 68, was later laid to rest at mount of Olives Cemetery as a rabbi read the Kaddish, a prayer for the dead. He died at sea last Tuesday off the Canary Islands under

Mitterrand wants to reform constitution: President Francois Mitterrand said Monday he would propose a major reform of the French Constitution next year, reports Reuter from Paris.

mysterious circumstances.

In a television interview, he said the reform would involve reducing the presidential term of office and increasing the powers of parliament and would be submitted to a referendum.

Mitterrrand also hinted that he might resign before the end of his term of office in 1995.

Iraqi troops attack Kurdish rebels: Iraqi government troops attacked Kurdish Peshmerga guerilla lines outside the Kurdish city of Irbil on Monday, reports Euter from Pir Dawud.

Fighting broke out around midday at the ruined village of Pir Dawud and continued sporadically throughout the afternoon. Three Kurds were wounded. The fighting began when Iraqi troops sent a truck through

their lines with a message ordering the Peshmerga to

The Kurds held their ground. The Iraqis opened fire with

withdraw towards Irbil by 11 a.m. (0800GMT)

mortars, rifles and machine guns after the deadline expired. Call for safe zone between Croatia, Serbia: President Francois Mitterrand called Monday for the creation of a demilitarized zone between the warring Yugoslav republics of Croatia and Serbia "to save the children."

"I am ready to call now for the creation between Serbia and Croatia in other words the combat zones of a type of safe corridor, of security (and) of peace, through which we can pass the children, save the children, he said on France's channel five television.

ZAGREB: Unidentified Croatian POWs embrace each other upon their arrival in the Croatian capital Zagreb. - AFP photo Mujahideen team in Moscow: plea for installing an Islamic govt

MOSCOW, Nov 11: A delebut for its neighbours," he said. gation representing some of the main Afghan rebel groups flew to Moscow on Sunday for fresh talks on ending the 13year old civil war, reports

Delegation leader Burhanuddin Rabbani told Tass news agency on arrival he hoped the political changes in the Soviet Union would lead Moscow to help to bring about a lasting peace.

Reuter.

The establishment of an Islamic government in my homeland could become a reliable guarantee of that peace,

not only for Afghanistan itself.

PHNOM PENH. Nov 11

Cambodian Prime Minister

Hun Sen left for Beijing

Monday to escort former

monarch and guerilla Chief

Prince Norodom Sthanouk

back to Phnom Penh more

than 20 years after he was

ousted from power, reports

Sihanouk is the unanimous

choice of rival Cambodian fac-

tions to preside over the coun-

try following the signing of a

formal peace accord last

uled to fly back to Phnom Penh

He and Hun Sen are sched-

Reuter.

month.

00km/120mls

Thailand

The Kremlin, which remains the main supplier of

President Najibullah's government, promised in September to halt arms shipments from January 1. The United States likewise said it would stop arming the Mujahideen gueril-Rabbani told a news confer-

"The Soviet leadership has changed its policies in various areas," the official Saudi press

on November 14. Both men

have played pivotal roles in

four years of negotiations to

bring an end to a civil war that

mittently in the Chinese capi-

tal during his exile which be-

gan after Vietnam's invasion in

late 1978 to oust the Khmer

Rouge, who had kept him

prisoner in his Phnom Penh

home. Sihanouk was previously

toppled from power in a US-

Sihanouk has lived inter-

has raged since 1978.

backed coup in 1970.

ence in Saudi Arabia earlier

that Moscow was still sending

Moscow believes dozens may agency quoted him as saying. be still alive. Hun Sen to escort Sihanouk

from Beijing to Phnom Penh three, guerilla groups fighting

"But concerning Afghanistan

it is still supporting the

Boris Pankin, who is due to

on Saturday the visit was

But he made clear Moscow

wanted to focus too on the fate

of Soviet servicemen captured

during the war. About 300

soldiers remain unaccounted

for after the nine-year Soviet

military intervention and

mercenary government."

process in Afghanistan."

the Vietnamese-installed government of Hun Sen. Diplomats and academics have discerned a growing closeness between the gregartous 69-year-old Prince and the 40-year-old Prime Minister known for his re-

Hun Sen's government is opposed by the guerilla coalition that Sihanouk has led. The Prince is now head of a government-guerilla reconciliation body called the Supreme

Beijing has long been a staunch supporter of the radi-National Council (SNC) that is cal Khmer Rouge, one of the to represent Cambodian Cambodia: peace at last?



1954 Independence from France 1970 Civil war 1990 UN peace plan proposed 1975 Khmer Rouge takes over. and later in year accepted 1991 June: Supreme National starvation and disease. Council meets 1978 Vietnam invades 1979 People's Republic of Kampuchea established

July: Four Khmer factions meet informally in Beijing Oct: UN-brokered peace treaty signed in Paris