AMMAN, Nov 23: Jordan and Syria have agreed that neither will sign a separate peace treaty with Israel, Jordanian officials and diplomats said on Monday. reports Reuter.

The pledge, reinforcing previous positions, came during a meeting between Jordan's King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez al-Assad in Damascus on Sunday

"Both agreed on the need for Arabs to back a just and com prehensive settlement because unilateral deals will only weaken Arabs and yield no lasting settlement or stability to the region," one official told Reuters.

Diplomats said the King. who has stepped up contacts with Syria since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation signed a peace deal, went to Damascus primarily to calm Syrian fears of a separate Jordanian peace deal with

Syria, a powerful player in the two-year-old Middle East peace process, was angered by

WASHINGTON, Nov 23:

President Clinton said Monday

his administration has devel-

oped a "new approach" to re-

solving a dispute with North

Korea over its nuclear pro-

Clinton said he would dis-

cuss the new strategy on

Tuesday in a White House

meeting with South Korean

President Kim Young Sam.

whose country has been locked

in a tense standoff with the

North since the end of the

been working on a new ap-

proach to deal with this issue."

Clinton said at a White House

news conference. He offered no

details. He said he intended to

announce the new policy after

speaking on condition of

anonymity said Monday the

main change in the US ap-

proach was to offer to engage

North Korea in a broader range

of discussions if it, in turn,

AFP reports from Jerusalem.

jured in the attack, one seriously.

quarters of the 20-strong group.

highway west of Hebron.

from Sarajevo.

from Jakarta

cial said yesterday.

from New Delhi.

Administration officials

the Kim meeting on Tuesday.

"Our administration has

Korean war 40 years ago.

gramme, reports AP.

reports that Jordan, which first hesitated and then backed the PLO-Israeli accord, was close to

Jordan initiated an agenda with Israel in Washington in September laying the basis for a future deal but has said it could gradually implement elements of the agenda before signing a pact with Israel as part of a

wider Arab-Israeli settlement. King Hussein and Assad also discussed coordination ahead of next month's tour of the region by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher to try to unblock

hailed the King's talks in Syria as a key step in strengthening the Arab peace front and said Jordan had long opposed uni-

"Jordan faced temptations at times and threats at other times to accept a separate settlement," said the Arabic-language daily Sawt Al-Shaab.

self-rule agreement signed by Israel and the PLO.

BJP may return to power in UP

Exit poll forecasts

NEW DELHI, Nov 23: An exit poll published today forecast the opposition Hindu nationalist Bharativa Janata Party (BJP) would return to power in India's most political crucial state with a slightly higher majority, reports Reuter.

The poll, conducted by the centre for media studies and published by the Indian Express newspaper, ran counter to the expectations of most political pundits who said the BJP would fall short of a majority in Uttar Pradesh.

India's most populous state. with 120 million people, has the highest number of seats in the national parliament - 85 out of 545 and has produced most of the country's Prime Ministers

. Uttar Pradesh was long a bastion of the ruling Congress Party until general and state elections in 1989, when it was swept out by the left of centre Janata Dal

In 1991, the BJP took over power in Uttar Pradesh, widely considered the state from which to launch a bid for national

power, on the back of a campaign to replace a 16th century Mosque with a temple in the Uttar Pradesh town of Ayodhya.

Many Hindus believe the Mosque stood on the birthplace of one of their Gods, Lord Rama, and the temple campaign took the BJP from the political fringe to being the official opposition in parliament.

The BJP won 221 of the 425 seats in the Uttar Pradesh assembly in 1991 and ruled until Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao dismissed the state government over the destruction of the Ayodhya Mosque by Hindu zealots last December.

The Indian Express exit poll forecast that the BJP would win between 230-240 seats in state elections completed on Sunday with 33.4 per cent of the vote compared to 31.6 in 1991.

It said Congress would slip yet further to between 25-35 seats compared to 46 in 1991 and 94 in 1989.

Most of the rest would go to the Janata Dal and two of its potential allies it said.

the breakup of the country. Rao dismissed BJP governments in four states after the destruction of the Ayodhya

Mosque set off Hindu-Muslim

violence across the country.

All four state-Uttar Pradesh.

Himachal Pradesh, Madhya

ing this month along with Delhi

and Mizoram in the far north

BJP must win all four states

where its administrations were

dismissed, plus Delhi, to prove

its momentum towards national

and probably two to stave off

challenges from within

Congress, where there is a

growing feeling that the party

cannot win the next general

elections due in 1996 with him

Bengal Chief Minister, Jyoti

Basu, launched a frontal attack

against the BJP saying that

growth of a communal party.

like the BJP, would only lead to

Meanwhile PTI adds: West

Rao, they say, must win one

power is intact.

at the helm.

Political analysts say the

Pradesh and Rajasthan are vot-

More than 2,000 people died.

Addressing an election rally for the Howrah Municipal polls here yesterday. Basu said the BJP which was propagating religious fanaticism, was out to divide the people on religious

The Chief Minister alleged that the Congress (I) had a tacit understanding with the BJP during the last Panchayat elections in the state and said that the Congress (I) had not fielded candidates in 15,000 seats out of a total of 61,000 seats "apparently" to help the BJP.

"The Congress (I) which calls itself a secular party is objectly surrendering to communal forces at all levels at the centre and the state. Despite being a big party. Congress (I) is disorganised and devoid of principles and ideals," he added.

Referring to the BJP's victory in the Howrah Municipal polls Basu said the Congress (I) had left the field to the BJP to en sure its victory, which he termed as "shameful and disastrous."

#### Israel admits Black September killings

JERUSALEM, Nov 23: Israel has acknowledged for the first time that 10 to 15 leading PLO figures were assassinated in the 1970s on the orders of then-Prime Minister Golda Meir, reports AP.

The members of Black September were assassinated after their group killed 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympics at Munich, said Gen. Aharn Yariv, Meir's adviser at that time, in a television interview broadcast Monday.

"The idea was not revenge, although there was revenge, but the idea was to wipe out this thing," Yariv said.

Yariv said the results justifled the assassinations.

"A mission was undertaken. consciously, to wipe out, kill the heads of Black September. Then they stopped, in a conscious way, their actions overseas against Jews and Israelis," he

Black September, named for the bloody 1970 expulsion of PLO followers from Jordan.

## Almost 1000 died during Hungarian uprising in 1956

BUDAPEST, Nov 23: Almost 1,000 unarmed demonstrators died when about 50 rounds of bullets were fired into crowds at various locations during the 1956 Hungarian uprising against Soviet domination, a fact-finding committee reported here Monday, says AFP.

The investigation led by seven historians was commissioned by the Justice Ministry early this year to identify those responsible for the deaths of demonstrators in 1956. committee chairman Frigyes Kahler said.

Justice Minister Istvan Balsai is to submit the findings to be chief public prosecutor "within the next days to speed the penal procedures" against those who gave orders for the fire to be opened as well as for other forms of bloody retaliation, he told a press conference Monday.

The committee found that in most cases regional leaders of the communist Hungarian socialist workers' party; led by Janos Kadar, and military commanders were responsible for the shootings between October 23 and December 28,

Under recently passed law on "historic justice" aimed at punishing those responsible for the retaliations, long-time communist leaders including Karoly Ladvanszky, former President Karoly Nemeth and former Defence Minister Lajos Czinege could be brought to

## Off the Record

#### For insisting on having daytime sex

MANILA: A 35-year-old woman cut off her drunken husband's penis because he insisted on having daytime sex with her, the government-run Philippines News Agency reported Tuesday, says AP.

The agency said the incident took place Sunday in the central city of Cebu, about 576 kilometers (360 miles) south of Manila.

It said Avelina Rule repeatedly fought off her husband Avelino's advances because she felt uncomfortable having sex with children in the house.

However, the husband went into a rage, stripped himself naked and then came back to their room brandishing a 12inch kitchen knife.

During the scuffle. Mrs Rule grabbed the knife and hacked off his penis, the agency said.

Doctors were unable to reattach the organ, the agency quoted hospital officials as saying.

Police said Rule refused to file charges against his wife.

Confusion on

Sultan's stay

SEATTLE: So just where did the Sultan of Brunei stay during his visit here for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation gathering? It depends on who you ask, reports AP.

The Alexis Hotel said Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, the world's richest man, chose its accommodations during his visit from Thursday evening until Saturday.

The Four Seasons Olympic Hotel said it had the Sultan listed as an "officially registered guest," although a spokeswoman wouldn't say whether that meant he actually staved there.

A State Department official Monday said the 37 billion

dollars man slept at both establishments. "He arrived on Thursday and spent the first night at the Four Seasons," said the State Department's Chris Runckel,

Alexis Friday, and out of (Seattle) Saturday." Not so, said Stan Kott, Alexis' general manager, who said the Sultan stayed only at his hotel during the APEC confer-

who ran the APEC Support Office in Seattle. "He was at the

"The State Department can state what they want to state. We were there so we pretty much know what was going on" Kott said. "He was here for two nights and both nights he stayed at our hotel. The Sultan made the Alexis his official residence and everyone had a good time."

#### 200 wild elephants to be trained

JAKARTA: The Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA) in the southern Lampung region of Sumatra will catch and train more than 200 wild elephants, the Antara news agency said Tuesday reports AFP. Jodi Mochtar, BKSDA head in Lampung, said the agency

had been authorised by the forest ministry to catch 215 wild elephants in Lampung forests over the next five years. He added that the elephants' habitat had been shrinking

as a result of clearing for settlements for the government's transmigration resettlement programme. As their natural habitation has shrunk, the elephants fre-

quently go out of the forest and destroy agricultural fields in the transmigration area," Mochtar said. He said BKSDA would start catching wild elephants next

year and expected to catch a total of 215 elephants in five

#### Taiwan urges China to set aside political disputes connotes historical China, not

TAIPEI (Taiwan). Nov 23: Taiwan appealed to China Tuesday to set aside political disputes and focus on resolving day-today problems resulting from their blossoming unofficial ties. reports AP.

"Since we cannot reach a consensus," on who represents China, "the best way is to set aside our disputes for now." said Huang Kun-hwei, chairman of the government Mainland Affairs Council that handles relations with China.

"We should instead concentrate on resolving problems ... to help guide our relations to a good outcome." Huang said in a statement.

The appeal came after the long-running rivalry between the two Chinas was highlighted anew at President Clinton's Asian summit in Seattle.

China considers Taiwan a renegade province, while both claim to be the sole legitimate ruler of all China. At the one-week forum in

Seattle that ended Saturday. Taiwan was represented by Vincent Siew, a Cabinet-level economic official. Beijing having objected to the attendance of Taiwanese President Lee Teng-

In line with Taiwan's ban on political contacts with China, Siew did not speak to Chinese

President Jiang Zemin when they shook hands. Jiang sparked uproar in Taiwan by declaring at a Seattle news conference that "Taiwan is a part of the People's Republic of China," This appeared to de-

part from standard Beijing pol-

icy of simply calling it "a part of

China," which Taiwan takes to

Taiwan and China "are two sovereign states and neither is subordinate to the other." Some saw this as a departure from the official line agreed

necessarily the communist era.

Taiwan's economic minister.

Chiang Pin-kun, compounded

the furor by retorting that

by Taipei and Beijing - that regardless of who is the legitimate government, there is only one The Foreign Ministry, appar-

ently anxious to cool tempers on both sides of the Taiwan Straits, issued a statement Monday reaffirming the "one-China policy."

Returning to Taiwan. Siew said the "two-China" statement was merely a riposte to Jiang and did not mean Taiwan was abandoning the quest for reunification with the mainland.

Last April, Taiwan and China held unofficial talks for the first time to resolve problems arising from trade and other civilian exchanges, which have flourished under the pragmatic leadership of President Lee.

The last round of talks bogged down earlier this month over extradition of mainland hijackers and other disputes. but China has proposed to con-

tinue the talks next month in The issue of Taiwan's status tests the political wisdom of leaders of both sides," the

China Times editorialised. The Seattle gathering

"opened a new era," it said. "If the decision-makers cannot come up with new ways of thinking in addressing the issue, they will lose the chance to write a new chapter in history."

sands of state workers sumreports Reuter.

signing a similar agreement.

the stalled pace talks. Jordanian newspapers

lateral deals.

Syria strongly criticised the

US takes 'new approach'

BREFF

Palestinian dies in WB: A Palestinian

blew himself to pieces yesterday trying to build a bomb in a

house on the occupied West Bank, Palestinian sources said,

brought down part of the building near the Trans-Judaean

Serbs kill 4 children: A Serb shelling

attack killed three children who were sledging in the snow in

Sarajevo on Monday, Bosnian state radio reported, Reuter says

near the French United Nations military base when a shell

landed, the radio report said. Two other children were also in-

4 Muslims held in Indonesia:

An Indonesian court has jailed four surviving members of a

Muslim sect, three of them women, four months after police and

troops stormed their hide away in west Java. Reuter reports

or Yellow Damboo, were killed after the raid in July. A sect

member had earlier killed a police officer who visited the head-

months for resisting arrest while the man was jailed for seven

months for assaulting security officers, a Majalengka court offi-

Maoists kill 4 cops in India:

Maoist guerillas blasted a police vehicle with a landmine and

opened up with guns in a western Indian village, killing four

policemen, the Press Trust of India said yesterday, AFP reports

The ambush took place in the Gadchiroli district of Maha-

An officer and three constables were killed in the attack

blamed on Naxaliste guerillas, who carried away the police

rashtra state when the six-member police team was travelling

through a forest area, the news agency said.

weapons. Two constables survived

Five members of the reclusive sect, known as Haur Kuning

The women, two of them aged 15 and 18, were jailed for four

The there children were playing in the city centre on a slops

The shelling came from a Bosnian Serb position at about 5

Abdel Abed Al-Razaq Shihada died in the explosion which

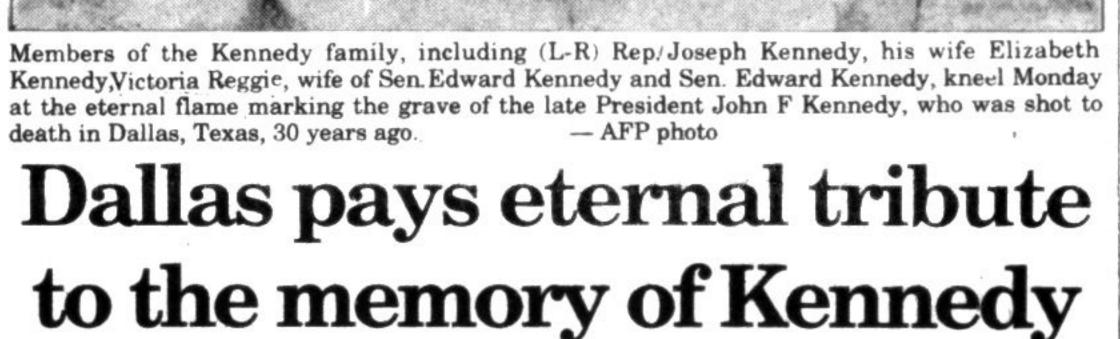
to Korean N-dispute agreed to permit outside inspec-

> tions of its nuclear programme. North Korea, whose economy is crumbling, is mainly interested in US diplomatic recognition and winning access to Western trade and investment capital. It insists that its nuclear programme is strictly for peaceful purposes.

The United States also apparently will insist, initially, on only a limited inspection of North Korea's nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency. It eventually would press for a fuller monitoring system.

The administration also apparently will agree to suspend plans for holding the US-South Korean military exercise known as Team Spirit in 1994 if North Korea accepts the limited nuclear inspections and agrees to hold talks with South Korea.

The Team Spirit exercise would be dropped, with the understanding that it could be revived at short notice.



DALLAS. Nov 23: With an assassin's nest as a bleak backdrop, Dallas unveiled a simple but eternal tribute to the memory of siain President John

F Kennedy, reports AP. Twin fighter jets thundered low above Dealey Plaza and a flock of white doves fluttered skyward Monday-at the exact moment of the assassination 30 years ago on November 22

In 1963, a lock atop the Texas School Book Depository recorded the time as a sniper on the sixth floor opened fire on the motorcade, killing Kennedy and wounding Gov John Connally.

Nellie, slipped a black drape from a plaque marking the sloping, sunswept plaza as a National Historic Landmark. "Thirty years ago, fate

In 1993, Connally's widow

brought me here as an unwilling player in the most unforgettable tragic drama of our time, Mrs Connally told thousands of spectators and dignitaries. Some choked back tears

Others wept openly. "Now," she continued, "Three decades later, we are gathered not to look back with grief, but to look forward with hope.

"Many of us share our own indelible memories of that awful hour, but today we recognise the lasting place this site will forever have in our nation's his-

Sen Edward Kennedy and other family members and friends marked the day with visits to JFK's grave at

Arlington National Cemetery in

His sister Jean Kennedy Smith observed the anniversary in Ireland, land of the family's ancestors. Mrs Smith, the US ambassador to Ireland, read extracts from his speeches at a memorial Mass in Dublin.

"It's a day to remember the

5 ex-guards file lawsuit against Jackson LOS ANGELES. Nov 23: Five

former security guards for Michael Jackson have sued the entertainer, claiming they were fired for "firsthand per sonal knowledge" of the superstar's alleged "nighttime visits with young boys," reports

Reached after the suit was filed late Monday, Jackson's publicist Lee Solters said only. "I have no comment to make about that." Jackson's civil attorney

Bertram Fields said he hadn't seen the latest lawsuit, but added, "You can be sure that the lawsuit will be defended." "Nobody was ever fired by

Jackson for knowing too much about anything. If they were laid off, it was for an entirely different reason," he said. Jackson is under criminal investigation following allega-

tions he molested a 13-year-

old boy. Jackson has not been

charged with any criminal

wrongdoing. The boy filed a

civil suit.

eroded.

for a short space of time he was at the highest seat of power in the world," said the Rav Michael Kennedy, a relative from Tipperary, who celebrated the Mass at Dublin's Pro Cathedral In Kennedy's hometown of

great man that he was and that

Boston, city government and institutions named for the 35th president held no ceremonies. "We are not very enthusiastic

about celebrating the day he got killed," said Charles Daley, director of the JFK Library. "I hate to think we would celebrate the day (President Abraham) Lincoln went to Ford's Theater. We celebrate Kennedy's birthday, which we think is more appropriate."

Throughout the Dallas ceremony, spectators glanced and pointed intermittently toward a seven-story red brick building overlooking Dealey Plaza.

The Warren Commission concluded it was there, from a corner window of what today is the Sixth Floor Museum, that Lee Harvey Oswald lay in wait.

"Then suddenly, here in this plaza, just a few years from where we stand, the president was shot to death," recalled US District Judge Barefoot Sanders, a onetime Kennedy appointee.

"As we remember President Kennedy's tragic death with a sadness and frustration which is impossible to describe, we also remember and celebrate the challenges which he brought to all of us when he

the cold war when its Inter

Services Intelligence (ISI) be-

billions of dollars worth of west-

ern military support for the

Afghan Mujahideen to fight the

The Soviet withdrawal from

Soviet army.

came the conduit for transfer of

# Pak army taking a back-seat to let civilians rule

cent of its budget and the high-

est per capita in the region. For the moment, the once powerful ISI has been revamped and the army should be satisfied if it gets money to pay soldier's salaries. And that can only come with economic growth for which political stabil-

ity is essential. "The army has recoiled from its past policy of intervention in government. They are more subtle, and the generals know it is better to be king-maker than to be king," says veteran journalist Khalid Ahmed of the Frontier Post newspaper in Lahore.

The recent polls were an outcome of the third army-influenced dismissal of an elected

try spends US 3 billion dollars a civilian government by the year on defence - nearly 30 per president and was the result of a bitter political tussle between President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

> stalled a neutral caretaker government headed by ex-World Bank vice president Moeen Qureshi and called for elections - Pakistan's third in five years.

downers, busting drug barons and hounding loan defaulters.

#### Kim appeals to DPRK to end Cold War WASHINGTON, Nov 23: South Korean President Kim

Young-Sam on Friday appealed to North Korea to abandon its go-it-alone nuclear policy and "remove the last remnant of Cold War confrontation," reports AP. "suspected The development of nuclear arms

by the North along with other weapons of mass destruction poses a grave threat not only to Northeast Asia but to the peace and safety of the entire world," the president said in a prepared speech at American University.

Clinton said he will discuss the matter Tuesday with Kim during his visit to the White

### Benazir to reinstate sacked state workers

ISLAMABAD, Nov 23: The cabinet of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto decided on Monday to reinstate thoumarily sacked three years ago, a government spokesman said,

He said they were dismissed from government departments and state-run corporations after then President Ghulam Ishaq Khan sacked Bhutto as Prime Minister in August 1990 on disputed charges of misrule.

An interim government set up later said the employees were given jobs by Bhutto's government for political considerations rather than merit.

#### KARACHI, Nov 23: Pakistan's there. But there is a change men in khaki have ruled the now, they have realised juntas country for most of its 45 years and martial laws are not of independence, now they apfashionable any more, says pear to be willing to take a

back-seat and let civilians run

To many in Pakistan, the

October elections for national

and provincial assemblies was

proof that the generals, while

still exerting behind the stage

influence over the political pro-

cess, do not for the moment

ruling politicians and ethnic

groups, the military seems to

have finally come of age and is

committed (at least publicly) to

"From 1947 till today, the

army has always dominated

politics. It has always been

a stable civilian democracy.

After decades of dividing and

the show, reports IPS.

crave over power.

News in karachi. Even for its very survival, the military now needs a stable civilian political structure committed to economic growth. But deep suspicions of the

Imran Aslam, the editor of The

army's motives still run deep. Some Pakistanis think the generals have only got more sophisticated in the way they intervene in government. "The army has always been seen to be a necessary evil in Pakistan. But I don't think it is

necessary at all," says vocal

human rights campaigner.

Asma Jehangir. "The world on

the street is that all politicians

are dirty. What is not said is

they have been corrupted by the Shireen Rahman of the Ka-

rachi weekly magazine Herald agrees: "The army has not settled down, it still exerts considerable power and will continue to call the shots. The generals wants everyone to

know that if elected officials

make a mess, they will always

be around to come in to clean it

But compared to the limit-

Afghanistan in 1989 and the News Analysis end of the cold war undermined

less powers of past military dictators, the role of the military in two years ago. Pakistani politics in much have realised that Pakistan can The Pakistani military's imno longer afford extravagant portance was magnified during military expenditure. The coun-

the clout of the generals, who also lost vital military aid from the United States when the military refused to roll back Pakistan's nuclear programme The generals also seem to

The army finally managed to get Ishaq Khan and Sharif to resign together in June, in-

Qureshi took his job seri ously, and backed by the military immediately set out to institute the king of economic and political reforms that no civilian government would have dared undertake: Taxing powerful lan-

House.