Action will be a mistake: Bush

US seeks UN support for invasion of Haiti

WASHINGTON, July 21: Rejecting any notion of negotiating with Haiti's military rulers, the United States is seeking UN blessing for the option of a military invasion to oust them. "They must go," President Clinton said Wednesday, reports AP.

US diplomats are beginning preliminary talks with members of the United Nations Security Council, looking for support for a resolution that would bolster the United Stats if Clinton decides to invade Haiti, administration officials

The president has made no decision on invading, but retains the prospect as an option to oust he coup leaders who setzed power nearly three years ago.

Clinton and his aides were adamant that there will be no new negotiations with Haiti's de facto rulers despite an assessment by Rep. Bill Richardson. D.N. M. that Haitian military leader L Gen Raoul

Two murdered From Page 1 Col 3

Hospital (DMCH) yesterday morning.

A young boy who identified himself as Ripon and claimed to be a son of the woman, carried the body to the emergency department of the DMCH but fled soon after the doctors declared her dead.

Tejgaon police went on a manhunt but failed to trace Ripon and his father till mid night last night.

The body of Suraya was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. None came to claim the

body vesterday. Police suspected Ripon's

involvement in the murder.

In another incident, a teenaged wife, Latifa Khatun, 18. was murdered reportedly by her husband at Meradia under Sabujbagh Police station early yesterday. Police recovered her body hanging in a slum hut.

Her husband Habibur Rahman, a rickshawpuller, was arrested from the area in the afternoon and detained for questioning.

A police constable, Sayedur Rahman, was murdered at Uttara Tuesday while Feroza Khatun was shot dead at Begunbari and a school student Abdus Salam was stabbed to death at Mohakhali Wednesday.

From Page 1 Col 7

left their homes in 1986 after

violence between tribal people

- mainly Chakmas - and

Bangla-speaking settlers in the

Hill Tracts. They sought shel-

ter in six camps in Tripura

Secretary of the Special Affairs

Division Ataul Karim and

Director Kazi Nasirul Islam and

the Deputy Commissioner of

the Khagrachhari district Yar

Mohammad represented the

Bangladesh side during the

BDR. police and Ansars were

posted at the colourfully deco-

sented by the District

Magistrate of Tripura Chandra

Shekhar Chatteriee and K

Arva. Relief Commissioner of

Upendra Lal Chakma, pres-

The repatriation was origi-

ident of the Refugee Welfare

Association, was also present

nally scheduled to start at 9

am, but was delayed until the

afternoon because the refugees

were late in reaching the spot.

were given by the Indian offi-

cials about the delay. Addi-

tional District Magistrate of

South Tripura Lokranjan told

Bangladesh officials at around

bargaining about the payment

of their dues - the package of

benefits in cash and kind

promised by the Bangladesh

government to facilitate their

early rehabilitation - prior to

District Magistrate said a

communication disruption had

The refugees finally arrived

at the river bank on the Indian

side at around 4:15 pm. In the

meantime Indian officials twi-

ce came across to the Bang-

ladesh side in their bid to

This second phase of repa-

A total of 3,348 people of

The long-awaited repatria-

648 families are scheduled to

return in eight groups on ev-

tion of the tribal refugees be-

gan on February 15 last after a

triation which will continue

But about an hour later, the

leaving their camps.

caused the delay.

explain the delay.

until August 5.

ery alternate day.

pm that the refugees were

Contradictory statements

the government of Tripura.

Several contingents of the

The Indian side was repre-

repatriation ceremony.

rated border point.

on the Indian side.

Kalparanjan Chakma, MP,

Cedras is flexible and "not as intransigent as he appears to

Richardson, who opposes military invasion but supports Clinton's overall policy on Haiti, suggested, based on a five-hour meeting with Cedras. that the top Haitian general might be ready to 'make a

Meanwhile, former President Bush said Wednesday it would be a mistake to invade Haiti because the country is of no great importance to the United States.

"We should not send one American troop to Haiti," Bush said. "It is not in our vital interest, it would reawaken animosity in our own hemisphere. We would have no problem getting into Haiti; the problem would be getting out.

Bush spoke at conference at the Samoset Resort held by MBNA America, a Marylandbased bank with operations in Maine.

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger offered a similar opinion during a talk Wednesday

Kuwait

From Page 1 Col 4

Sabbath. The letter said the Emir. Sheik Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, was keen on implementing Islamic law, or Sharia, but only after "careful and deep" studies by a special committee he set up for that purpose shortly after Iraqi troops were driven from Kuwait in February 1991.

Tony Blair

From Page 1 Col 8

Blair took the reins of Britain's main opposition party at a time when it is riding the crest of an unprecedented popularity surge and, according to all polls, was poised to retake power in the 1997 general elections.

"You've had your chance," he told Prime Minister John Major's Conservative government in his acceptance speech. "You had 15 years to get it right. If you can't change this country for the better after 15 years you never will. It is time for you to go."

Blair, who was the shadow Home Secretary, defeated acting leader Margaret Beckett and shadow transport secretary John Prescott.

tripartite agreement between

Bangladesh and Indian officials

of 379 families returned home

in the first phase till February

sumed a different look on the

occasion today. The river bank

was decorated with colourful

flags and bunting. A make-shift

camp was set up to receive the

returnees. They were taken to

the nearby Tabalchhari High

School premises where they

been provided with Tk 10,000

in cash and ration - rice, edi-

ble oil, dal and salt - for a

month. The Bangladesh Red

Crescent Society provided the

given Tk 8,000 per family for

purchasing cows or oxen if

they have any cultivable land

and two bundles of CI sheets

for making houses. They will

The returnees were trans-

ported to their respective

homes — located in Dighinala,

Panchhari, Matiranga and

tion would continue without

peace process and I hope it

will continue," he said. It was a

good sign for future progress,

lowing a series of dialogues be-

tween the leaders of the out-

lawed Shantibahini - the

armed wing of the rebel

Chakmas - and a parliamen-

tary committee headed by

Communications Minister Oli

Seven meetings have been

held since 1992 and a truce is

now in force in the area. A

meeting on July 7 extended

drawn from the Chakma, the

predominant tribe, have been

fighting an 18-year bush war

with the Bangladesh forces

demanding autonomy of the

three southern hill districts -

Khagrachhari, Rangamati and

The Shantibahini, mostly

the ceasefire till October 1.

"It is a part of the total

The repatriation began fol-

also get back their jobs.

aboard ten buses.

any hitch.

he added.

The returnees will also be

Initially, the refugees have

had their late lunch.

relief materials.

As many as 1,841 refugees

Remote Tabalchhari as-

and Chakma leaders.

- AFP photo Christopher meets

Palestinian frustration with delays in promised economic aid. Christopher said he had a

"sober and serious" discussion with Arafat about the delays and offered him help in getting through the necessary paper work.

Christopher told reporters. "It will not be easy for them, but I urge them to work through it with determination."

2.4 billion dollar in recon struction aid have demanded a strict accounting from Arafat because of the PLO's long history of uncontrolled spending and allegations of corruption and favouritism.

Arafat told reporters after the 90-minute meeting in his seafront offices that Pales tinians faced economic problems because the donors were not making good on their pledges.

help we'll be able to touch the fruits of the peace." Arafat told Christopher.

Christopher said he was leaving behind John Spiro, the

undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs, to help Palestinians come up with the meet the demands of the World Bank and others for loans. And he urged the Palestinians to adopt better.

bookkeeping methods. At the news conference, Arafat also complained that Israel had usurped his role by inviting Jordan's King Hussein to visit Jerusalem, whose Arab eastern sector Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war and annexed

"They don't have the right to offer any invitation," said Arafat, who wants to make the eastern sector the capital of a Palestinian state. "It is my duty and responsibility to offer the invitation to all my brothers and friends to visit the holy

Nagas massacre 22 Kukis

NEW DELHI. July 21: Suspected Naga militants massacred at least 22 members of a rival tribe in the north-eastern Indian state of Manipur today, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported, reports AFP.

The Nagas stopped two trucks, carrying Kuki villagers at a remote village called Thanglon and shot dead 18 of them, the news agency said.

democracy Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday urged

PM asks FFs to

safeguard

independence,

the freedom fighters to be vigilant against those who are out to jeopardise the hard-earned democracy, reports UNB.

She called for safeguarding independence as well as democracy needed for uninterrupted development.

"The Liberation War was fought for emancipation. The independence earned at the cost of blood would be meaningful if we can achieve economic freedom," she said.

Begum Zia, the chief patron of the Muktijoddha Sangsad. was speaking at a meeting of its executive councillors at the International Conference Centre in the afternoon.

The Prime Minister said the development programmes of her government were aimed at reducing dependency on foreign assistance and attaining self-sufficiency in all sec-

She sought cooperation from the freedom fighters in carrying forward the development programmes designed to ensure national uplift and welfare of commonman.

"Take part in development works and help the nation achieve self-reliance so that it can hold its head high in the comity of nations.

Convenor of the Muktijoddha Sangsad Brig. (Rtd) A J M Aminul Huq, BU, also spoke on the occasion.

Gias Kamal under intensive care

The condition of Gias Kamal Chowdhury, chief reporter of BSS and president, BFUJ was reviewed vesterday by a board of specialists at Combined Military Hospital (CMH), according to a medical bulletin issued by hospital authorities to Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), reports BSS.

The board found Gias Kamal conscious but confused. Limbs movement and eye opening were spontaneous, the bulletin said. The cardio-respiratory system of Gias Kamal was stated to be stable.

Gias Kamal was admitted to CMH Sunday afternoon following cerebral haemorrhage and was operated upon. He is now at the intensive care unit of

Farhad murder

Another accused arrested

Police yesterday arrested Sukenda Sutradhar, an accused in the Sub-Inspector Hasanul Farhad murder case, from the Siddiqbazar area, reports UNB. Farhad was killed at the

Jagannath University College during a gunfight between two factions of the pro-government student organisation. With the arrest of Sukenda

Sutradhar, the number of arrested accused in the case rose to 30.

NU incident

From Page 1 Col 2 Teachers' Association (DUTA), in a statement, said, "We were stunned and astonished to learn that the national anthem was not played at the beginning of the NU's Senate meet-

The DUTA statement was signed by its president Professor Md Shahadat Ali and General Secretary Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique.

President of the Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, in a statement, demanded resignation of the Vice Chancellor of NU Dr M A Bari.

all pro-liberation forces to be vocal against the incident and criticised the government for appointing a controversial person like Dr Bari as the Vice-Chancellor of the National

The Awami League backed BCL (DU) unit president KHM Lizu and General Secretary Pankaj Debnath alleged that the anti-Liberation forces were

involved in the incident. They demanded immediate expulsion of such forces from

the Senate. The JSD backed BCL (B-K) also protested the incident.

From Page 1 Col 7 mmittee consisting of foreign secretaries of the member countries and the Programming Committee.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, who is the chairman of the Council of Ministers, will preside over all plenary sessions of the meet-

Foreign secretary MR Osmany, the Chairman of the Standing Committee, will chair its two-day meeting. Director General (SAARC) at the Foreign Ministry Ashfaqur Rahman will preside over the progra-

The Midnight File

Afghan guerilla commander frees Pak, Chinese hostages

ISLAMABAD, July 21: An Afghan guerilla commander today freed an unspecified number of Pakistani and Chinese hostages after their prolonged captivity in Afghanistan, a Pakistani government official said. The hostages were released in the Afghan capital, Kabul, and were on their way to Islamabad by plane, the officials said, reports Reuter,

Perry cancels visit to Sarajevo

ANKARA, July 21: US Defence Secretary William Perry today cancelled a visit to the Bosnian capital Sarajevo planned for Friday after shots were fired at aircraft there, US defence officials said. Perry, on a nine-nation trip to Europe, will instead fly from Turkey to Zagreb. Croatia for meetings with UN peace-keeping officials on the civil war in the former Yugoslavia, the officials said, reports Reuter.

Euro-parliament okays Santer's appointment

STRASBOURG. July 21: The European Parliament today approved Luxembourg Prime Minister Jacques Santer by a clear majority as the new European Commission chief who will replace Jacques Delors. The vote was of 260 in favour. 238 against and 23 abstentions and had been predicted earlier in the day as a tight result after the main socialist grouping said they would vote against Santer, 57, reports AFP.

3 planes hit by bullets at Sarajevo

UN, NATO plan punitive action against Serbs "In that case the question

ZAGREB, July 21: A senior UN official said today the UN and NATO were jointly planning punitive steps against Serbs should they reject a new peace plan for Bosnia and that UN peacekeepers might have to withdraw, reports Reuter.

Yasushi Akashi. UN special envoy in ex-Yugoslavia, spoke after Serb leaders raised object tions to an ethnic division map drafted by a big power "contact group" and demanded more negotiations, something the West has ruled out.

A contact group decision to follow through on its vow of escalating sanctions and military enforcement against the Serbs would place vulnerable UN protection force soldiers in Bosnia in a new situation. Akashi said.

Investigation From Page 1 Col 5

verts and schools.

Such pro-people programmes undertaken by the present government had been providing benefits to the commonman. Begum Zia said and added that the people had already begun to enjoy those benefits. The Prime Minister under-

scored the need for initiating more such pro-people welfare oriented programmes and development works all over the country.

The meeting also decided to build Habigonj district Court building. Finance Minister M Saifur

Rahman, Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Majid-ul Huq. LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar, Communications Mi nister Oli Ahmed, Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Shipping Minister M K Anwar, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Works Minister Rafigul Islam Mia, State Minister for Establishment Aminul Hug and State Minister for Planning Dr. Abdul Moveen Khan were present. Secretaries of the ministries and divisions concerned were also present.

Rwanda

From Page 1 Col 4

wrapped in blankets or reed matting, dotted the roadsides around the town uncollected and ignored by the hordes of refugees million around Goma and roads for miles around.

We have all the features of cholera clinically, said Jacques de Millioano, President of the Medicines Sans Frontieres (MSF) team of doctors.

People are vomiting and have severe diarrhoea. They lose lots of fluid in a few hours, de Milliano said.

Among the estimated one million mainly Hutu refugees who poured into Zaire to escape advancing guerillas of the Tutsi dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) last week, de Milliano indicated 5,000 to 10,000 could die within days.

DPRK lashes out at ROK for denouncing Kim Il-Sung

TOKYO, July 21: North Korea lashed out at rival South Korea today for denouncing its late President Kim Il-Sung and said Seoul's act amounted to a declaration of war," reports Reuter.

"The reckless words (by South Korean Prime Minister Lee Yung-Dug) are not merely a slanderous remark against us but an official declaration of war by the Blue House," Radio Poyongyang said in a broadcast heard in Tokyo by the Radiopress News Agency.

The Blue House is the official residence of the South Korean President

what NATO will do, what UNPROFOR will do, whether UNPROFOR's military component will have to relinquish its peacekeeping responsibilities or not, will have to be faced, he told a news conference. Meanwhile, the UN airlift

to Sarajevo was suspended for he second time in two days Thursday after three planes were hit by groundfire, a UN official said. An American working for the United Nations was wounded. A US Air Force C-141 cargo

plane, a British plane, and a small UN-owned plane were hit, said Ron Redmond, a spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees The American plane had to make an emergency landing in Germany after bullets disabled its landing gear. .

Redmond said the incidents occurred soon after the resumption of the airlift, which had been suspended for a halfday Wednesday when a US C-141 was hit by a bullet as it left the airport.

Final impact

From Page 1 Col 7

A mark left by fragment G is larger than the Earth and some experts said it could persist in the Jupiter cloud tops for months.

Roger Yelle of the University of Arizona, an astronomer working at the Space Telescope Science Institute, said chemical reactions in the triple-hit areas are likely to be different than in single-hit areas; but as to what the difference will be, he said. can't make predictions.

Yelle said researchers already have identified three molecules created by the superheated churning of the comet impacts. Ammonia was found earlier and now the scientists have identified sulfur and hydrogen sulfide.

Traffic jam

From Page 1 Col 7 pay the price as demanded.

In the busy Motijheel commercial area, movement of vehicular traffic becomes difficult particularly during the office hours as all the pavements are occupied by the vendors.

One can walk and do his daily shopping on the Motifheel pavements where every daily necessities ranging from fish and spices to television antenna, and even oddities like 'fox oil for gout' are

"Our money goes to the high ups," says Akbar, a vendor who sells T-shirts, trousers and shirts near the GPO.

Explaining the 'secret form of extortion, the young man said he has to pay Taka 25 which is collected by a local 'mastan' every morning before

the business starts. The accumulated money is allegedly shared by the mastans, a section of policemen and different people involved

in setting up the 'pavement markets' and protecting it. "Eviction." Akbar said, when asked what happens if anyone refuses to pay. Similar allegations are often

made by the rickshaw pullers and autorickshaw drivers. When contacted, police of

ficials involved in traffic maintenance said that eviction of the street vendors was a political matter which they now generally avoided. Deputy Commissioner of Traffic Mushtaq Hossain Khan,

however, said that a special mobile unit of police was engaged in freeing the pavements from the vendors. The Mayor of Dhaka is learnt to have been planning

alternative economic programmes for the Dhaka vendors as well as considering restricting their business within a fixed time of the day.

Poets, authors, journalists and leading members of the various professions brought out a procession in the city yesterday calling for resisting the fundamentalist forces. - Star photo 'BNP, AL backing fundamentalists'

Khagrachhari sadar thanas -From Page 1 Col 3 Kalparanjan Chakma, who Imam, Mamunur Rashid and led the repatriation commit-Azfar Hossain. tee, hoped that the repatria-

Shibir president Abdul Matin Khan read out a declara-

Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury said the fundamentalist forces were now out to exploit the frustrations of the povertystricken people in the name of religion.

people fatalists and the religion peddlers involved in politics usually exploit the situation in their bids to capture said. The progressive section of the society could not sit idle when the "Jamaat and others were out to destroy all rational

He criticised the government for 'patronising' the fundamentalists and accused the AL of providing shelter to the undamentalist forces.

Poet Shamshur Rahman said the writers had now taken to the streets to save the rational and noble values from the attack of the fundamental-

Terming fundamentalism a sort of disease, the poet said

this malady always tends to destroy all the sound values the enlightened people stand for. Rahman termed the gov-

ernment 'almost fundamental-

ist' and criticised the AL for its indifference' towards the religion peddlers. Hasan Imam, a film artiste, said the religion peddlers had been consistently violating the law of the land by issuing 'fatwa' against the innocent

working women as well as progressive intellectuals. Azfar Hussain, a young university teacher, showed the audience a children's book which, he said, contained misinformation about the nation's political and cultural tradition. The book, used as a text in different city kindergartens run by the Jamaat, was misleading the younger generation, he al-

leged. Mamunur Rashid, a playwright and cultural activist, said that the Taslima Nasreen issue was being used by the Jamaat to suppress the progressive writers in the country. Anu Muhammad, who con-

ducted the rally, said the fundamentalists were trying for a blasphemy law only to give legitimacy to their evil activities against the free-thinking people of the country.

A procession was brought out after the rally. Prof Zillur Rahman Siddi-

Killings of 3 by in a statement Thursday con-

Central Coordinator, Advocate Abed Raja called upon the take up the matter with India and also rehabilitate the affected families.

adds: The bodies of the three Bangladeshi nationals were handed over to their families yesterday after post-mortem examinations at the Sylhet MAG Osmany medical college

BSF condemned The Sylhet Bibhag Andolan

qui, Prof Khan Sarwar Mur-

shid, Prof Anisuzzaman, Prof

Borhan Uddin Khan Jahangir

Badruddin Umar, Haider Akbar

Khan Rono, Akhtaruzzaman

Ilias, Humayun Azad, Fayez

Ahmed, Nilima Ibrahim, Panna

Kaiser, Shamim Akhter, Col

(retd) Nuruzzaman, Barrister

Lutfar Rahman. Sayeed

Atiqullah, Abu Ishaq, Shawkat

Ali, Dr Ahmed Kamal, Shamim

Sikder and Kamal Lohani were

among those who attended the

demned the killings of three Bangladeshi citizens by the BSF at the Gowainghat border area of Sylhet district. The statement issued by its

Government of Bangladesh to Our Sylhet Correspondent

mming committee meetings.

Principal Ahad called upon

University.

SAARC summit

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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher shakes hands with PLO chief Yasser Arafat yesterday during their first meeting in the Gaza Strip since the introduction of Palestinian self-rule. Summit with King Hussein to help resolve conflict,

says Rabin

NEW YORK, July 21: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin believes his meeting next week with King Hussein of Jordan will be an important step toward overcoming decades of hatred, even if there are no immediate results, the New York Times reported in its Thursday edi-

tions, reports Reuter. Interviewed Wednesday in Jerusalem, Rabin was quoted as saying the meeting, "By itself ... will signal in a meaningful way the kind of atmosphere that no doubt will facilitate solving the practical issues."

Telecom service with 16 dists restored thru' trunk exchange Telecommunication with

the 16 South-Western districts

have been restored through

trunk exchange since Wednes-

Local Khalishpur Telephone

day night, reports UNB.

Exchange of Khulna and telex exchange of Khulna and Jessore have started functioning normally. A high level technical team of T&T Board at Khulna has been working hard to restore

the NWD (TAX) exchange

which were disrupted due to

Arafat in Gaza GAZA CITY, July 21: Secretary of State Warren Christopher met with Yasser Arafat in Gaza City Thursday, documentation needed to

the first American Cabinet member to visit autonomous Palestinian land since Israel withdrew in May, reports AP.

At the top of the agenda was

"Clearly, the Palestinians face a very difficult time here,"

Donors who have promised

"I'm sure that with your

electric short circuit.

tion which contained a sevenpoint demand including fresh legislation seeking punishment to those using religion as a means of acquiring political

'Poverty makes innocent state power," Prof Chowdhury values in the name of religion." he added.