

## BRIEFLY

## 19 die of diarrhoea in Jalpaiguri:

At least 19 persons died of diarrhoea in Alipurduar subdivision of Jalpaiguri district during the last fortnight, according to the district magistrate Dilip Rath. PTI reports from Jalpaiguri.

A high-level meeting was held at Kalchini Tuesday to chalk out an action plan to combat the spread of the disease.

## Abiola's trial adjourned:

The treason trial of Nigeria's presidential claimant Moshood Abiola was Tuesday adjourned indefinitely. Reuter reports from Abuja.

Justice Chris Serlong said the case was adjourned *sine die* following an agreement by both Abiola's lawyer and the prosecutor on maintaining a previous stay of proceeding.

## Palestinian shot dead in Hebron:

An Israeli soldier shot dead a Palestinian man in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron today. Palestinians and Israeli security sources said. Reuter reports from Hebron.

Israeli security sources said the Palestinian, whose identity was unknown, was shot while he was trying to stab a soldier. Palestinians said the man was shot in the head in cold blood. An army spokeswoman said she was checking the report.

## Ukraine to shut Chernobyl N-plant:

Ukraine's new government has agreed in principle to close the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant — scene of the world's worst nuclear accident to date — European Union diplomats said today. Reuter reports from Luxembourg.

"They have made it absolutely clear. They are prepared to close Chernobyl," one said during a meeting of EU foreign ministers.

## 12 armed tribesmen killed in Iran:

Security forces have killed 12 armed tribesmen implicated in drug trafficking and wounded several others in southeastern Iran, a newspaper said in Tehran yesterday. AFP reports from Tehran.

The men from the powerful Naruwi tribe were killed during a raid in the rugged Jabal-Barez region, the Daily Hamshahri said. Large quantities of weapons and ammunition were seized.

## Quake jolts Taiwan:

An earthquake of preliminary magnitude 5.8 jolted Taiwan on Wednesday, breaking windows and loosening roof tiles on the east coast, authorities said. No casualties or major damage were reported. AP says from Taipei.

The Central Weather Bureau recorded the quake at 09:13 am (0113 GMT) and placed its epicentre at sea, 34.2 kilometers (21 miles) east of Chengkung city in southeastern Taiwan.

## HIV carriers may rise in Malaysia:

The number of HIV carriers in Malaysia is expected to rise to 30,000 from 9,000 estimated for this year, Deputy Home Minister Megat Junid Megat Ayob said yesterday. Xinhua reports from Kuala Lumpur.

The assessment is based on the increasing number of drug abusers which has reached a critical level, he was quoted by the Malaysian National News Agency as addressing a conference on drug prevention in Kuching, Sarawak, east Malaysia.

## Jiang Zemin greets Kim Jong:

North Korea's heir-apparent Kim Jong-Il received a message of greeting from China's President Jiang Zemin yesterday on the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two nations. AP reports from Tokyo.

According to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo, the message said the establishment of ties had been an "historic event" for the relationship between China and North Korea.

## Egypt to open mission in Sarajevo:

Egypt has decided to open an embassy in the Bosnian capital Sarajevo and a chargé d'affaires will be posted there soon. Foreign Minister Amr Mussa said Tuesday. AFP reports from Cairo.

Mussa made the announcement after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

## US Treasury Secy in S Arabia:

US Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen arrived in Jeddah yesterday for talks that western diplomats said would focus on Saudi Arabia's cash flow problems. AFP reports from Jeddah.

Bentsen will meet first with Saudi Finance Minister Mohammad Abalkheil and later with Oil Minister Hisham Nazer, a US official said Tuesday.

## Chinese trade union leader jailed:

The voice-president of a provincial trade union in China's northeastern industrial province Jilin, has been given a life prison sentence for corruption, the procurator news received in Beijing yesterday reported. AP says from Beijing.

Xue Jingwen had been accused of embezzling 140,000 yuan (16,500 dollars) and accepting 18,000 yuan (2,120 dollars) in bribes between 1990 and 1993 while he was also director of a large factory in Changchun.

## Assad must compromise for peace, says Peres

WASHINGTON, Oct 5: Syrian President Hafez Assad must compromise in order to have peace, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Tuesday, reports AP.

Peres called Assad's demand for all of the Golan Heights, a strategic enclave Syria lost to Israel in the 1967 Six-Day war, only an initial move in the negotiations to be resumed this weekend through Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

"He has his opening position," Peres said at a news conference. "We have our opening position... if the Syrian leader will not compromise, he will not have peace."

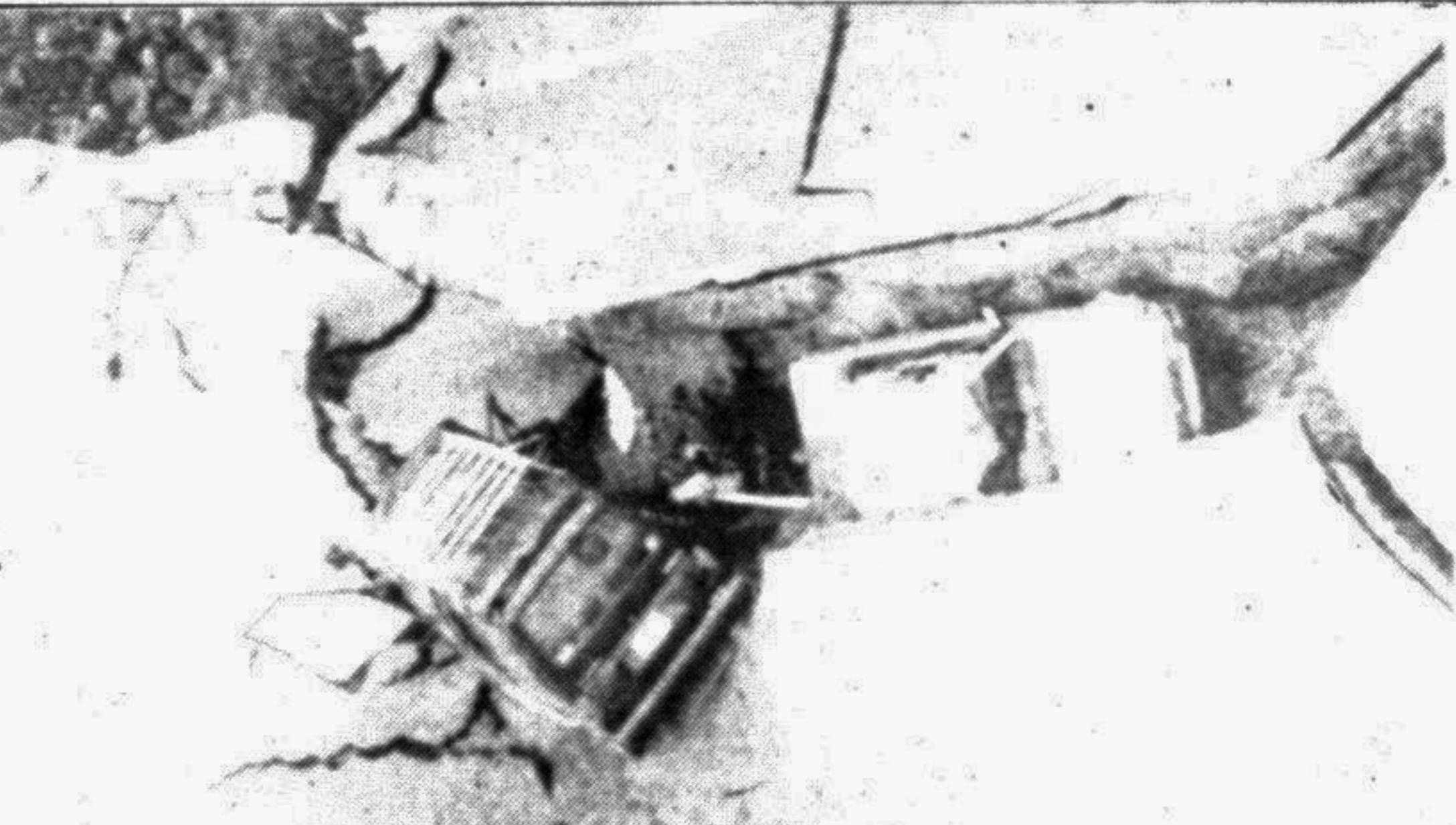
Israel's opening position was to offer Syria a phased withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for diplomatic and economic rela-

tions, but without any promise to give up all the land. The area serves as a military buffer and home to 13,000 Israeli Jews.

Christopher will travel to the Middle East this weekend, his fifth trip to the area since May, mostly to try to hurry a peace accord between Israel and Syria.

The two sides have been negotiating through their ambassadors in Washington, but Assad has refused to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin or to resume direct, formal peace talks.

As a result, Christopher has shuttled between Jerusalem and Damascus, carrying proposals and counterproposals. A senior aide said last Friday that there were still major gaps between the two sides' positions.



Cars fall in a crack on a road in Nemuro, in Japan's northern Hokkaido Prefecture yesterday near the epicenter of a strong earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale which struck Monday. Around 200 people were injured in the quake.

— AFP photo

## 4 killed in Paris shootout

PARIS, Oct 5: Three police officers and a taxi driver were killed and six other people, including two more police officers — were wounded in a bloody shoot out in the streets of Paris early today, police said, reports Reuter.

A man and a woman were in custody but were refusing to divulge their identities, police said.

The male suspect, wounded during one of two gunfights with police that took place during the night, was in hospital, a police spokesman said.

The shootings brought to five the number of police officers killed in France so far this year.

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