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# The Daily Star

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## Israel, Jordan sign draft peace accord

AMMAN, Oct 17: The prime ministers of Israel and Jordan initiated a draft treaty today after settling longstanding differences over water rights and borders, opening the way to full-fledged peace after 46 years of conflict, reports AP.

The accord comes nearly three months after a White House ceremony in which King Hussein of Jordan and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel agreed to end their state of war. Jordan will become only the second Arab country after Egypt to make peace with Israel.

It is the latest accomplishment in the 8-year-old US-mediated effort to broker an

end to decades of conflict in the Middle East. It gives a needed boost to the Middle East peace process at a time when Israel's relations with the PLO are strained and talks with Syria have not reached a breakthrough.

The treaty was expected to be ratified quickly by both sides.

The draft was initiated by Rabin and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali of Jordan at a ceremony attended by officials and journalists from both countries at Hashemiyeh Palace, 16 kilometers west of the capital, Amman.

Rabin said he hoped a full treaty would be signed by the

end of next week in the Middle East. He did not give an exact location.

In Jerusalem, Israeli state television said the ceremony would be held next Thursday, October 27, on the border between the two countries in the Arava Desert, north of the Red Sea.

US President Bill Clinton is likely to attend, diplomats said.

Hussein, whose government has cooperated for years with Israel despite their state of war, said the treaty heralded a new era.

"Hopefully, it is a fresh beginning and a fresh start," he said.  
See Page 12 Col 4

## PM stresses need for political stability

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday emphasised the need for maintaining political stability and a congenial investment climate to attract foreign investment in the country, reports UNB.

"We have the opportunity to bring in foreign investment, but we need to have a stable political environment favourable for investment," she said.

The Prime Minister was addressing a gathering of prominent persons from the Dhanmondi and Mohammadpur areas of the city at her Hare Road office yesterday evening.

Nearly 500 teachers, social workers, businessmen, students and religious leaders met the Prime Minister and discussed with her various  
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## Ninian continues parley

## Govt side explains its position on fair polls

Sir Ninian Stephen continued his pre-dialogue parley for the fifth day yesterday to find out a common ground to pave the way for the government-opposition talks to end the current political stalemate, reports UNB.

The date of the dialogue is yet to be fixed although the Opposition said it was ready to sit with the government on October 19.

Sir Ninian, the Commonwealth Secretary General emissary, had the third round of meeting with a ruling party delegation headed by Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury at the State Guest House Meghna yesterday afternoon.

The other members of the delegation were: Communication Minister Col (Rtd) Oli Ahmed, Information Minister Nazmul Huda, State Minister for Establishment Aminul Haq and Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain.

The meeting began at 5 pm and lasted one and a half hours. A senior ruling party leader said the government side clearly explained their position regarding the holding of free and fair elections.

They also said that the government would consider any suggestion from the Opposition to ensure free and impartial elections.

They pointed to the  
See Page 12 Col 8

## Wails silence wedding bells

From Monayem Khan  
COX'S BAZAR, Oct 17: "I am finished. I feel I'm dead."

Zafar Alam Chowdhury, the unlucky young man whose bridal party turned out to be a funeral procession when fate dealt a cruel hand Sunday, could hardly speak when the Deputy Commissioner and Police Super visited him at his

### Editorial on page 4

Matarbari village home on Kutubdia island today.

Unable to control his tears, the young groom who had set out to get married along with 170 of his family members, relatives and friends on a hired country-boat Sunday afternoon, sobbed uncontrollably and lamented his misfortune. A misfortune of the highest magnitude that befell him and his  
See Page 12 Col 8

## Kutubdia tragedy 19 more bodies recovered

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 17: Nineteen more bodies were recovered today, raising the death toll to 64 in Sunday's engine boat capsizing in the Kutubdia channel.

The search for others also faded drowned continued.

The boat carrying some 170 members of a bridal party sank in the channel of the Bay of Bengal Sunday noon. Thirty-  
See Page 12 Col 7

## Student stabbed to death in city

By DMCH Correspondent

A college student — Himu — was stabbed to death in the city's South Badda area early yesterday.

The unidentified killers brutally stabbed the 21-year-old student and fled leaving him in a pool of blood near his house at 123 South Badda, around 4 am yesterday.

Guishan police said, Himu was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared him dead.

Police believe, Himu, a first year student of the Government Titumir College, was  
See Page 12 Col 3

## Shantibahiniman killed in gunbattle

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 17: A Shantibahiniman was killed and another caught with a pistol during a gunbattle with a security patrol this morning in Lakkhichhari thana under Khagrachhari district, official sources said.

The gunbattle followed an ambush on a security patrol by Shantibahini men at 6 am today at Dighalchhari village under Lakkhichhari thana that left one of the security personnel injured, the sources said.

The injured was flown to Chittagong by helicopter and admitted the Combined Military Hospital. He received  
See Page 12 Col 3

## S M Ali's death anniversary observed

By Staff Correspondent

On the occasion of the first death anniversary of S M Ali, the founder-editor of The Daily Star, a milad mahfil was held at the office premises of the newspaper yesterday after Asr prayers.

It was attended by friends, relatives, admirers of late S M Ali and the staff of The Daily Star.

Munajat was offered for the peace and salvation of the departed soul.

## Court decision on Taslima Nasreen likely Thursday

By Court Correspondent

The Court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka is likely to decide Thursday if controversial writer Taslima Nasreen is to be charged under Section 295 (a) of the Penal Code for hurting the religious sentiment of the Muslims.

The court fixed the date for a decision in this regard after hearing both the prosecution and the defence yesterday.  
See Page 12 Col 3



Campaign during FBCCI polls in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

## FBCCI polls held amid great enthusiasm

By Staff Correspondent

The first-ever direct elections of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) were held amid great enthusiasm at the federation office in the city yesterday.

Out of 840 eligible voters 817 cast their ballots to elect a president, a vice president and 30 Executive Committee (EC) members — 15 each from the Association and Chamber groups. They will have a two-year tenure.

There are 132 associations and 55 chambers affiliated to the FBCCI, the apex institution of the country's trade bodies.

Polling began at 10 in the morning and continued till 4:30 in the afternoon with an hour's break for lunch.

Counting of votes, which began at 6:30 pm, was continuing at the time of filing this report at 02:30 am last night. According to election board of officials entrusted with conducting the polls, the final count of results for all the posts was likely to stagger until early this morning, perhaps seven or eight am.

According to the results of 426 Association ballots for the 15 EC posts out of the 598 cast, Mohammad Ali of the panel headed by presidential candidate BNP MP Redwan Ahmed had polled 215 votes. He was followed by fellow panel candidate AFM Fakhru Islam Munshi, a former deputy minister under Ershad, with 209 votes.

Independent Panel candidate Yusuf Abdullah Harun of the Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiners' Association had polled 204 votes, to be in third place.

Taher Sobhan, Niaz Rahim, Md. Amin Lasker, Abul Hossain and Fazlur Rahman — all from the panel headed by presidential candidate Salman F. Rahman of Beximco — followed with 167, 165, 162, 136 and 137 votes respectively.

Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury of Mirza Abu Mansoor's panel had 132 votes.

Abdul Hoq of Redwan Ahmed's panel had 121 votes. He was followed, in close contention, by panel colleagues  
See Page 12 Col 1

## Mob burns house of Haitian army chief's mother

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Oct 17: President Jean-Bertrand Aristide renewed his appeal for justice and reconciliation Monday, just hours after a mob burned the home of the new army commander's mother, reports AP.

The mob torched the house belonging to the mother of Maj Gen Jean-Claude Duperval after a false rumor circulated last Sunday that Duperval had tried to assassinate Aristide.

At least nine other houses and five stores also were burned in the city of Gonaives, including a house belonging to the grandmother of former junta leader Lt Col Michel Francois. A grain depot owned by the Brandts, one of Haiti's richest families, was looted.

Radio Signal-FM said US and Haitian soldiers arrested more the 100 people in putting down the violence in Gonaives.

The Violence illustrated the daunting challenge Aristide faces in bringing Haiti into a

new era of democracy. Aristide summoned Duperval to the National Palace on Sunday to discuss how to dismantle the military, including cutting the army roster by 80 percent.

As several hundred Haitians waited outside, unfounded rumors spread that the army chief had tried to kill Aristide. When Duperval left, the crowd yelled and angrily pounded on his car. Some in the crowd carried sticks and machetes, shouting, "Give us Duperval! We don't want the army anymore!"

A day after Aristide came home in triumph, violence Sunday marred his message of reconciliation and illustrated the challenge of putting Haiti's tragic past behind.

Two people were killed in the violence that began when two dozen vigilantes wielding machetes, clubs and rocks went from house to house in a Port-au-Prince slum, looking for members of a paramilitary

group known to have killed and brutalized Aristide supporters.

Led by a man with 'Lavalas' shaved into his head, the name of Aristide's popular movement, the vigilantes found a member of the Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti (FRAPH). Lorrreus Francois, and bloodied his wife's face as she told them to leave her husband alone.

A neighbor persuaded them to leave, but less than two hours later, witnesses said, Francois came outside and angrily whacked a machete into the first person he saw, a pull-cart driver named Jean, killing him.

Witnesses said the vigilantes came back, found Francois in his house and killed him with a single machete blow. They brought a Haitian army helmet and a uniform out into the street and set them ablaze.

Standing in the street, people  
See Page 12 Col 5

## Draft amendment to property ordn '82 okayed

The Cabinet yesterday approved a draft amendment to the Acquisition and Requisition of Immovable Property Ordinance 1982, reports UNB.

It also endorsed a bill for amending the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA) Act 1980.

The approval was given at the regular weekly meeting of the Cabinet held at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

## 'New provision in Finance Act contradictory'

By Staff Correspondent

'Bangladesh nationals who are non-residents will be seriously hit by the new provision in the Finance Act. Inflow of foreign capital will also be affected unless a suitable clarification is issued. This was stated by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce &  
See Page 12 Col 7

## Kashmiris to resist elections

NEW DELHI, Oct 17: The biggest Islamic political group in disputed Kashmir Monday vowed to thwart India's efforts to hold elections in the disputed state, reports AP.

The All Party People's Conference, an umbrella organisation of 32 pro-independence groups, instead demanded a referendum in the Muslim-majority state to determine whether people wanted to live under Indian rule or join with Islamic Pakistan.

The conference is seen as the political face of the four-decade-old separatist movement, which had been controlled by armed insurgents since 1989.

"The people will not allow any elections in the state," said People's Conference leader Abdul Ganil Lone.

In recent months, Indian officials have tried to open a political dialogue with the moderate Islamic groups in a bid to win them over and hold elections to the state legislative assembly.

On Sunday, the federal government announced a 7.5 billion rupee (dhs 242 million) financial package to rebuild schools, roads, bridges destroyed in the fighting between Muslim guerrillas and Indian soldiers, and new power projects.

It has also released several top rebel leaders, the latest being Shabir Ahmed Shah of the People's League party on Friday. Lone was among a group of leaders released on October 2.

On Monday, Lone reiterated a demand for a UN supervised plebiscite to determine whether Kashmiri Muslims wanted to stay in India or opt for annexation of their territory with Pakistan.

Pakistan, which claims Kashmir as its own, supports a plebiscite. India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir, which is now divided between the two nations by a ceasefire line.

## Sanitation campaign sweeps Barisal

By Masud Hasan Khan Back from Barisal

Md. Sultan Hossain now knows that poverty cannot be an excuse for not striving for a better life.

A small rice trader of Udaykathi village in Banaripara thana, Hossain and his five-member family have said 'yes' to a sweeping campaign across Barisal Division and started using a hygienic latrine.

A little deviation from the usual practice, though, the switch-over from an open latrine near a small canal running along Sultan's house, has ensured health for his family and his neighbours.

As the intensive campaign for safe drinking water and against diarrhoea continues, almost all the open latrines in Banaripara have vanished.

The open latrines hanging along the banks of the rivers and canals and the stench are no longer there.  
The result is remarkable

Some 2,48,098 hygienic latrines in Barisal division have helped bring down diarrhoeal deaths from 923 last year to 93 this year.

"Our forefathers were not right in setting up open latrines near the canals," said Sultan Hossain. "Their idea about safety and hygiene was superficial because they did not know that water spreads diarrhoea germs," he said.

"We now know that open latrines are bad for health. I have to have water from a tubewell and wash my hands with soap or ash on return from latrine or keep my home clean," said Md. Rubel, a boy of Bara Kasba village in Barisal's Gournadi thana.

This correspondent while travelling through the eye-cooling hamlets of Barisal district found high awareness level among the rural people  
See Page 12 Col 1



Campaign for construction of hygienic latrines in Banaripara.  
— Courtesy, UNICEF

## Australia dumps toxic wastes in India?

NEW DELHI, Oct 17: Greenpeace and other environmental groups Monday accused Australia of blatantly dumping toxic wastes in India and violating International conventions on the disposal of hazardous chemicals, reports AP.

Australia exports thousands of tons of lead, acid batteries, metal wastes and ash residues that are recycled under dangerous conditions in India, Greenpeace activist Ann Leonard said.

Workers in ramshackle workshops strip the batteries with their bare hands, which get burnt. Many workers are not aware that the chemicals can cause cancer and respiratory problems, she said. The waste chemicals often are dumped into the rivers.

The Greenpeace activist claimed at a news conference that Australia is trying to bypass the Basel Convention that bans the export of hazardous waste by industrialized nations

to poor countries from 1995 by signing bilateral accords.

"In suggesting that Australia is attempting to undermine international law, Greenpeace has got it wrong," a statement by the Australian Embassy in New Delhi said.

Two officials from the Australian government have flown to New Delhi to hold talks with the Indian government. Ms Leonard said. The Australian Embassy confirmed the arrival in New Delhi of the officials, but the Indian Environment Minister's office would not say if there was any meeting scheduled with them.

"We are outraged that Australia thinks it is outside this convention. We call upon Australia to disclose its plans to phase out hazardous waste," Ms. Leonard said.

"Australia's tour through Asia is clearly designed to explore ways to undermine the Basel ban, not implement it," she said.