=Intermational

Arafat, Netanyahu begin talks today

QUEENSTOWN, Maryland Oct 14: The secluded retreat with its lush gardens, leaves of autumn gold and flowing river is more appropriate for lovers than foes, reports AP.

But that is where Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will begin their talks on Thursday to try to produce agreement on security issues and the West Bank.

Unlike most of their meetings — many of them at a bleak border outpost in the Gaza Strip - Palestinian and Israeli negotiators will not have the opportunity to air their differences in public or wag accusing fingers in front of TV cameras. The media will be a safe 15-minute ride

away The Clinton administration has decided to keep the talks off-limits to the press to maximize chances for the summit's success. The 1,100-acre (440hectare) Wye River Conference Centers, owned by the nonprofit Aspen Institute, was chosen as the site of the meeting because of its remoteness from Washington — it's 70 miles (110 kilometers) away from the capital on Maryland's Eastern Shore — and its comfortable atmosphere.

It's a strategy that has worked before. In 1977, the Carter administration brought together Israelis and Egyptians to negotiate for about 18 months, in seclusion, the Camp David peace accords. In 1993 Israelis and Palestinians held secret talks in Norway that produced the Oslo accords.

Jerusalem.

the north.

Mexico City.

Palestinian parliament who

took part in the Oslo talks. Mustafa Khalil, Egypt's prime minister during the

where they stood at every point in the negotiations would've made it hard for them to back down and reach a compromise."

Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's former ambassador to Washington who participated in failed talks with the Syrians in 1996 at the same site, also known as the Wye Plantation, said it's better if the negotiators confront the public with a fin-

by the media interfering in the

Those talks failed, partly because of a series of bombings in Israel blamed on Muslim mili-

The talks this week face a similar problem. Netanyahu demanded that Arafat's Palestinian Authority do more to prevent terror attacks against Israelis and said no deal would

BRIEFILY

Forest fires rage in Israel: Forest fires raged for a fourth straight day in northern and central Israel on

Tuesday, temporarily closing a major highway and forcing

thousands of residents to leave their homes. AP says from

northern port city of Haifa and residents of three nearby vil-

lages evacuated the area, some for the second time in two days.

Hundreds of prisoners were evacuated from two large jails in

Gunmen kill 6 in Mexico: Gunmen have

killed six people and wounded another in a possible drug-

The latest round of violence in the border region occurred at

related hit in a poor neighbourhood of Tijuana, a Mexican town

about 3:30 am Tuesday in a southern Tijuana neighbourhood

Blast claims 10 in Mexico city: A

massive blast at a small fireworks factory in the outskirts of

Mexico City left at least 10 people dead and dozens of others

injured or missing Tuesday, authorities said, AFP reports from

Other sources said 16 people died in the blast at Tultepec

which prides itself as being the pyrotechnic capital of Mexico

because of the large number of home industries involved in the

2 DPRK soldiers defect to ROK: Two

North Korean soldiers walked across a mine-infested border

and defected to South Korea on yesterday, the Defence Ministry

on the US border, AP says from Tijuana, Mexico.

manufacture of fireworks — some illegally.

said, AP reports from Seoul.

called El Pipila. Two people were arrested hours later.

Fires in the Carmel forests blazed out of control near the

be signed on an Israeli troop pullback from the West Bank after an Israeli student was shot and killed Tuesday and another

ity, there is absolutely no chance, at this stage, of signing an agreement," Netanyahu said in a statement released in Jerusalem on the eve of his departure for the United States.

Israelis and Syrians at Wye offered an unprecedented opportunity for the two groups to live briefly under the same roof. Since the talks took place in the winter, the two sides were not inclined to take walks in the woods. But they had ample opportunity to fraternize in the library and living room and

"With the Syrians, there has been an absence for so long that the contact is very artificial and very difficult," said Rabinovich. "Just being together under the same roof, at dinner, was a big change and an important step forward."

ing this week at the plantation have a few advantages the Israelis and Syrians did not have. One is the presence of the decision-makers, which will save negotiators traveling and communicating back and forth to update their leaders and get

of walks in the woods."

WASHINGTON, Oct 14: Paula

Jones, saying President Clin-

ton's misleading testimony

about Monica Lewinsky should

sexual relationship with Mon-

relevant to the Jones case.

KINDU, Congo, Oct 14: Rebels

fighting to topple Congolese president Laurent Kabila held

the town of Kindu on Tuesday.

neutralising his army's forward

base and his last major

foothold in the east, reports

Rebel commanders and se-

nior loyalist military sources

in the capital Kinshasa said

that Kindu, with its strategic

airport and rail link to Kabila's

Katanga stronghold in the

south of Africa's third largest

The airport was firmly un-

Rebel commanders said that

der rebel control on Tuesday

government troops had surren-

dered at around 8 pm on Mon-

day after a week of heavy fight-

ing. Loyalists spoke of an or-

derly retreat in the face on an

attack by soldiers from neigh-

In the capital, government

and military officials privately

acknowledged the fall of the

city but played down its signifi-

nation, fell late on Monday.

afternoon.

bouring Rwanda.

Tuesday."

Militants kill 3 in Kashmir

rocket fired by separatist militants slammed into a police residential complex in Kashmir on Wednesday, killing at least two officers and wounding eight policemen. Another policeman died in an ambush nearby, and two were wounded, police said, reports AP.

The attacks occurred as India and Pakistan prepared for a round of talks beginning Thursday in Islamabad on their dispute over Kashmir, the Himalayan territory over which they have been fighting for 50

years. The rocket badly damaged two apartments in Surankot, a town in the Poonch district, 210 kilometers (130 miles) northwest of Jammu, said K Rajendra, a deputy inspector-general o police. He blamed the attack on Muslim insurgents.

US doctors treating war victims in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Oct 14: Six American doctors are treating Sri Lankan civilians wounded in the ethnic conflict, a US embassy spokesman said, reports

Sri Lankan radio said the doctors also were treating soldiers, and Health Ministry officials said the doctors were treating emergency cases without asking who the patient was.

"This is not a special visit, it is part of our global assistance program," said embassy spokesman Peter Claussen.

Milosevic noticed to withdraw troops fast

BELGRADE, Oct 14: Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic was under notice today to pull back his forces rapidly to avoid punitive air strikes NATO has suspended for four days to allow a peaceful solution to the

A last-ditch deal on Kosovo was welcomed by Yugoslav authorities and foreign governments for having averted any immediate prospect of risky military intervention and setting out firm steps for halting Serb Albanian violence in the region.

But the accord wrung from marathon talks between US envoy Richard Holbrooke and Milosevic stirred suspicion and dismay among some - especially Kosovo Albanians - by leaving some key issues unre-

Officials from NATO and the OSCE were expected in Serbia within days to flesh out a deal easing the imminent threat of NATO air strikes to halt Serb attacks on ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

NATO supreme commander,

Bronislaw Geremek, the current chairman of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), said in Stockholm he hoped to sign a deal with Milosevic on Friday

Holbrooke said the OSCE. Europe's security watchdog, would assemble an international team of 2000 "compliance verifiers," backed by NATO spotter planes, to ensure Yugoslavia observes its commitments to end its crackdown.

The deal, announced by Holbrooke at a news conference and by Milosevic in a televised speech, averted for now the imminent threat of NATO air strikes, authorised at a meeting in Brussels on Monday of NATO ambassadors, against Yugoslavia.

"The agreements we have reached remove the danger of military intervention against our country," Milosevic said in a nationally televised speech.

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said a political plan had also been agreed envisaging "free and fair" elections within nine months to set up an autonomous government in Kosovo, which has a 90 per cent ethnic Albanian majority. The Tanjug report set out an

next month for deciding details of the OSCE presence. Fundamental elements of

ambitious timetable over the

Kosovo's eventual status based on a big power contact group proposal, and electoral regulations.

agreement's clear tilt towards autonomy within Yugoslavia rather than outright independence for Kosovo, was swiftly condemned by the guerillas

while civilian opinion leaders heaped doubt on the accord. Bardhyl Mahmuti, Swiss based spokesman for the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA)

told Reuters "We insist on full independence. We cannot live with Serbia.

"We agree to a three-yeartransition period that would lead to self-determination. If Milosevic accepts this, that would be satisfactory to the KLA," he said.

In the Kosovo capital Pristina, Veton Surroi, an editor of the ethnic Albanian newspaper Koha Ditore, said: "The deal is not linked to a serious political negotiating process. It reinforces Milosevic's authority on the ground."

Reaction in Belgrade was also mixed, with some Serbs saying Milosevic had saved the nation's integrity while others thought he had sold out.

Dragan Tomi, Milosevic's socialist party high officials

country, he (Milosevic) brought us to the brink of war and was forced to give huge concessions," the Democratic Party

Saudi diplomat found dead in Australia

CANBERRA, Oct 14: The first secretary of the Saudi Arabian embassy in Australia has been found dead in a pool of blood in his apartment in the nation's capital, police and diplomatic sources said Wednesday, reports AP.

Australian Federal Police spokesman Eric Meyer said the man's body was found in an apartment in the inner-Canberra suburb of Kingston, close to Parliament House, late on Tuesday.

The Saudi embassy said the man was Abdullah Al Ghamdi, 54, who had failed appear at work Tuesday.

A colleague went to his apartment and found Al Ghamdi lying on the floor of the kitchen in a pool of blood, the embassy said in a statement.

"At this stage our city crime team is investigating, " Meyer

"It is still classed a suspicious because we have not established the circumstances leading up to the death. Police conducted a search last night and

Turkish-Kurdish clashes leave 52

VAN, Turkey, 14: Fifty-two people have been killed in clashes over the past two days in southeastern Turkey between government troops and Kurdish nearby Syria, Iran and Iraq, the Anatolia news agency said

Turkish troops killed 36 Kurdish rebels near the city of Van, 1.250 kilometers (781 miles) southeast of Ankara, the capital, while two soldiers and 14 village guards were killed in the clashes near the town of Catak, it said. Military officials were unavailable to comment.

and are a source of tension between Syria and Turkey, which accuses Damascus of sheltering and supporting them. The conflict has killed some 37,000 people.

commercial goes on air

KATHMANDU, Oct 14: Nepal's first private commercial radio station went on air today and was urged by Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala to play a role in the country's education and development, re;

Inaugurating Kantipur FM 96-1. Koirala said: "The ad-

station would broadcast 20 hours a day "suiting the latest technology, fully equipped transmitters and the most advanced broadcasting studios at its ideally located station in the Nepalese capital.

to work in Kremlin

MOSCOW, Oct 14: President

Yeltsin plans several working meetings throughout the day, the presidential press service said. It gave no other de-

Yeltsin's press spokesman, Dmitry Yukushkin, said Tuesday that doctors ordered the president to stay in bed and that

and running a fever.

Anwar released from ISA detention, moved to jail

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 14: Malaysian authorities Wednesday removed dissident leader Anwar Ibrahim from detention under the harsh Internal Security Act and shifted him to a regular jail on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur, reports AP.

Anwar, 51, was driven in a blue Pajero car crammed with policemen and flanked by outriders, eyewitnesses said. He still wore a neck brace that was prescribed by doctors after he alleged being beaten in police

Anwar's Sept. 20 arrest under the Internal Security Act, which allows indefinite detention without trial, has come in for sharp criticism, both from domestic rights groups and international organisations.

Because a court had refused him bail, Anwar will be held in the Sungai Buloh jail pending trial for 10 counts of corruption and illegal homosexual acts.

Since his arrest, Anwar had been held in a cell at the Bukit Aman federal police headquarters. Those detained under the ISA can be secluded from family and lawyers and held in a secret place.

A police spokesman confirmed that Anwar had been released from ISA detention. He curity when he organised a huge rally demanding Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's resig-

like other prisoners, will be allowed visits from his lawyers and family members. But he will not have any special privi-

Anwar, a former heir-apparent to Mahathir, was fired Sept. 2, accused of being morally unfit to lead. The two men had differed over economic policy. and Anwar has said Mahathir feared the deputy was a threat to his office.

brought to a court nine days later, badly bruised and with a black eye. He said police had beaten him until he fell unconscious on his first night of detention. He was advised to wear a neck brace after a medical examination.

His lawyers have repeatedly complained that they were being harassed by police and even interrogated about their role as defence attorneys. Until last week, lawyers were denied ac-

The High Court recently denied bail to Anwar, who faces



Iraqi women beating their breasts as a sign of mourning for the deaths of their children, which they blamed on the continuing UN trade sanctions on Iraq, during a demonstration on Tuesday outside the UNDP in Baghdad. - AP/UNB photo

Annan calls for cessation of

UN Secretary-General Kofi Ansation of all military activity in East Timor and a substantial reduction of the Indonesian military presence there, reports

Reuters. A statement issued through a UN spokesman said Annan was disturbed by rising tensions in East Timor, particularly reports of armed clashes in the former Portuguese territory and remarks attributed to local officials that apparently provoked large-scale protests in recent days.

Anti-Indonesian protests escalated this week after the Jakarta-appointed governor. Abilio Soares, told civil servants they risked being fired if they opposed Indonesia's proposals on granting autonomy. but not independence, to the territory

The United Nations does not recognise Indonesia's 1986 annexation of East Timor, but UN sponsored talks in August involving the foreign ministers of Indonesia and Portugal made progress toward finding an internationally-acceptable resolution of the problem.

The Secretary-General would like to underline that, in view of the important opportunities that have been created for

taking steps that could jeopardise or unnecessarily complicate the delicate efforts to find a just settlement to this longrunning dispute, Annan's spokesman said.

Typhoon Zeb hits Manila

Philippines with winds gusting to 295 km per hour plunging towns into darkness and ripping off rooftops, but there were no immediate reports of casualties, officials said, reports Reuter.

garao, capital of Cagayan province with about 110,000 residents, ordered families living near the banks of Cagayan river to evacuate, warning it might overflow, they advised others to stay indoors.

"Many trees have been uprooted, branches are flying around and we have had no electricity since this morning." Cagayan provincial administrator Rodolfo Ventura said by telephone from Guguegarao, 217 miles north of Manila.

both sides. be grounds to restore her dismissed lawsuit, has asked a fed-Meanwhile, a source knowleral appeals court to let her inedgeable about settlement talks corporate the argument in the between lawyers for Clinton case, reports AP. and Mrs Jones said dialogue be tween the two parties is at an Even though it's unusual to impasse while the Jones camp admit information that was internally debates how to divvy unavailable when a case was up any payment. dismissed, Clinton's denial of a

Clinton's misleading statement

in Lewinsky case should be

grounds to restore Paula's suit

ica Lewinsky left the case "tainted by perjury, obstruction of justice or other fraud," Mrs Jones' lawyers argued. "No fair-minded person" who reviews Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's findings "can fail to conclude that Mr Clinton lied under oath ... in this case and unlawfully interfered with Mrs Jones' efforts" to gather evidence, her lawyers ar-

Congolese rebels hold Kindu

gued in a brief made public Clinton's lawyers, in their reply, argued that the president's testimony last January denying an affair with the former White House intern was ir-The 8th US Circuit Court of Appeals, which holds oral arguments Oct 20 in St Paul, Minn

Mrs Jones has legal bills to

on Mrs Jones' appeal, lifted its

secrecy order on the Jones fil-

ing and most other legal briefs

that have been submitted by

cover - not only form her current attorneys at the Dallas law firm of Rader, Cambell, Fisher and Pyke, whose contingency agreement was for 40 per cent of any settlement or judgment, but also her former attorneys. Joe Cammarata and Gil Davis, who hold an dlrs 800,000 lien on the

The Oct 20 oral argument date in St Paul is considered a deadline for an agreement in the near future. But the source, who spoke on conditions of anonymity, said a dlrs 700,000 offer form Bob Bennett, Clinton's attorney, has languished on the table — "neither accepted rejected or countered" - as the other side negotiates among its

They have taken Kindu.

one senior military sources

who asked to remain anony-

mous, told Reuters," our troops

have withdrawn. They have

withdrawn in order. That's all I

Kindu provided the govern-

The town is also on the main

Senior government military

ment with a springboard to

launch air strikes against rebel

railway south to Lubumbashi

and Kabila's copper-rich home

officials told Reuters that the

fall of Kindu did not amount to

the end of the war, which has

pulled in at least six neighbour-

ing states who now have troops

in Africa's third largest nation.

Namibia sent troops to fight for

Kabila in August. Chand has

Zimbabwe, Angola and

can say now it's a war."

positions in the east.

province of Katanga.

President Clinton, accompanied by Maryland Lt Gov Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, left, and Sen Edward Kennedy, waves while attending an education event at Forest Knolls Elementary School in Silver Spring, Maryland, Tuesday.

Military exercise plan near border

Indian defence minister terms Pakistan's alarm 'uncalled for'

NEW DELHI, Oct 14: Indian Defence Minister George Fernandes said today that Pakistan's alarm over India's plan to stage military exercises near its border was "uncalled for," the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported, says Reuters.

PTI quoted Fernandes as saying in the eastern city of Patna that New Delhi had informed Islamabad of its plan to conduct war games and that Pakistan was considering a military exercise of its own later this month.

"We have already informed Islamabad, (which) is also contemplating an exercise later

this month," he said. On Tuesday a Pakistani for eign ministry spokesman said he was not aware of any plans by Pakistan to carry out its own

military exercises.

He said Pakistan was con cerned about India's exercises. and said New Delhi could be trying to spoil the climate ahead of this weekend's peace talks between the arch-foes.

"We are extremely disturbed by these reports, particularly by the reported nature, size and timing of the exercises," the spokesman told reporters.

"The timing of the exercises is also perhaps in keeping with the (Indian) tradition of attempting to vitiate the atmosphere before every round of

dialogue process broke down

over disputed territory of

talks," he said. PTI quoted Fernandes as saying that the exercise had nothing to do with this week's foreign secretary-level talks in Islamabad, the first since the

The report, quoting western intelligence sources, said the war games would be the biggest in over a decade and would be carried but in the Rajasthan desert and over the Arabian sea

by land, air and sea forces. Tensions on the Subcontinent have risen since May when India and Pakistan

out a series of nuclear tests.

Kashmir last year.

(soldiers) fit".

istan next month.

"It will not harm it," he said

"It is like an exercise we do for

physical fitness the army

has to do it to keep the jawans

planning a routine military ex-

ercise near the border with Pak

graph said on Sunday that In-

dia planned an exercise involv-

ing some 100,000 troops.

India said on Monday it was

Britain's electronic tele-

- AP/UNB photo

military action in E Timor

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 14: a resolution of the question of East Timor... it is incumbent on nan called on Tuesday for a ces- all parties concerned to avoid

> MANILA, Oct 14: Typhoon Zeb today hit the northern

Relief agencies in Tugue-

trade sanctions. It was the largest women's protest in Baghdad since the sanctions were imposed on Iraq in 1990 to punish it for invad-

Kabila accuses Rwanda and Uganda of invading in support of the rebels.

Iraq to delay cooperation

also sent troops.

with UN arms inspectors BAGHDAD, Oct 14: President Saddam Hussein and his top advisers decided Tuesday to delay a decision on resuming cooperation with UN weapons in-

spectors, the official Iraqi News Agency reported, reports AP. INA said the decision came at a meeting chaired by Saddam of the Revolutionary Command Council and the regional command of the Baath party.

The Iraqi leaders heard a report from Tariq Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister, who returned to Baghdad after meetings in New York with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. "It was decided during the meeting to resume the discus-

coming meeting," INA said. It did not say when this would be. The meeting here came as top UN weapons inspectors briefed the UN Security Council on the stalled arms inspections and UN efforts to determine whether Iraq loaded VX nerve

gas into missile warheads.

sion of these issues in a forth-

Earlier in the day, some 25,000 Iraqi women marched through the streets of Baghdad in a government-organized protest to express anger at UN

Iraq and the United Nations have been at odds over UN weapons inspections, which were mandated by UN resolutions following the 1991 Gulf War, which ended Iraq's sevenmonth occupation of Kuwait.

Iraq on Aug 5 announced that it was suspending cooperation with UN weapons inspectors. The UN Security Council retaliated by canceling its regular reviews of the trade sanctions.

sale of oil, its economic mainstay. The Security Council has said they cannot be lifted until the inspectors certify that Iraq mass destruction.

mestic affairs.

ment, INA said. The legislation also provides dlrs 2 million to fund Radio Free Iraq to broadcast anti-government propaganda.

The sanctions limit Iraq's custody.

has eliminated its weapons of The Iraqi agency said that at Tuesday's meeting, Saddam and his aides discussed "the flagrant American interference during the latest period in Irag's do-

The leadership was particularly angry at a decision by the US Congress to channel up to dlrs 97 million in military aid to opposition groups seeking to topple the Baghdad govern-

was arrested under the ISA for

posing a threat to national senation on Sept. 20. In a regular prison, Anwar,

After his arrest, Anwar was

cess to Anwar at police head-

trial beginning Nov. 2

quarters.

"Serious negotiations take place away from media spotlights. They focus on substance rather than slogans," said Ahmed Qureia, speaker of the

Camp David talks, said the format used at those meetings worked because the participants could not take their negotiations to the airwaves. "Announcing to the world

said Khalil.

ished deal. "There has to be secrecy in the sense that before you reach a breakthrough, you need to be able to make new decisions or change your mind without your own public or the opposition or your own partners who are fed

negotiations," he said.

wounded outside Jerusalem. "In light of this gloomy real-

The 1996 meetings between

over shared meals.

He said the two parties meet-

fresh instructions. "I'm doubtful that in four or five days of seclusion at the Wye Plantation everything will be finished," said Rabinovich. "But it's to the good, there's no question. I hope they'll have plenty

JAMMU, India, Oct 14: A

Kosovo crisis, reports Reuters.

solved.

Holbrooke, announcing a deal after nine days of intensive talks with Milosevic, said on Tuesday that NATO Secretary General Javier Solana and US General Westely Clark, the

would travel to Belgrade soon. Polish foreign minister

But the Holbrooke-Milosevic

and Serbia's parliament speaker, congratulated Milosevic, saying: "We are satisfied and happy that what we wanted has been achieved ... sovereignty of the state, territorial integrity and national dignity has been preserved."

But opposition parties, albeing irresponsible.

though supporting peaceful so-lution, criticised Milosevic for "With bad leadership of the

dead

will continue today."

rebels who sneak into the country from their bases in Wednesday, reports AP.

Kurdish guerrillas have been fighting for autonomy in Turkey's southeast since 1984

Nepal's 1st radio station

ports AFP.

vancement of science and technology should be applied to the development of the national economy. An employee told AFP the

Yeltsin returns

Boris Yeltsin, suffering from a respiratory infection that forced him to cut short a foreign trip, returned to work in the Kremlin on Wednesday, reports

he would not be in the office all

Doctors insisted on Monday that Yeltsin fly home from a visit to Central Asia day ahead of scheduled because he was suffering from an upper respiratory infection, was coughing

students are written on her face. - AP/UNB photo

A high school student shouts during a demonstration in

Rennes, France, Tuesday. Galvanised by a national show

of force, high school students again took to the streets

across France to protest crowded classes and to demand

better education facilities. The words 'angry high school'