

INTERNATIONAL

THE BATTALION

Bosnian peace talks halted by land boundary disputes

The Associated Press

GENEVA - Bosnian peace talks abruptly broke off Wednesday just as it seemed the warring factions were on the verge of a final accord on how to carve up the country.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic said the peace plan on the table failed to guarantee the survival of a future Muslim state. Other leaders accused Izetbegovic and his government of making unreasonable de-

The forces of death prevail," said Bosnian Croat leader Mate

"Unfortunately the war will continue," Croatian President Franjo Tudjman said as he left the meeting. Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said the collapse of the year-

long talks "could trigger the division of Bosnia" between the Serbs and

But Izetbegovic claimed the Croats and Serbs were unwilling to offer "most basic compromises," referring to their refusal to give the Mus-lims access to the sea and more land in northwestern Bosnia.

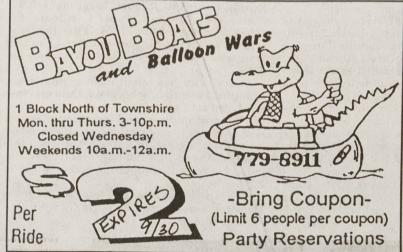
The minimum of minimums which we put before the conference would have allowed an economically and politically viable state," he told a news conference.

In Bosnia, meanwhile, state-run radio accused Croat fighters of us-ing Muslims as a human shield in an attack Wednesday in central Mostar, breaking an hours-old truce in the embattled southwestern city.

The attack could not be independently confirmed. Croat-Muslim fighting also flared in some parts of central Bosnia, said U.N. officials.

In Geneva, both Izetbegovic and Tudjman said they were willing to return to the negotiating table. But Tudjman warned that a peaceful set-tlement would now take "weeks if not months."

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic said he still held out hope that the current peace package would be signed.



World News Briefs

Children find dinosaur egg

PERTH, Australia (AP) – Government officials struck a deal Thursday with three children who found a foot-long fossilized egg, which they hid af-ter being barred from selling it to a foreign collector for \$102,000.

Jamie Andrich, 9, and two cousins gave officials the egg after Western Australia state government promised to set up a fund to raise up to \$109,000 for the children's education.

The money is to be raised from donations solicited at the Western Australia state muse-um, where the 2,000-year-old egg will be displayed.

Jamie and his cousins – Kel-ly, 8, and Michelle Rew, 6 – found the egg in a sand dune while on vacation in January at Cervantes, about 155 miles north of Perth.

Troops kill three hostage takers

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) - Government troops attacked rearmed rebels holding 200 hostages, killing three fighters and freeing the cap-tives Wednesday, the army said.

It was the second major hostage-taking in weeks by rearmed former fighters from the country's bitter civil war. Demobilized rebels and soldiers are bitter over the government's failure to deliver promised land and aid.

The latest crisis began Tues-

day night when former San-dinista soldiers seized 200 people — all civilians — riding in 20 vehicles bound for San Ramon village, 90 miles northeast of Managua, the army said.

The Interior Ministry said former Sandinista soldiers demanded to talk with Organization of American States monitors of the Nicaraguan truce accord and with the government's Special Disarmament Brigades, which are trying to get both sides to lay down their weapons.

Israel, Jordan work for treaty

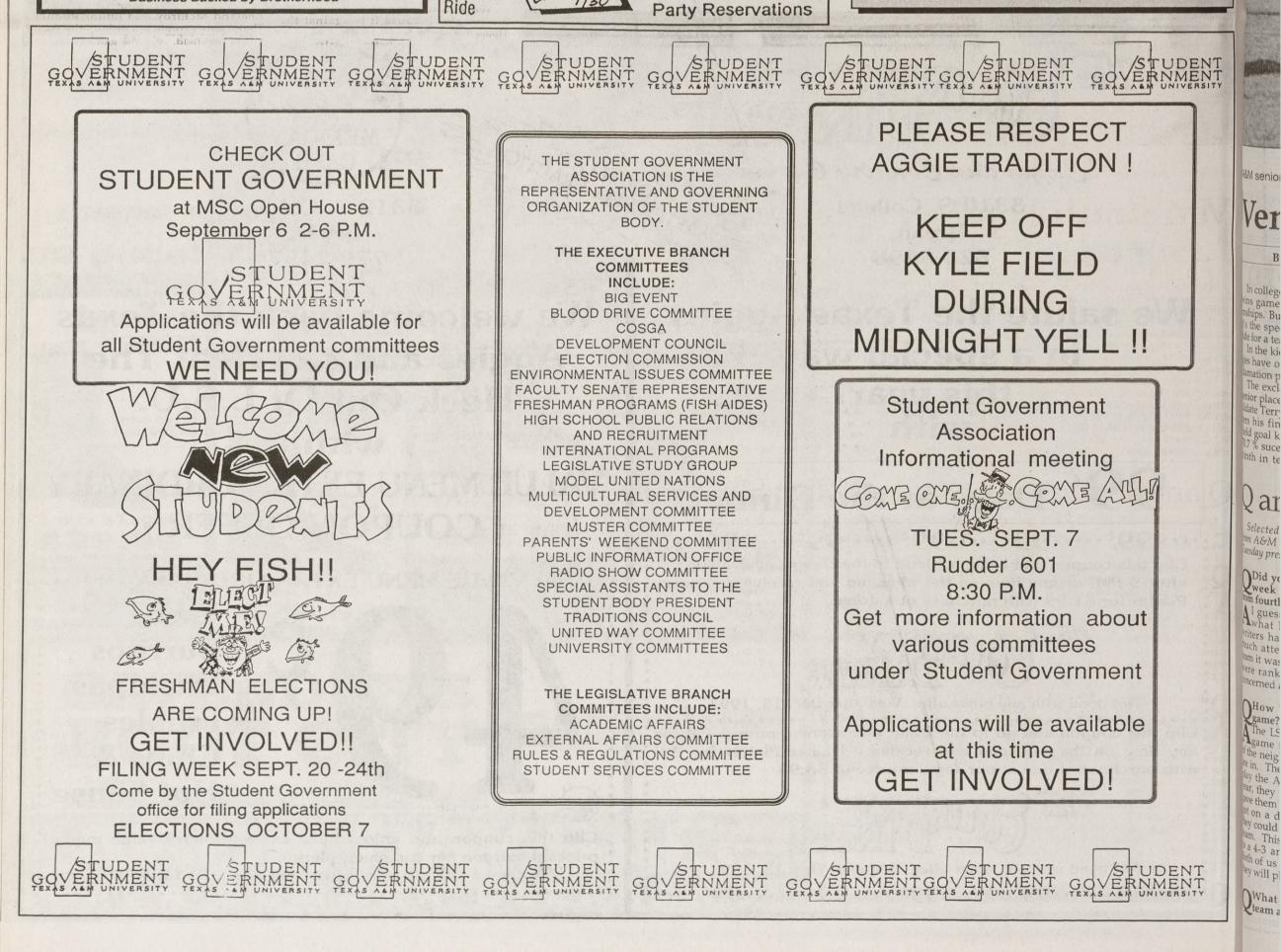
AMMAN, Jordan (AP) -Jordan is close to concluding a 'statement of principles" with Israel that would mean progress toward an eventual peace treaty between the na-tions, officials said Wednesday. Such a declaration would be the second major breakthrough in Middle East peace talks since they began 22 months ago. Israel's Cabinet has ap-

proved an accord to give limit-ed self-rule to Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

The Palestine Liberation Organization's largest faction was expected to announce a decision on Thursday.

Nonetheless, both sides ex-pected the accord to be signed, and their progress may have created momentum elsewhere.

Jordan's King Hussein has repeatedly said he would not make peace with Israel except as part of a comprehensive Arab settlement.



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