

# Hussein makes historic visit Aspiring capital marked by liberalism

JERICHO, West Bank (AP) — Jordan's King Hussein made his first visit to the West Bank on Tuesday since losing the territory to Israel in the 1967 Middle East War, and pledged support for Yasser Arafat. "My brother Arafat and I are a team," the Jordanian monarch said.

With the historic visit — the first by an Arab leader to the autonomous enclave — Hussein also signaled his public acceptance of Palestinian rule in the West Bank and put more pressure on Israel to accelerate the pace of the peace process.

"I am happy to be on Palestinian land," the monarch declared, standing shoulder-to-shoulder with Arafat at a news conference in the West Bank town of Jericho. Both leaders wore checkered Arab headaddresses.



## Historic visit to West Bank

Before the Mideast war in 1967 the West Bank was a part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Tuesday's visit from King Hussein of Jordan marks the first time an Arab leader has visited a self-ruling Palestinian area.

In a veiled warning to Israel, Hussein said he and Arafat would cooperate closely to ensure that the Jewish state's new hard-line government keeps promises made in peace agreements with the Palestinians.

"I will do all I can to help complete the peace process," the Jordanian king said. "God willing, we will see realization of the goal ... the establishment of an independent Palestinian state."

Hussein and Arafat have had a troubled relationship. By letting the Palestinian leader play host Tuesday, Hussein was also tacitly acknowledging his own role as a visitor to the West Bank, over which he once ruled.

Israelis have been shocked in recent days at the harsh criticism of their government by Hussein, who has become one of Israel's closest friends since the two countries made peace in 1994.

The unexpected royal trip comes at a critical stage in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on an Israeli troop pullback from the West Bank town of Hebron. U.S. mediator Dennis Ross has been pressing the two sides to wrap up an agreement quickly, reportedly before the U.S. presidential elections on Nov. 5.

Under the agreement between Israel's previous government and the Palestinians, Israeli troops were to have pulled out of 80 percent of Hebron, remaining only near Jewish settler enclaves.

A key sticking point Tuesday was Israel's demand that its troops be permitted to pursue suspects into Palestinian-controlled areas. Israel also wants to retain control over building and planning in

areas where Jewish settlers live. Israeli officials have said agreement was near.

But Arafat said Tuesday that the Hebron talks were deadlocked. He proposed that U.S. troops help patrol the city in order to allay Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's concern for the safety of the 450 Jewish settlers who live there amid 94,000 Arabs.

Netanyahu's office dismissed the idea, and U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry said on Israel's Army Radio that it "is not under active consideration."

In 1988, a year after the outbreak of the Palestinian uprising, the monarch renounced claims to the West Bank in a speech on Jordanian television, saying it was up to the Palestinians to determine their own fate.

By coming to the West Bank now, "the king shows Jordan's full support for the Palestinians on our own ground," said Assad Abdel Ruhman, a member of the PLO executive committee.

The king has maintained strong ties to the West Bank, paying the salaries of Palestinian teachers, judges, lawyers and Muslim clerics. In 1994 and 1995, Israel handed a third of the West Bank and two-thirds of the Gaza Strip to PLO rule.

In their peace treaty, Israel acknowledged Jordan's special role in administering the Muslim holy sites in east Jerusalem, but Arafat appointed his own chief cleric in direct rivalry with the one named by Jordan.

Jordan has since said it sees itself as a guardian of the holy sites until the Palestinians have established sovereignty in east Jerusalem.

MAZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan (AP) — It is as colorless as the Central Asian desert it borders. Its economy trembles like the electricity in its shops and homes. Yet Mazar-e-Sharif is one of Afghanistan's most attractive cities — and a place where Afghan women can walk about freely.

With Kabul in ruins and in the hands of militant Taliban Muslims, the remote northern city aspires to be Afghanistan's other capital.

Mazar-e-Sharif is the headquarters of Gen. Rashid Dostum, the warlord who rules northern Afghanistan and is key to the national struggle for power. Compared to Kabul, 190 miles away, it is a bastion of liberalism.

The Taliban have told women in the Afghan capital to stay home, and have closed schools for girls.

In Mazar-e-Sharif, the streets and bazaars are crowded with women. Many of them still observe Afghanistan's Islamic tradition by wearing a burqa covering them from their feet up to the mesh screen across their eyes.

But not everywhere. At Balkh University, young women shed their burqas when they enter the gates, revealing fashionable but modest dress, shoes with raised heels and faces liberally made up with lipstick, rouge and mascara.

The different style of Mazar-e-Sharif has nothing to do with prosperity. Aid workers say this town, like everywhere else in war-ravaged Afghanistan, has no institutions that really work. Unemployment is high and the local currency is virtually worthless.

Still, the city of 2 million shows none of the physical scars of the civil war that reduced

Kabul to heaps. Social customs, such as allowing women to study, recall Kabul before the Taliban takeover.

Life in the city — and its few paved streets — radiate from the sprawling green-tiled shrine of Hazrat Ali, the son-in-law of the prophet Mohammed.

Taliban leaders say their rules regarding women, including forbidding foreign women to drive cars, are in keeping with the tenets of Islam. Other Afghans argue that Islam demands that women be educated, respected and treated fairly.

At Balkh University, 35 percent of the 6,000 students are women, who study alongside men, said university director Ehsatullah Hameed.

"Education for men and women is the same," he said.

The Taliban's control of Kabul — as well as two-thirds of the entire country — has unsettled

many women here.

Belquis Hakimi, an engineering student, was ready to go to school, saying she would never be able to work in the hostile environment outside Mazar-e-Sharif.

In this tribal and ethnically divided culture, Dostum, who belongs to the ethnic Uzbek minority, is unlikely to head an Afghan government. But he is trying to establish himself as a lawmaker from this northern province, 190 miles from Kabul.

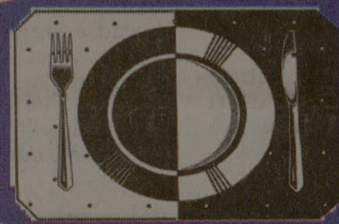
With a constant flow of electricity bought from nearby Uzbekistan, Mazar-e-Sharif is the envy of Afghanistan, even though the power fluctuates from dim to bulb-bursting brightness.

But at dusk, the streets fall dark and silent, with no cheery signs and no nighttime shoppers or diners.

That may be the time it is most like Kabul.



## TRY THESE TASTE-TEMPTING



## DINING & FOOD SPECIALS

**Nutritec Sport Supplements**  
4341 Wellborn Rd. next to Barracuda Bar (EXTREME)

**ARE YOU READY TO BUILD A NEW BODY?**

**\$2 OFF Semester Specials \$2 OFF**

Creatine-300 GM.-\$29.99 Myoplex-20PK.-\$38.99  
Designer Protein-2LB.-\$28.99 MET-Rx-20PK.-\$32.99

**260-5418**

**Cowboy Burger**

1/2 lb. of hand pattied, lean ground beef, with spicy mustard & mayo, lettuce, tomato, pickles, and red onion. You get your choice of white, or whole wheat, bun, and your choice of tea, soft drink, or 16 oz. Domestic Draft & french fries.

303 University  
Downtown College Station, TX.  
846-8806

Free Live Music every Thursday & Saturday in the Beer Garden

**\$3.25** + Tax  
Valid Any Time

Large groups welcome  
Dominos, Darts, Pool, Shuffleboard & Foosball

**FULL MEAL SPECIALS ONLY \$2.99**

OFFER VALID FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Special includes:  
6" sub, potato salad & 32oz drink

Pick the sub you like best:  
Italian, Ham, BLT, Salami, Hot Pastrami, Seafood or Tuna

**THUNDERCLOUD SUBS**  
Fast, Fresh & Healthy

**Randall's Center**  
607 E. University  
691-2276  
next to Marco's

**Albertson's Center**  
2205 Longmire  
693-6494  
next to The Cork

**BUY ONE ENTREE, GET SECOND ENTREE FREE.**

(Second entree must be of equal or lesser value. Coupon value up to \$7) Valid anytime except Fri. & Sat. after 6 p.m. Not valid with special lunch menu or other entree specials. Dine in only. One coupon per table.

**Marco's MEXICAN RESTAURANT**

607 E. University Drive • 846-5333  
Exp. 10/30/96

**SUBWAY**

**GOOD AT ALL 9 LOCATIONS**

- 330 George Bush Drive • Parkway Square
- Woodstone Center • 3601 E. 29th St.
- Northgate Store • University Drive
- Post Oak Mall • 2500 Texas Ave., Bryan
- 100 N. Main (Downtown Bryan)
- Texas at Deacon (Now Open)

**FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE**  
Receive Free one 21 oz. soft drink and one bag of chips with purchase of ANY of our foot long sandwiches at regular price. Limit one coupon per customer, per visit.  
Not good with SUB CLUB CARD or with any other discounts. Expires 12/31/96.

**Mr. Gatti's**

Campus Location Only

**2 Lunch or Dinner Buffets for \$7.99**

Includes: Soft Drink or Tea

Coupon must accompany order. Not valid with any other offers. Dine-in only. Expires 10-31-96  
107 S. College • 268-8888

**Mr. Gatti's**

Pick Up Special

**One Free Medium Pepperoni when you purchase One Large Deluxe Pizza**

Coupon must accompany order. Not valid with any other offers. Carry-Out only. Expires 10-31-96  
107 S. College • 268-8888

**LAYNE'S**  
of College Station

"Soon to be famous Chicken Fingers!"

"Soon to be famous Chicken Fingers!"

**Buy one plate, get second one for \$2.00 with purchase of two soft drinks dine-in only.**

Mon - Sun. 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
Checks accepted  
Coupon expires 12/1/96