One killed, 11 seriously injured

Fresh Indo-Pak duel on Line of Control

JAMMU, Feb 24: Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged heavy weapons fire on the line of control dividing Indian and Pakistani-held Kashmir, leaving one dead, an Indian Defence Ministry spokesman said here today, reports AFP.

The spokesman said initial reports indicated one Pakistani had died and 11 troopers on both sides were seriously injured in the shooting, which crupted Sunday night in the Kirin sector of the line some 250 kilometres (155 miles) from here.

He said the artillery and heavy weapons duel on the sensitive line, where the two armies are within site of one another started when Pakistani troops crossed the frontier digging new and began trenches.

Indian troops objected, the spokesman said without claborating, and the Pakistanis re-

sorted to indiscriminate firing and shelling without any provocation from the Indian

The Indians then retaliated with full strength, he said, adding that the exchange con-

The spokesman attributed the higher number of casualties on the Pakistani side 'one dead and six seriously infured as compared to five scriously injured on the Indian side - to the Pakistanis who were digging being easy tar-

Exchanges of fire frequently break out on the line of control in Kashmir, over which India and Pakistan have fought two

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training Kashmiri separatists on the Indian side, charges which Islamabad de-

Kiwis hope

From Page 1 Col 8

champion and co-host Australia in its tournament opener on Saturday. It has a huge advantage in playing all eight of its first round matches on home soil. New Zealand captain Martin

Crowe said his team was keen to become the first to post two victories, but was not overconfident. "Every game has had a bit of

a twist to it. None of the games are going to be easy at all, Crowe said.

"We know if we can win tomorrow, then we've got a bit of a head start, considering the draw. So it's a really important match for us.

New Zealand is expected to recall pace bowler Danny Morrison, while Shri Lanka probably will be without its key strike bowler Rumesh Ratnayake, who has a shoulder

The Shri Lankans also are aiming for a second straight victory following their win Sunday over Zimbabwe.

No matches were scheduled Monday and the New Zealand-Shri Lanka contest is the only match slated for Tuesday.

South Africa, the only team to have not played a match, begins its World Cup campaign on Wednesday against Australia in Sydney.

Australian coach Bobby Simpson said his team was not panicking after the loss to New Zealand.

"It's possible a team could lose four games and still reach the semifinals depending on how the other results go, so

US visa renewal

procedures

simplified

By Staff Correspondent

has simplified the visa renewal

procedures for those who have

visited the country within the

third country nationals who

have visited the US and abided

by the terms of the visa will

now have to submit their pass-

ports at the Window No-1 in

the Embassy's visa section be-

tween 10-30 am and 12-00

noon for renewal on any

however, meant for the first-

time visa applicants, students

visa applicants or those who

have not seen to the US during

Mideast talks

From Page 1 Col 5

the past year.

The new system is not.

working day except Tuesday.

Those Bangladeshis and the

past year

The US Embassy in Dhaka

there's absolutely no reason to panic at this stage," Simpson

Stand-in Pakistan captain Javed Miandad, meanwhile, said his team regarded the two-time champion West Indies as one of the teams to beat following the West Indies' 10-wicket victory over Pakistan in Melbourne on Sunday.

"The way they batted and bowled, they have a very good chance," Miandad said.

West Indies captain Richie Richardson said he was equally confident about his remoulded team.

"We have the right combination to win the World Cup and if we play to our potential, we should have a good chance," Richardson said.

Pakistan next plays Zimbabwe in Hobart on Thursday, with the West Indies playing England in Melbourne on the same day. The West Indies must wait

to see whether opener Brian Lara has recovered from an injury to his big toe. Lara, normally a middle-order batsman. made 88 runs as an opener against Pakistan. Lara, a valuable utility player, will have to undergo a fitness test on Wednesday, team manager Deryk Murray said.

"In one-day matches you have to be flexible, and having a player like Lara, who can bat in more than one place, is an asset," said captain Richardson.

The nine-nation championship continues through

Berlin's bait to get rid of foreigners

BERLIN, Feb 24 : Berlin Municipal authorities have offered to pay 10,000 German marks (6,075 dollars) to foreigners who agree to return home, officials said, reports

To be eligible, immigrants must be aged over 45, to have been unemployed for a year and to have lived in Berlin for at least two years, the city delegate for Toreign workers Barbara John, said

In 1988, the year before the Iron Curtain fell in Europe, then West Berlin counted 246,500 foreigners, or 12 percent of the total population. Their number has since in-

creased steadily. Since the breaching of the Berlin Wall in November 1989. and unification less than a year later, former East Germans have also flooded the citys job

market. Hasina

She urged the people to

Presided over by Kotalipara

Thana Awami League President

Hemanta Kumar, the meeting

was also addressed by Sheikh

Mohammad Abdullah and

Ohagra Bazar to see the devas-

tation caused by fire which en-

gulfed some 100 shops and af-

fected about 200 small shop

government help to the af-

She called for immediate

Hasina assured the affected

people of help from her party

Earlier, Ilasina visited

tion-free society.

Habtbur Rahman.

keepers.

feeted people.

some analysts said the talks might even collapse. From Page 1 Col 7 "I envisage the Palestinians citizenship."

perhaps getting up and walk-The Awami League chief ing out to precipitate a crisis said "the freedom fighters of and force the United States to this country will defend naintervene, " said Robert Satloff tional independence and of the Washington Institute for sovereignty with the last drop Near East Policy. of their blood and will not tol-Faisal Al-Husseini, Chief crate any conspiracy by any

Adviser to the Palestinian team quarter". told Reuters on Sunday that Dwelling at length on sociothe United States should economic' scenario, Ilasina clearly and publicly voice its called for supply of agricultural opposition to Israel's settleinputs at low cost to increase ment policy. production in farms and fields He said Washington should for ameliorating the condition

bring about a total freeze of settlement building by cutting the more than three billion strengthen the Awami League dollars a year in US aid to to take forward the movement Isracl. for establishing an exploita-

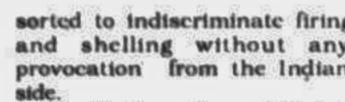
Earlier story on page 5.

Food aid From Page 1 Col 7

Community (EEC) and World Food Programme (WFP) attended the meeting.

Officials said prospects for additional food aid for canal digging programme appeared very bleak in view of the donors' interest in meeting the growing demand for food from the East European coun-

Food aid to Bangladesh has been on the decline in recent years.



tinued until early today.

City dwellers protesting imposition of VAT and rise in gas price for domestic use yesterday. BNP meet to be stormy

From Page 1 Col 7 come under scrutiny.

Party sources say indications have been given to the MPs so that they keep a low profile and allow other leaders of the party to discuss the issues.

Talking to this correspondent. Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, the Secretary General of the party, said that the meeting would decide the date of the National Council which will be sometime in mid-April after the Eid-ul-Fitr. if everything goes well."

Referring to council sessions at district level. Talukder said "We are yet to hold council sessions of 20 district committees and these will be done

Explaining the 'restive mood' of the party leaders and work ers. Talukder said for nine years "they fought against the autocratic rule and after the victory they individually feel important. This sometimes creates problem. In addition there are new people joining the ranks of the party who also expect something in return. In some cases it becomes difficult to handle these aspirants."

When asked about the failure of the party in organising itself, Talukder said, 'one of the main reasons is the lack of a office space at national level." Talukder indicated that the party would soon shift its head

office from the present site lat Dhanmondt) and in course of time we will acquire a piece of land for our office.

When his attention was drawn to speculations about a reshuffle of the Cabinet, the BNP Secretary General did not rule out the possibility and said that four or five new faces might be inducted and some portfolios might be interchanged.

Party sources say some thorny issues like the party's relationship with Jamaat-e-Islami, the leadership position of Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury in the party and the controversial Prevention of Terrorism Bill will be hotly debated in the

Sources further say a group of party leadership feels that the influence enjoyed by Prof Chowdhury should be legalised by inducting him in the Cabinet. However, sources close to Prof Chowdhury say he is not interested to hold a Cabinet post as it would have a telling effect on his role as the Deputy Leader of the House.

The meeting is also expected to review the results of recently held union parishad elections. There are conflicting reports about the party's position in the winners list. According to party sources.

young turks of the party are aggrieved at the way the govcrnment is handling the issue of Golam Azam. Nevertheless, they have not questioned the understanding of the party with Jamaat-e-Islami.

Party leaders apprehend that the leadership will have to take a defensive position on the proposed Prevention of Terrorism Bill. The bill was not discussed in parliamentary party meeting before it was sought to be introduced in the House and the incident caught the MPs unaware. The bill was not even discussed in detail in the Cabinet meeting, according to a source.

Some of the district leaders who arrived in the city for the meeting on condition of anonymity say, they have received adverse reaction even from their supporters and sympathisers. Explaining the position of the party on the bill Talukder said, "the bill has already been referred to the Standing Committee on Law and Parliamentary Affairs. The decision of the committee will be final in this regard."

Sources close to the party chief Begum Khaleda Zia say that she would emphasize on the organizational aspect and believes that it is high time to give the party a sound footing.

Chhatra Moitree presses for Golam Azam's trial

Star photo

By DU Correspondent Speakers at the annual conference of the Bangladesh Chhatra Mottree (BCM) Dhaka University said that no one could stop the public trial of

Golam Azam in the peoples court on March 26. The conference was held in front of the Kala Bhaban Monday with Shamimul Islam Shimul, President of DU unit in the chair.

Jahanara Imam inaugurated the conference while United Communist League General Secretary Bimal Biswas Workers Party Acting General Secretary Haider Akbar Khan Rono. Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal G S Khandawker Ali Abbas and BCM President Noor Ahmed Bakul, G S Ragib Ahsan Munna, former BCM president Jahtruddin Swapan, addressed.

Jahanara Imam in her speech said that the Jamaat Shibir force had raised its head because all the government after the independence war had contributed to its rehabilitation.

Rono also urged the government to implement the students' 10-point charter of demand immediately.

Indian budget

From Page 1 Col'4 ing reforms which persuaded the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to bail India out of a debt crisis last year, adds Reuter.

"Changes have been made in industrial, fiscal and trade policies," the President said of Rao's decision last year, forced by crisis over the country's 71 billion dollar foreign debt, to slash red tape, devalue the rupee and cut state spending.

This process of change will continue and will have to be extended to other important sectors of the economy," he

Voicing "grave concern" over inflation, running at around 12 per cent annually. he said the only way to keep prices down was to curb the fiscal deficit, the true measure of how much the government is borrowing to meet its spending needs.

A far-right Hindu nationalist and a dissident left-winger defying his party's boycott, created uproar as they yelled protest and ruling Congress Party members tried to shout them down.

Government pledges to chop state spending and slim down or close loss-making public sector industries helped Rao win four billion dollars in IMF loans last year.

Few political analysts expect opposition parties to make serious attempts to bring down Rao when the budget is announced on Saturday, preferring to let him ride the likely popular backlash against the measures. The reforms offer opposi-

tion groups plenty of openings for populist protest, with the Hindu right and their arch foes on the left accusing Rao of selling India's sovereignty to the IMF and favouring rich entrepreneurs over the many poor.

Venkataraman's speech gave only a vague outline of likely budget measures and touched only indirectly on the

programme of retaining and redeployment will be taken up, for which necessary funds will be provided," prompting shricks of disbelief from the hecklers.

The Midnight File

Beant Singh named next Punjab CM

CHANDIGARH, Feb 24: Beant Singh, a 70-year-old veteran Sikh politician, was unanimously elected Punjab Congress party leader in the state legislature today. He will become the troubled Indian state's next chief minister. 'My first endeavour will be to bring peace to Punjab and bring misguided youth to the mainstream," Singh told reporters after his election by fellow Congress legislators, reports Reuter.

De Klerk announces referendum

CAPE TOWN, Feb 24 : President FW de Klerk announced today a crucial all-white referendum on South African Democratic reform will be held on March 17. In a statement, he said three million white voters will be asked: "Do you support continuation of the reform process which the state President began on February, 1990, and which is aimed at a new constitution through negotiation?," reports Reuter.

Closer link among CHT people start SAARC state teachers stressed

The present government is endeavouring to introduce a new education policy to promote education reflecting people's hopes and aspirations.

State Minister for Education Principal Mohammad Eunus Khan said this while opening a two day meeting of SAARC teachers leaders in the city Monday, reports BSS.

He said the government was aware of the problems faced by teachers and students in the academic arena and was pur suing pragmatic policies to solve these problems and promote a mass-oriented sys tem of education.

in this connection, he referred to the steps taken by the government in introducing compulsory primary education Khan emphasised the need for fostering a strong solidarity

among the teachers in the SAARC region. The inaugural session was presided over by Quamruzza man, President, Bangladesh Teachers' Association. Gurnam.

was present on the occasion. The meeting is being at tended by representatives from India, Nepal, Pakistan, and host Bangladesh.

Singh. Regional Assistant of

IFFTU to Asia and the Pacific.

Honecker hospitalised

MOSCOW, Feb 24: Former East German leader Erich Honecker left the sanctuary of the Chilean Embassy on Monday and was admitted to a Moscow hospital to undergo medical treatment, a hospital spokeswoman said, reports AP.

Raisa Tikhomirova, the duty nurse at Botkin hospital, said Honecker was admitted to the hospital that caters to foreign diplomats and business people Monday morning.

long march towards capital today

Tribals and non-tribals of the country's three hill districts will start a long march towards the capital today (Thursday) to protest Shantibahini atrocities, reports

They assembled at the district headquarters of Khagrachhart, Rangamati and Bandarban Monday on their way to Chittagong to stage a demonstration near the local press club today before taking on the march towards the capital.

The long march, organised by National Coordination and Peace Council of Chittagong Hill Tracts, will culminate into a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka.

Shamir From Page 1 Col 4

housing units in settlements or in annexed east Jerusalem this year and "there is another 1,000 which will be under construction soon."

Sharon, speaking before American Jewish leaders in Jerusalem, said Israel started 22,000 to 23,000 units in the occupied territories or east Jerusalem since 1990, including 13,500 last year.

The US government has said Israel must freeze settlement construction in the West Bank and Gaza Strip if it wants to obtain dirs 10 billion in US loan guarantees for immigrant absorption.

Washington considers Jewish settlements an obstacle to Middle East peace. Some reports say it also wants to limit construction an east Jerusalem, which Israel declared annexed after its capture in the 1967 Mideast war but which the United States considers occupied territory.

Bangladeshi Night at Hotel Abakash

To celebrate Tourism Week Parjatan presents two separate programme on February 27, under same roof.

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Have a taste of authentic Bangladeshi cuisine from a galaxy of dishes prepared by our chef from 7-30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Venue: Hotel Abakash Restaurant Price Tk. 280/- per person (Child under 12 years Tk. 200)

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For booking please contact: Tourist Information Centres at

Parjatan Head Office

 Dhaka Sheraton Hotel Phone: 509479, 863391. 861191/566 Phone: 315001/4137

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327842, 325155-9

83-88 Mahakhali C.A. Dhaka. Phone: 607085-9 BANGLADESH PARJATAN CORPORATION National Tourism Organization D.F.P(BA) 1365-19/2/92

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Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman (right) meets Italian Prime Minister Guilio Andreotti at Palazzo Chigi in Rome yesterday. In the centre an interpreter.

100 shops gutted in Gopalganj

GOPALGANJ, Feb 24: More than 100 shops were gutted in a devastating fire at Shagarabazar in Kotalipara upazila here at early hours Monday, reports

Witnesses said, grocery, stationery and other shops of the only bazar in the Sadar upazila were gutted by the fire, said to have originated from a hotel

Local people brought the fire under control after a three and half hour battle. UNO Rokonuddin Ahmed

said the extent of loss was yet

Presentation on the

to be ascertained.

Flood Action Plan The Ministry of Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control made a presentation on the country's Flood Action Plan at the International Conference Centre in city Monday night. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, ministers, state ministers and deputy ministers attended the presentation ceremony. Minister M Majedul Huq gave an outline on the action plan, reports

RU administrative function resumes RAJSHAHI, Feb 24: The

administrative function of the Rajshahi university resumed today after an amicable settlement of the issues between the leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the university authorities, reports UNB.

Campus sources said the JCD leaders unlocked the offices of Vice Chancellor, Pro Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Proctor, and Accountant, Rajshahi University Central Students Union (RUCSU) at about 10-30 this morning.

They came to the decision

when the Vice Chancellor of the University assured them that he would announce the date for RUCSU elections by March 7 and dissolve the present body of RUCSU. Earlier, the JCD leaders -Harun-ar Rashid, Babul Akhter

Bablu, Masud Khandker, Mehdi

Ahsan and Biplob, met the

Vice Chancellor at his resi-

dence. The JCD leaders, however, in a press release this evening said they will be compelled to announce fresh programme on March 8, if their demands are not met.

Ittefaq unions deplore students' statement

-AFP photo

By Staff Correspondent

Journalists and employees of the daily Ittefaq in a statement Monday contradicted the statement of several student leaders and 25 activists published in a section of newspa-

Union of Journalists (DUJ), the Ittefaq Karmachari Union and the Ittefaq Workers Union termed the statement of the students "unfortunate". It said that a certain owner of the daily was engaged in

deep conspiracy to deprive the

A joint statement from the

Ittefaq unit of the Dhaka

journalists, employees and the press workers of their due wages and allowances by using the students to go for a confrontation with them. The statement of the student leaders and the activists was biased and fabricated and was not expected from the

said the statement of the jour

of Ittefaq.

nalists and the press workers

conscious student community.

most sensitive issue --what to do with redundant workers if and when the government reforms the massive public sec-He merely reiterated that 'a

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