Off the Record

The Daily Star 5

Kuwait, Iraqi police trade gunfire

KUWAIT. Mar 5 : Kuwait and Iraqi border police exchanged intermittent gunfire near the border post at Abdali, a Kuwaiti newspaper said Friday. There were no reported injuries, says AP.

The daily Al-Anba said firing started from the Iraqi side Wednesday evening, when what appeared to be tracer bullets flew around the Abdali police station.

The Kuwaitis returned fire and the shooting stopped.

Firing started again early Thursday, this time in the direction of a Kuwaiti farm, the newspaper said.

Abdel-Latif Khabbaj, spokesman for the UN Iraq Kuwait Observer Mission that monitors the border, could not immediately confirm the inci-

It was the first border incident reported since January,

to retain Pawar in Delhi reconsider the decision NEW DELHI, Mar 5: The Kalmadi said that the memo-Prime Minister, PV Narasimha randum was presented to the Rao, yesterday rejected the

evening by a delegation of MPs Sharad Pawar to retain him in Delhi and said the decision to led by him. Kalmadi quoted the Prime send the Defence Minister to Minister as saying that from Maharashtra was not intended now onwards, Pawar would be to cut him to size, reports PTI. "twice helpful to me" by head-"There is no question of ing Maharashtra for ensuring Pawar not going to the new asstable administration and signment. My intention is not strengthening the party. "He to cut him to size. On the will also be available to me in other hand his stature would

Delhi," Rao said. Another report from Bombay says: Sharad Pawar will be formally elected as the Leader of Maharshtra Congress-l Legislature Party today paving the way for his taking over the Chief Ministership of the state for a record fourth time.

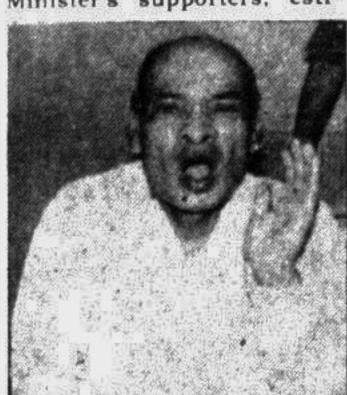
Prime Minister yesterday

Pawar, who returned here vesterday after a 20-minute meeting with the Prime

Minister, PV Narasimha Rao said he will be sworn-in as Chief Minister of the state on

Rao rejects dissidents' demand

Saturday. A last minute effort was made by the Defence Minister's supporters, esti-



Narasimah Rao mated to be around 104 MPs including former ministers

Buta Sigh Mamta Banerjee and Dr Chinta Mohan, to persuade the PM to retain his service in Delhi but in vain.

Sources close to Pawar said that he had agreed to go back to the state keeping in view the wider national perspective.

Speaking to reporters Pawar said he had not made up his mind about the size and shape of the cabinet and he will not go to the capital to discuss it with the Prime Minister.

It would be formed in two stages, in consultation with MPCC-I President, Shivajirao Deshmuxh and CLP, and only a few ministers would be sworn in along with him on March 6, he said.

He succeeds Suddhakarrao Naik who bowed out last week amidst controversy over his handling of the communal riots in the Megapolis.

which views Taiwan as a rene-

Emergency in Zambia

LUSAKA, Mar 5 : The Zambian government Thursday imposed a state of emergency in the southern African country amid reports of a covert plan by the former ruling party seeking to oust President Fredrick Chiluba, reports AFP.

In a brief radio and television broadcast, Chiluba said the move was necessitated because "the threat to our young democracy is real."

Pointing to the influence of foreign help," he also announced that relations with Iran and Iraq would be re-

The political stability of the democratic system has been poisoned and if left unattended the consequences will be great ... hence I am using by continuation of powers to invoke a state of emergency with immediate effect," he said.

The move comes in the wake of a covert plan by the former ruling United National Independence Party (UNIP) leaked to the press last week.

China protests Clinton's remark on Taiwan

BEIJING, Mar 5: Taking note of a reference by US President Bill Clinton to Taiwan as a country, China has delivered a rap on the knuckles and asked him to watch his words, reports PTI.

Clinton made the reference in the course of a rambling discourse at American University on February 26. He had also referred to Los Angeles as a country in that

At a news briefing here yesterday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Li Jianying took note of Clinton's remark, expressed 'regret' over it and voiced the hope that "such a thing will not happen again."

To call Taiwan a country runs counter to the Sino-US joint communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations, in which the United States recognised the government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legitimate government, the spokesman

Clinton welcomes Carter in White House

WASHINGTON, Mar 5: Former President Jimmy Carter, the last Democrat to occupy the White House, was welcomed back to his old digs Thursday by President Bill Clinton, reports AFP.

The two met privately to discuss the administration's battle against inner city poverty and government bureaucracy.

When questioned about the closed-door nature of the meeting. The White House denied that Clinton wanted to avoid being photographed with the former president whose 1977-81 tenure has been widely considered a failure.

Muslim writers regret UNESCO DG's statement

TEHRAN, Mar 5: The Association of Muslim authors and artists here in a letter to Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Federico Mayor voiced regret and astonishment over his recent statement in support of Salman Rushdie, reports IRNA.

The writers in the letter regretted that the UNESCO chief had made the remark on the 4th anniversary of the late Imam Khomeini's Islamic edict against one of "the most hateful and miserable human beings" thus insulting one billion plus Muslims and rather the followers of all divine religions.

Further addressing Mayor, the Muslim writers and artists termed the move as "shameful" and wrote that by making such a statement 'you unveiled the face of an organisation which for years had tried to establish and justify itself among the Third World countries."

Chuon Touch, 24, said he moved to Yei Ath because the Khmer Rouge offered each refugee family five acres (two hectares) of farmland. The village has become a buffer between the army and Khmer Rouge fighters, however, and rumors of imminent shelling

"It's not safe here," said Chuon, who was sawing wood to build his house. The soldiers

are fighting every day in this "I thought the UN had es-



SAN FRANCISCO: Edward Mark Bulawan sits in his mother's lap at Fort Mason during a news conference on Thursday. Bulawan is one of some 8,600 Philippine children allegedly fathered by US servicemen that are named in a 70 million dollar lawsuit against the US government - AFP/UNB photo

Children fathered by US servicemen file suit

SAN FRANCISCO: Children fathered by US servicemen in the Philippines filed suit against the US government on Thursday seeking dollar 68 million in aid for their education and health care, their lawyer said, reports Reuter.

The suit, by three children of Philippine mothers and US servicemen and one of the mothers, was filed in the US claims court in Washington DC, Attorney Joseph Cotchett told a news conference in San Francisco.

It is a class-action suit which seeks educational assistance and medical care for an estimated 8,600 Amerasian children living in the Philippine town of Olongapor city.

The town adjoins the former US naval base of Subic Bay which housed a thriving 'rest and recreation', industry for US servicemen until the United States withdrew from the base last November.

Many children were born out of liaisons between Filipino women who worked in local clubs and bars and US servicemen who paid them for sex. Most were then abandoned by the fathers.

Raid on child pornography

MIAMI: Federal agents raided 40 locations around America on Thursday in the first crackdown on a worldwide computerized child pornography ring linked to computer bulletin boards' in Denmark, US, Customs said; reports AP.

The raids in 15 states from Florida to Washington may also lead to discovery of US pornographic bulletin boards, said William Rosenblatt, chief of the US Customs Service in Miami. "Its not only the largest operation in US history, I want you

to know it the first", he said. "It involves the high-tech exchange of child pornography -basically what we have here is a bunch of computer perverts."

ditional magazine formats among pedophiles, he said.

Jews can't dress up as Saddam Hussein

JERUSALEM, Mar 5: A debate has been sparked in Israel after a senior Rabbi ordered that Jews cannot dress up as Saddam Hussein, skeletons and Arabs during the Jewish carnival of Purim, which takes place on Monday, reports AFP.

Mordechai Eliahou, the outgoing Chief Rabbi of the Sephardic Community of oriental Jews, issued a decree Wednesday ruling out certain carnival costumes during the Purim, saying they violated Jewish reli

Among them, he said,

public works enterprise, according to members of their

up as skeletons was disrespectful to the remains of the dead. But unlike Eliahou, he had said that Saddam costumes do not violate Jewish religious law although "dressing up as the

Eliahou, who will be replaced by Chief Rabbi Eliahou Bakshi Doron in April, did not explain all the reasons for his

But he stressed that dressing up as Arabs was 'risky' in an apparent reference to a fatal incident which happened at last

Third century old Greek

statue unearthed

2nd or 3rd century BC was unearthed by farmers in Iran's southern Bushehr province. Tehran television reported

ure was in the shape of a falcon's head, and measurer 35 centimeters (13.7 inches) in length.

The artifact was discovered by farmers in Tan Khandaq, in Burshan township, the report said.

2nd or 3rd century of the Hellenic period, which spanned from the late 8th century BC to the death of Alexander the Great in the year 323 BC.

Iran, or what was then Persia, was invaded by Alexander the Great in 334 BC.

Greek temple once stood on the site, the report said, adding that archaeological digs are planned in the area.

Chief Minister.

demand of supporters of

go up," Rao told a group of MPs

who met him to press the de-

mand for reconsidering the

decision to send Pawar as

Kalmadi, MP and a close asso-

ciate of Pawar, claimed that

104 MPs including former

minister Buta Singh, Mamta

Banerjee, Shantaram Potdukhe

and Chinta Mohan had signed a

memorandum urging Rao to

Stating this, Suresh

Aristide slates US policy: Ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide criticized US policy toward Haiti on Thursday but held out the hope that he and President Clinton could set a "date certain" for restoring democracy to his homeland, reports AP from Washington.

Aristide said it was a "big contradiction" for the United States to prevent Haitians from fleeing the island nation while allowing foreign vessels to deliver oil to the coup government. Those shipments have been a key factor enabling the regime to survive, he said.

Aristide also said the US embargo against Haiti, imposed 17 months ago, is not strict enough.

'Mercenaries hired to kill Savimbi': The UNITA rebel movement accused the Angolan government

Thursday of having hired five South African mercenaries to assassinate its leader, Jonas Savimbi, reports AFP from Paris. In a statement issued by the French Representative of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), rebel spokesman Jorge Valentim said that the

Savimbi has his headquarters. Valentim gave the mercenaries surname as: Borman, Buys, Gerber, Renens, and Olivier.

Luanda government had taken the mercenaries from Namibia

to Huambo, the embattled town in the central Angola were

Polls in Solomon Islands May 26: Voters in the Solomon Islands will go to the polls on May 26, the Electoral Office announced Friday, reports AP from Honiara.

The South Pacific island country is currently ruled by a national unity government headed by Prime Minister Solomon

Analysts said a main issue will be its troubled relationship with neighbouring Papua New Guinea

Relations have been strained by a four-year secessionist uprising on the Papua New Guinean is and of Bouquinville adjacent to a sea border with the Solomon Islands.

65 Thai women held in Tokyo: Police raided a cluster of bars called Little Bangkok, north of Tokyo on Thursday night and arrested 65 That women who they said were working as hostesses without proper visas, reports

Reuter from Tokyo. A police spokesman said on Friday that the women, in their late teens or early 20s, had entered the country on tourist visas. They were taken to the Tokyo immigration office

to await deportation. The spokesman said it was one of the largest such operations of its kind in Japan. Two of the owners of the six bars in Little Bangkok in Ibaraki Prefecture were also arrested.

Fresh clash in Lebanon: trantan-backed guerillas and pro-Israeli militiamen fired mortars and 155mm howitzers at each other Thursday, carrying fighting in south Lebanon into a fourth week, reports AP from Marjayoun.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in the exchanges between the fundamentalist Hezbollah, or Party of God, and militiamen of the South Lebanon Army, according to security forces.

Two Katysha rockets fired at Israel after the artillery exchanges ended crashed harmlessly on the border, the sources Hezboliah fired at positions in the central sector of Israel's

"security zone" in south Lebanon and the militiamen, said the sources, who could not be identified in line with standing

24 drowned in Lake Victoria: At least 24 people are feared to have drowned after a canoe they were travelling in capsized in Tanzanian's section of Lake Victoria on Monday, the official Tanzanian news agency, Shihata, reported on Thursday, AFP says from Dar Es Salaam. The agency quoted northwestern Kagera regional police

chief Christopher Moshi as saying that the ill-fated canoe was packed with more than 50 people, including mothers and their children. Only 26 people managed to swim ashore and rescuers

were still trying to recover missing bodies of the victims, Moshi added Israeli arrested in Jerusalem: An Israeli

man was arrested Thursday in the fatal shooting of an elderly Palestinian, but the suspect claims the killing was an accident, police said, reports AP from Jerusalem. Witnesses to the shooting, however, said the man emerged from his vehicle after it was stoned in Arab east Jerusalem on

Tuesday and chased Jumah Abdel-Aziz Misk, 74, shooting him in the head. The suspect was expected to be charged with manslaughter on Friday. Misk, who used a cane, was returning from Ramzan holiday

prayers at Jerusalem's al-Aksa mosque. The 32-year-old suspect, whose name was not released, told police he got out of his car to warn off stone throwers by firing his pistol into the air, police spokesman Shmuel Ben-

Taiwan to buy 10 French subs

TAIPEI, Mar 5: France is planning to sell 10 submarines and other weapons to Taiwan, a move which could further provoke Beijing, a long-time rival of the island, the local

press reported today, says AFP. The mass-circulation China Times said France might sell Agosta Class submarines currently in service with the French, Spanish and Pakistani

The paper, quoting unnamed defence industry sources, said Taiwan wants to buy 10 submarines and France is also considering selling Taiwan the latest MU-90 torpedo system and SM-39 antisubmarine missiles.

The Agosta Class submarine, between France and Beijing, first built in the mid 1970s, is a diesel-electric vessel with a gade province and forbids dived speed of 20 knots. The most other countries from boats, which can patrol for 45 days, have four torpedo tubes and are capable of firing French-made exocet anti-ship missiles.

France signed a contract with Taiwan in November to sell 60 Mirage 2000-5 Fighter Jets, which subsequently let to Beijing's freezing of several contracts with France and the closure of the French consulate in the southern city of Guangzhou.

Any sale of submarines is expected to increase tensions

forging ties or selling arms to the island. The nationalists lost the

civil war to the Chinese communists and were driven off the mainland in 1949. Since then, they have persistently sought foreign weapons to increase their defence capabili-Taiwan has recently failed

to obtain submarines from the Netherlands and Germany, which both backed away from selling arms for fears of damaging relations with China.



AUSTRALIA: The leader of the Conservative opposition, John Hewson (L) shakes hands with the public during a rally which was attended by some 6,000 people in Adelaide on Friday. The rally was held on the tenth anniversary of the Labour Party coming power in Australia, a legacy Hewson said would end with the general election on - AFP/UNB photo. March 13.

Brother of China's last emperor hospitalised

BEIJING, Mar 5: China's imperial survivor, the 86-yearold brother of the last Emperor, is in hospital, officials said today, reports

Reuter. Officials at the Beijing Union Hospital gave few details of Aisin Otorro Pu Jie's illness. One said it was "old age" and not serious and others

hung up the phone when asked for information. An officials of the Public Health Ministry said special government permission was

needed to discuss the case. Pu Jie, younger brother of China's last emperor and once heir apparent to the throne of the Japanese puppet state of Manchukuo, was last seen in public in October when he met Emperor Akthito, the first Japanese monarch to visit

China. Pu Jie was schooled in Japan and is married to a member of its aristocracy. His eventful life saw him by turn prince, prisoner of war, traitor and now retired

SEOUL, Mar 5: President Kim Young-sam, a dissident under decades of rule by gencrals, has quickly set his ad ministration apart from the

military-dominated regimes, reports AP. He reached outside traditional power circles to include college professors and many women in his Cabinet. He removed steel barriers from the street in front of his office, and

is said to laugh out loud at meetings and serve simple noodles to honoured guests at the Blue House, the presidential mansion. The question remains

whether the first civilian government in three decades can stamp out corruption, the single largest obstacles to meaningful political and economic reform. Bribes and payoffs are an

to get children into elite primary schools. "We have let misdeeds and

ROK steps to change

military-style admn

corruption pervade our society," said Kim in his first speech. The country today is clearly not the land of morality that our ancestors envisioned. The 65-year-old Kim, a

nine-term legislator and a longtime dissident, was inaugurated February 25 to a fiveyear term. He was the first non-military president .in 32

He became the first head of state to reveal his personal worth, 2.2 million dollars announced, "I have not received a penny since the presidential elections and I will not receive money from anyone during the next five years."

Kim reportedly replaced the majestic carved chairs in the Cabinet room with plain would be demolished.

accepted way to get things done in South Korea. Millions of dollars are spent to grease the palms of bureaucrats for permits, bank loans and even

unupholstered ones. He invited the press to visit 12 luxurious "safe houses" in the presidential compound and said they

Cambodians still think with nostalgia of their Thai days while breast-feeding her baby held by May, but the radical

army and Khmer Rouge has made some Cambodians who waited years to return home think with nostalgia of their former refugee camps in Thailand, reports AP. Chan Sein, a single mother of four, says she feels vulnerable under the sheet of blue

SANG RANG (Cambodia)

Mar 5: Fighting between the

plastic, held up by tree branches, that has been the family refuge since artillery fire demolished her parents' home in December. It is in a sea of plastic and straw shelters along a road at

Sang Rang, nearly 200 miles (320 kilometers) northwest of Phnom Penh, the capital. UN officials estimate that 10,000 Cambodians, 900 of them returned refugees, were forced to evacuate the area in and around nearby Bavel in December.

Chan and her family fled with half a sack of rice, a cow, cooking pots, clothes and the sheet of plastic, settling along the road with other evacuees. She said she could hear atleast 20 shell explosions a day from Bavel and had begun to yearn for the dismal site 8 refugee camp where she spent eight

"I did not expect there to be any fighting here," she said

under a burning midday sun. "I. was told the four factions had agreed on a peace plan."

But Annick Roulet, spokeswoman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said all 375,000 Cambodian refugees in Thailand were told of the instability and had clamored to get out of the camps nonetheless.

Cambodia's four factions the Victnamese-backed government and three rebel groups - signed a peace plan in October 1991 to end 13 years of war. It authorizes UN peacekeepers to stabilize the country so elections can be Khmer Rouge has refused to At the beginning of this

year, government soldiers conducted their biggest offensive in northwestern Cambodia since the peacekeeping operation began in March 1992. UN officials said the troops had forced an undetermined num ber of retugned refugees to carry their ammunition and help fight the Khmer Rouge.

Despite the conditions. repatriation is considered onc of the most successful parts of the UN effort, with 280,000 refugees returned in about 10

sale parts of the country, reunited with relatives. She said it was normal for those in Bavel, the only place where refugees had been displaced by fighting, to think back to the Thai camps. "It was safer in Thailand

than here because there was no fighting in the camp," Chan said If the UN agency would take her family back there, she said, "I would like to go." Some of the 1,600 refugees

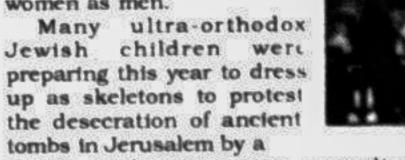
living in Yei Ath, a village controlled by the Khmer Rouge about 25 miles (40 kilometers) away, expressed similar feel-

are common

tablished peace in Cambodia, so I agreed to leave the camp. am angry because there is still fighting in Cambodia.

Computer transmissions are quickly taking over from tragious laws. Jews cannot dress up as Saddam in particular or Arabs in general, nor can Jewish men disguise themselves as women and Jewish women as men. Jewish children were up as skeletons to protest the desceration of ancient tombs in Jerusalem by a





Former Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren had ruled that dressing

executioners of the Jews, such as Hitler" was clearly out.

year's Purim.

NICOSIA: An ancient Greek statue, dating as far back as the

Thursday, says AP. The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said the marble fig-

It said engravings on the side of the figure pointed to the

The discovery lent credibility to rumours that an ancient