TUNIS, Apr 10: The Palestinian delegation to Arab-Israeli peace talks will visit Washington for "consultations" ahead of the next round of negotiations planned for April 20, a top PLO official said, reports AFP.

The consultations "should be in mid-April," according to Jamil Hilal, the head of the Information Department for the Palestine Liberation Organization, which instructs the Palestinian peace delegates.

Palestinians Faisal Husseini and Hanan Ashrawi visited Washington at the end of March but said they had been unable to resolve all the issues blocking the resumption of the peace talks.

The talks were suspended over Israel's mass expulsions of Palestinians in December.

Washington has invited Israel and the Arab parties to attend the ninth round on April 20,



German Defence Minister Volker Ruehe (L) and Foreign Minister Klans Kinkel hold a joint press conference in Bonn on April 8 commenting on the ruling of the German federal court to authorise Germany to join the NATO mission to enforce the 'no-fly' zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina. Kinkel's Free Democratic Party had brought a suit to the court against a cabinet decision to join the NATO mission arguing that the move was illegal while Ruehe's - AFP/ UNB photo Christian Democratic Union had backed the move.

Good Friday battle claims 34 in Lanka

COLOMBO, Apr 10 : The-Shri Lankan military today claimed to have killed at least 14 Tamil Tiger guerillas to raise to 34 the death toll in a Good Friday bloodletting in the island's northeast, reports AFP.

Security forces had "confirmation" of at least 14 deaths among the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who stormed a bunker line in the Weli Oya region Friday.

An officer and 18 soldiers died immediately in the attack, while one more soldier died in hospital overnight Friday to raise military losses to 20, a spokesman said.

He said intelligence reports and intercepts of LTTE radio communications showed that Tiger losses included a captain, two lieutenants and six second lieutenants.

Troops retaliated using helicopter gunships, a fixed-wing bomber, tanks and artillery guns, the spokesman said.

200 more Islamic militants held

The Good Friday massacre was the worst single loss suffered by security forces this year. The attack also belied government claims that Tigers were unable to carry out major attacks in the northeastern re-

Last Christmas eve, suspected LTTE gunmen wiped out 42 soldiers in the same region carrying out a similar raid on army posts and a group of soldiers who were engaged in a anti-rebel operation.

Tigers have also been often accused of turning Good Friday to black Friday with massacres of soldiers or civilians in the

The LTTE is leading a violent campaign to establish an independent Tamil homeland in the Island's northern and eastern regions where the country's two million Tamil minority is concentrated. Thousands have died in the fighting.

Off the Record

'He is unlike anybody'

WASHINGTON: Hillary Rodham Clinton says she liked her future husband, President Bill Clinton, from the start "because he combined an absolutely extraordinary mind with a huge heart", reports AP.

In a magazine interview recalling her early days with Clinton, the US first lady said "what I learned quickly was that he was unlike anybody I'd

ever met - and still is." Mrs Clinton, who backed conservative Republican Sen. Barry Goldwater for president in 1964, said she still regards herself as a conservative.

"I would characterize the way I was raised and the way l still am as being conservative in the true sense of the word, not in the kind of radical, ideological, destructive way that term is often used," she told Parade magazine in its issue to be

"I was raised to be selfreliant and to be responsible but to know that I was part of a larger community to which

She talks at length about the importance of personal responsibility, declaring it "at the root of any kind of social structure, including the family." And she added that "we have not done a good job in expecting people to exercise their

for feminists?

DURHAM (North Carolina): Masako Owada's decision to set aside her career and marry Crown Prince Naruhito poses a potential setback for Japan's feminists, a Japan expert said her Friday, reports AFP.

on a past track which has been extremely hard to do for women in the past 10 or 15 years," said Andrew Gordon, a history professor at Duke University.

ily," he added.

Japanese media had used Owada's decision to leave the Foreign Ministry to marry Naruhito to play up the wisdom of remaining outside the job market, said Gordon.

her eventual role as empress, Gordon replied.

"I just have an impression that the mechanism is so strong and confining that it's going to be very very tough, I have a

Harvard in 1984, seemed shy and unsure of herself then, but was intelligent and ambitious in finding information for him,

could also offer hope to Japan's slowly growing university "Another possible message is that men should not be afraid

to marry intelligent women," said Gordon.



Female religious devotee Gracia Jumaquio, 26, is nailed on a cross by a man dressed as Roman centurian on April 9 marking Good Friday. Three women and two men here crucified in Paombomg, north of Manila, as part of this traditional bloody Lenten ritual which re-enacts Jesus Christ's crucifixion. It was the sixth time Jumaquio, a

Security force for school

NEW YORK: New York city, the biggest city in the United States, will improve its school security while dealing with increasing serious problems in this aspect, reports Xinhua. According to the New York Times today, there were 1,880 assaults and 388 robberies reported last year, compared with 1,356 assaults and 186 robberies in the 1989 school year.

The Times said that the city's schools Chancellor Joseph A. Fernandez has called, in a proposal, for changing the city's force of 3,000 school safety officers into a better-trained, better educated department modelled in many ways on big city police departments.

For the first time, each high school would have a security force headed by a safety supervisor who would be a security professional not an educator, the newspaper reported.

The Chancellor also recommended the issuance of photo identification cards for all high school students that can be read by machines at school entrances and perhaps be used in a new electronic fare card system that is to be introduced in

1.72 lakh Yeltsin will not resign if he loses April 25 referendum The Congress also set up

China to buy 21 B-737 planes: The Chinese government will order 21 B-737 planes for three of its airlines at a cost of some 800 million dollar, Boeing reported Friday, AFP says from Seattle.

China Xinhua Airlines, Zhongyuan Airlines and Xinjiang Airlines ordered 20 B-737/300 planes and one B-737/200 plane, Boeing reported.

Boeing said it had already delivered 125 aircraft to China but there are still unfilled orders for 69 planes, which will be delivered along with the 21 orders announced Friday.

Boeing said that it considers China one of its most important clients and that it expects China to purchase 800 airliners over the next 15 years as its economy rapidly expands.

Clintons attend funeral: President Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary and their daughter attended the funeral in Little Rock Friday for the First Lady's father, Hugh Rodham, AFP reports from Arkansas.

Rodham, 82, a drapery maker, died Wednesday after suf fering stroke on March 19. Hillary Clinton, who kept a 16-day bedside vigil had to temporarily shelve her leadership role in revamping the nation's health care system. The Clintons arrived with their 13-year-old daughter,

Chelsea, before the funeral and met with about 25 family members and close friends before and hour-long private ser vice at the First United methodist Church Clinton gave a brief eulogy that one of his friends, Bruce Lindey, described as humorous, serious and touching. "He

talked about the relationship he had with his father-in-law

and how he first viewed him. Plea for French-Bosnia ties: French Philosopher Andre Gluckman and Writer and Journalist Daniel Rondeau Friday proposed a cultural airbridge between

Paris and Sarajevo, AFP reports from Sarajevo. The two men flew into this besieged city several days ago to explore the possibility of supplementing food and medical supplies for Sarajevo with books and other material.

"There is a psychological siege which makes people sick," said Gluckman

Asked if he was not worried that books would displace food or medical supplies on relief planes, he replied that the need to communicate was "as strong, as vital," as he need for

10 killed in Taiwan fire: A pre-dawn fire at a karaoke bar destroyed a four-storey building Saturday. killing ten people and injuring six others, police said, AP reports from Taipei.

Police believe disgruntled customers started the fire near motorcycles parked outside the first-floor karaoke bar in a commercial area in Shulin, a Taipei suburb. Police said the bodies of the 10 victims, all badly burned,

were discovered in apartments on the upper two floors of the building. The victims included five men, three women and two sis-

ters, aged 9 and 11, police said. The father of the sisters was among the dead, police said.

The fire was extinguished 90 minutes after it was reported at 4:18 am. (2018 GMT Friday).

crew feared dead: Seventeen crew members were feared dead after a Korean-owned fishing trawler abruptly listed and sank in calm seas off the Falkland Islands on Friday, the islands' director of fisheries said, Reuter reports from Port Stanley.

Rescue service recovered three bodies, but 14 men who left the Panamanian-registered Serrekunda 3 in a life-rafi were still missing after a day-long air and sea search.

Another 15 crew members were rescued from their liferaft by British Royal Air Force helicopter and taken to Port Stanley, capital of the British-administered Falkland Islands in the south Atlantic.

Falklands Fisheries Director John Barton said he had no idea why the trawler had sunk. He was told by a survivor that the ship listed violently at around 0530 (0930 GMT) and sank before the crew had time to send out distress signals.

Thai coup leader operated upon: The General who led the February 1991 coup in Thailand has undergone cosmetic surgery on his eyes in a bid to avoid bad

luck, The Nation newspaper reported Saturday, says AFP from Bangkok. It said former Supreme Military Commander General Sunthern Kongscrapong had surgery late last month to add another fold to his eyelids to enhance his looks and ward off

misfortune. Sunthorn acted on the advice of his common-law wife, Ampaphan Tanes-Dejsunthorn, with whom he flew off to Paris on April 5 with no immediate plans to return to Thailand, the English-language daily said.

MOSCOW, Apr 10: With just

over two weeks left before a

vote on who will lead the

country, President Boris

Yeltsin intensified his cam-

Yeltsin said the April 25

referendum on whether the

president or legislature should

paign for votes, reports AP.

Mali govt

In a broadcast message late Friday, Konare paid homage to the outgoing Prime Minister, Younoussi Toure, and to his 18 ministers, calling Toure a "man of integrity". They had been in office since June last

university and school students demanding increased grants

75 Arabs ordered to leave Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Apr 10: Pakistan has ordered 75 Arabs living here illegally to leave the country as part of its crackdown on Islamic groups accused of involvement in international terrorism, reports

Police have rounded up at least 200 men, including Algerians, Egyptians, Palestinians, Sudanese and Syrians still living in Pakistan after working with the Afghan Mujahideen during their 14year war against the former Soviet-backed government.

Islamic groups and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) accused the authorities of "inhuman treatment" and "torture" over the round-ups.

Members of the Arab community said the number of people detained was much higher and that some 75 people had been ordered to leave the country within two days because they did not have valid

residence visas. Officials would not comment on their claim but the foreign office said earlier that all foreigners staying illegally would be deported.

The crackdown on Islamic. groups in Pakistan comes as several countries including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Algeria have complained that Arab veterans of the Afghan war have been organising fundamentalist campaigns in their

Muslims who joined the Afghan Mujahideen in their Jihad against the former communist government have been accused of training and arming militants in bases in the semi-autonomous tribal areas along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan.

The Pakistan Observer newspaper has reported that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak gave Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif the names of 67 people wanted in Egypt who are believed to be in hiding in Pakistan.

After the meeting in Bonn, Pakistan released a statement saying it would cooperate with Egypt in the fight against ter-

Sources said some 6,000 volunteers from Muslim countries had participated in the war against the Soviet-backed process in Afghanistan which ended in April last year with

Some 2,000 Arab volunteers stayed in the north west frontier province.

the takeover of Kabul by

Mujahideen's Islamic govern-

ment.

Concentrated mainly in the provincial capital Peshawar, near the Afghan border, many volunteers joined Arab NGOs, engaged in relief activities in the war-ravaged Muslim country, while others remained with Mu ahideen factions.

South African

CP leader

shot dead

South African Communist Party

(SACP) leader Chris Hani was

shot dead outside his home in

a fashionable suburb to Sta-

unchly Conservative Boksburg

east of here today, police said,

An eyewitness told

Johannesburg Radio Station he

heard four shots ring out, and

saw Hani mortally wounded on

the ground in front of his

home in Dawn Park, a

Boksburg housing several se-

nior ANC officials which had

been for whites only under

One man has been arrested,

Hani 50, was elected

leader of the SACP at its eighth

congress in December 1991.

reports AFP.

apartheid.

police said.

JOHANNESBURG, Apr 10:

India probing intelligence failure in Bombay blast

BOMBAY, Apr 10: Indian detectives are probing the intelligence failure which led to the smuggling of thousands of tonnes of explosives, a part of which was used in the Bombay blasts, the city police chief said Friday, reports AFP.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) will also find out if officials colluded with the underworld here in the smuggling, police commissioner Amarjit Singh Samra told a news conference.

"Very stringent action will be taken against all officials, irrespective of the departments to which they belong if any evidence or failure is found," the

Samra said the departments which had come under suspicion included the Bombay police, the federal directorate of revenue intelligence, coast guard and customs. He did not say when the CBI began its probe.

Police, say some 300 kilos

(660 pounds) of heat-generating RDX were used in the 13 blasts that rocked Bombay March 12, killing some 300 people and injuring more than

Bombay Stock Exchange, the Air India headquarters and 11 other places, including three

Sudanese peace talks resume

says Xinhua.

ment was reached.

Police have seized more than three tonnes of explosive and gelatine and hundreds of grenades and automatic rifles in and around Bombay since

The targets devastated the

April 26

KHARTOUM, Apr 10: The Sudanese government and the rebel Sudan People's Libera tion Army (SPLA) have agreed to hold the next round of peace talks at the Nigerian capital of Abuja on April 26. Sudan radio reported Friday,

The radio did not specify when and where the agree-

had also been smuggled in by the underworld. Samra said raids had been conducted on the houses o some officials responsible for curbing smuggling along Bombay's winding coast. But he

gave no further details. Samra said the police was not aware that several criminals in the city had been selected and sent abroad for training in the use of explosives and arms by Muslim members of the underworld which masterminded the bomb attacks.

March 12. Officials say these

More than 60 suspects have been arrested for their participation in the bombings. Indian authorities say six key suspects who first fled to Dubai later escaped to Pakistan.

BOSNIA: A young Bosnian Muslim refugee flashes a V-sign in a UNHCR truck as others look on, upon his arrival in Tuzla on April 8 as part of a UN convoy carrying about 1500 - AFP/ UNB photo refugees from the besieged town of Srebrenica.

relinquishing his post as Chiefof-Staff of the ANC's armed Adored by the radical youth,

he was nevertheless a fervent advocate of a negotiated settlement in South Africa. He leaves a wife, Limpho, and three daughters.

DPRK to boycott UN disarmament conference

TOKYO, Apr 10: North next week in Kyoto, western Japan, the Kyodo news agency

The officials told Kyodo that Pyongyang decided to boycott the conference in a bid to avoid talks on its decision to withdraw from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Korea has said it would not send representatives to an annual United Nations disarmament conference to be held reported, says AFP.

The news agency, quoting conference officials, said late Thursday they had invited North Korea to the meeting starting Tuesday, but received a letter from Pyongyang in late March saying it would not participate.

hikes in the past year

Yeltsin, who has seen his

authority stripped away by

Congress, originally sought the

vote as a way to settle the cri-

sis by asking the people to

pass judgement on his leader-

the subways.

rules for the referendum that make it harder for Yeltsin to win the vote. Pro-Yeltsin legislators on Thursday asked Russia's Constitutional Court to clarify the voting rules. At issue is the number of

votes needed to make the referendum valid: a majority of people casting ballots or a majority of Russia's 106 million eligible voters. If the court rules it is the latter, it will be more difficult for Yeltsin to secure a victory.

Constitutional Court Chief Justice Valery Zorkin did not say when the court would rule.

Americans died of AIDS last yr WASHINGTON, Apr 10: A total 171,890 Americans had

died of the killer disease AIDS and 253,448 more people had contracted the disease by December 31, 1992, A US disease control agency reported Thursday, reports Xinhua. According to statistics avail-

went up by 12.7 per cent in the United States, the largest among all diseases, said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). "People who were getting

able, from 1989 to 1990 alone,

the cases of HIV and AIDS

AIDS when they were 20 are dying now in their 30s".

resigns

BAMAKO, Apr 10: President Alpha Oumar Konare of Malt announced the resignation of his government, four days after violent student riots in the capital Bamako and the burning of public buildings, reports

rule "is the fate of Russia, and you all realize this full well." He said if he loses he would not resign but is ready to 'face early elections, but keep the post of president until then." One person died and 45 according to the ITAR-Tass were wounded in the riots by

news agency. The referendum is shaping up as the climax to the power and better study conditions.

the Communist dominated Congress of People's Deputies, Russia's highest parliamentary "If there is no president,

struggle between Yeltsin and

the power will be assumed by the most extremist forces, and the entire world will shudder." Yeltsin said. Portions of his meeting were broadcast on Russian television.

In an apparent bid to win votes, Yeltsin also said he would repeal a decision earlier this week to raise gasoline prices and rents of stateowned apartments in the capi-

If he wins, and voters also

take that as a sign the legislature has lost its power and he would use his presidential authority to fill the vacuum. Yeltsin's main rival for

call for new legislative elec-

tions, Yeltsin said he would

power, legislative speaker Ruslan Khasbulatev, told Russia's regional lawmakers earlier Friday that while the referendum is important, it would not solve the country's main problem: the economy He criticized the country's central power structure, saying

the referendum probably

would result in early elections

for the president and the law-

coons who are enriching

themselves are closely connected with the existing political regime" and have become its main power base, Khasbulatov said. Yeltsin on Friday said those officials in Moscow responsible

"A small group of new ty-

the prices of gasoline and rent should be punished, the Interfax news agency said. Gasoline prices doubled on Wednesday, from 40 rubles (about 5 cents) per liter to 80 rubles (about 10 cents) per

liter, further angering drivers

who have experienced several

Hard-liners in the Congress added more questions to the for drafting the laws raising referendum, including one on

his painful economic reforms that may prove embarrassing to the president. Besides the questions on his leadership and economic reform, the questions also ask whether there should be new presidential and legislative elections.

published Sunday.

I also have responsibilities," Mrs Clinton said. The Parade issue is devoted entirely to Mrs Clinton, the first time the weekly has centered on a single person.

rights responsibly and to be held accountable." Owada's decision setback

"She was a woman who was a pioneer in carving out a career

"This engagement promotes the idea that the most important thing for women to do is to be married and have a fam-

Asked if the Harvard University-educated Owada could perhaps carve out a freer, more outspoken style and re-make

sense of her walking into a cage." Owada, who worked for Gordon as a research assistant at

Gordon said But Gordon acknowledged that Naruhito's decision to marry one of Japan's few female Foreign Ministry officials

trained work force.



- AFP/ UNB photo house wife, was crucified.