First Japanese lady graduate from defence academy

TOKYO, Mar 17. The first woman to pass out of Japan's National Defence Academy graduated today, entering a male dominated military that has been faced with a shortage of personnel in recent years, reports AFP.

In a ceremony at the academy in the naval port of Yokosuka outside Tokyo, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto congratulated 393 new gradu-

ates, 27 of whom were women. "Now the first group of women has emerged among the graduates.

Zulu warriors condemn Mandela

DURBAN, Mar 17: Some 5.000 spear-carrying Zulu warriors protested in Durban on Saturday to condemn what they called President Nélson Mandela's interference in their tribal affairs, reports Reuter.

The protest was organised by the Uninetusa Labour Union, whose leader Sidney GcAbashe claimed that Mandela was in danger of aggravating the violence that has already claimed 15,000 lives in Kwazulu-Natal in the past 10

Killing of 16 pupils Hamilton was wreaking revenge On adults DUNBLANCE, Scotland, Mar

17: Thomas Hamilton, the crazed gunman who massacred 16 tiny children in a Scottish primary school, was wreaking revenge on adults who had branded him a pervert, a criminal expert said today, reports Reuter.

As Britain prepared to observe a minute of silence at 9:30 am (0930 GMT), four days to the minute after the slaughter at Dunblance Primary School, new details emerged about the solitary misfit and the events that led up to the shooting.

Ray Wyre, a sex crime expert who has examined documents from Hamilton's home. said adults were the real target of the 43-year-old gun enthusiast with an unhealthy interest in young boys.

He said the attack in which 16 children aged five and six and their teacher were killed was Hamilton's revenge against. parents who had accused him of abusing their sons. "In his letters he talks of "my boys" or "our boys". Wyre added.

Russia boycotts today's contact group meet on Bosnia

Wartime enemies can't live together in peace: Karadzic

SARAJEVO, Mar 17: With more Serbs abandoning the capital and complaining that the Muslim-Croat government permits harassment of Serbs. Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic insists the wartime enemies cannot live togethef in peace, reports AP.

Karadzic, frequently accused of fomenting the Serb exodus from the capital, said Serbs were fleeing because they had no faith in a multiethnic future or in the USbrokered Muslim-Croat federation.

The exodus did not occur because the Bosnian Serb leadership wanted it, he said, "but because the people did not see their future in the federation." he told Saturday's edition of the Belgrade newspaper Interviu.

In a separate statement released Saturday, he repeated his view that Bosnia should be divided along ethnic lines.

"Ideas of a single state for three antagonised peoples will merely lead to a new war, and the Serbs refuse to wage, war further," he said.

His comments came as Serbs abandoned the Sarajevo suburb of Grbavica, which will be transferred to Muslim-Croat control on Tuesday - the last of five suburbs to do so under the Dayton peace accord.

Fearful of rules by their former enemies and encouraged by Serb hard-liners to relocate, Grbavica's Serbs hurried to' load trucks Saturday while smoke billowed from apartment buildings and

Serbs planning to evacuate

neighbourhoods frequently have burned buildings and harassed other Serbs planning to stay in hopes forcing them out

Serbs hoping to remain in the Sarajevo suburb were lying low. They had heard rumours that gangs intended to "torch entire neighborhoods" on Sunday night, said an international official on condition of anonymity.

Groups of Serb thugs have been roaming the area, looting and burning houses, .UN spokesman Alexander Ivanko said in Sarajevo.

Federal firefighters needed NATO escorts four times Saturday to fight blazes in Grbavica, Ivanko said. In one case, a hand grenade was thrown at the firemen, exploding about 100 feet (30 metres) away, he said.

AFP adds: Russia is to boycott a session on Monday of the five-nation contact group on Bosnia of which it is a member, the Russian mission in Geneva confirmed Saturday.

French diplomatic sources in Paris said Russia was refusing to attend the meeting scheduled to take place in Geneva.

Yeltsin blasts Parliament's call for new USSR

MOSCOW, Mar 17: President Boris Yeltsin on Saturday denounced the Communist-led parliament's call to restore the Soviet Union, calling it a betrayal of Russia and a threat to

peace, reports AP. "I will allow no attempts to undermine Russia's statehood and destabilise the country," he warned the lower house, or Duma, in a statement.

Reaction continued to pour in from the former Soviet republics, where the Duma resolution was deplored as a crude Communist election ploy.

"An act of provocation," said Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian. "Preposterous and anachronistic," said his Eduard Shevardnadze, former Soviet foreign minister.

Yeltsin was a key figure in the events that hastened the Soviet Union's 1991 demise, and the Communists have long condemned him for it.

In language straight out of the Soviet lexicon, speaker Gennady Seleznyov said the Duma is giving Yeltsin a chance to "start the process of his political rehabilitation." . -

Seleznyov, a Communist, said the measure expresses. popular sentiment. "The Duma" showed members of parliament worldwide that it can reflect the will and ideas of its voters," he said.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin saw it differently.

SRINAGAR, India, Mar 17:

Muslim politicians in Kashmir

on Saturday criticised an un-

precedented dialogue between

India's Home Minister Shan-

karrao Chavan and a delegation

of Muslim separatists, saying it

was a futile exercise, reports

the so-called talks in New

Delhi on Friday are rejected

and tired militants who only

seek personal benefits," Kash-

mir's chief Muslim cleric

Umer Farooq said in this state

policy of divide and rule but it

will face defeat and have to

bend to the will of the Kash-

"India is trying to adopt a

summer capital.

'All those who took part in

He said the move displayed lawmakers' inability "to understand and respect their neigh-

The measure is so outrageous, he said, that it's "hard to take seriously." But, he added, "considering the fact that it was adopted by the people trying to come to power, it's no joking matter."

Although the resolution is legally toothless, Yeltsin moved Saturday to reassure the world

community and his neighbours. He ordered the Foreign Ministry to notify other nations. that the measure has no legal standing and does not alter Russia's commitment to its international obligations.

miri masses," said Farooq,

chief of the All Parties Free-

dom Conference, grouping

some 30 rebel and political

The 22-year old leader said

PTI adds from Chandigarh:

The former Jammu and Kash-

mir chief minister and Na-

tional . Conference leader. Fa-

rooq Abdullah, today ex-

talks between the home minis-

fer and some militant group

talks on the Kashmir problem

were meaningless without Pak-

the disputed state.

leaders in Delhi."

Farooq Abdullah unhappy over talks

Kashmiri leaders slam

rebels' talks with Delhi

sulting in the deaths of three the span.

this year between the army and the MILF, a breakaway fac-tion of the main Muslim insurgent group Moro National Liberation Front (MNLJ).

better conditions for immigrants

ROME, Mar 17: Several istan which administers part of ports AFP. pressed "unhappiness" over

the driving rain to attend the square.

made their way through the

The rally, attended by many immigrants from Africa and Asia, was called by Italy's main

reassert everyone's rights, including the rights of people who don't vote," Fulvio Vento. CGIL spokesman said.

520,000 illegal immigrants. according to various official estimates. The central statistics office has recorded almost one million legally immigrants one of the lowest rates of m migration in Europe.

neighbour, Georgian president

Armed forces of Kuwait and other countries in the region conduct the last day of Peninsula Shield 5 military manoeuvres with live fire exercises north of Kuwait City on Saturday. The combined forces of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries participated in the exercise. The Emirate of Qatar withdrew their troops after a series of disputes with some GCC members. - AFP/UNB photo

Indian parties plan to go for high-tech electioneering NEW DELHI, Mar 17: Indian what could be a do-or-die

political parties plan to go high-tech and battle it out on the air waves as they prepare to launch their campaigns for parliamentary elections only a month away, reports AFP.

Huge mobile television screens, cable advertising, laser technology and musical car horns will be the highlights of a hectic campaign which will take off as soon as election dates are announced. party leaders say.

"We will concentrate more on the visual medium this time", said spokesman Vithal Gadgil of the ruling Congreexpect to perform poorly in

election.

India's parliamentary elections, held once every five years, are expected in April or May. The independent Election Commission is to announce the poll dates this week, but election fever has already caught on.

Political parties vying for a majority or a strong showing in the 545-sent Lok Sabha, or lower house of parliament, have to reach a whopping 550 million voters across the country during the month-long campaign period.

For once, the printed word

The Congress, the country's oldest party, has started scrutinising in thousands of aspirants to pick its candidates, and beaming programmes in praise of Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao on state-run

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Partyl determined to oust the Congress this time, to sell its leaders, candidates and ideology to. millions of middle-class homes through cable television.

tated by what is shown on TV", said BJP spokeswoman Sushma Swaraj, adding that the BJP's star campaigners

would also fly more often this year to reach more people in less time.

Even some regional parties.

their influence confined to state borders, plan to tour hundreds of villages in vans mounted with large television screens - a novelty in areas where TVs are rare. "The parties have made

elaborate plans to make use of sophisticated media," said GVLN Rao of the Centre for Media Studies, "Five years ago they did not have the opportunities available today."

The Congress and the BJP and their rich fund raisers also plan to issue a wide variety of stickers, badges, key chains and T-shirts sporting party symbols.

the cash-starved Communists who, despite their limited appeal, hope to mop up about 60 crucial seats in what could be a hung parliament.

Since the first elections in .

independent India in 1952, money has come to increasingly plan a dominating role during hustings - the bulk of it going for campaigns. Rao of the Centre for Media

Studies said the investigation into a bribery scandal involving virtually all parties, which is threatening the careers of a number of top politicians, was acting as a damper on hightech electioneering. "The parties seem crippled

by finances because of the scandal," he said. "They are very apprehensive about raising funds, and are doing it in a discreet manner ... it may finally end up in a low-profile campaign."

Motorcycle collides

with autorickshaw

Four injured KUSHTIA, Mar 17: Four people were injured, three seriously, when a motorcycle collided head-on with an au torickshaw on Kushtia Jhenidah road on Friday, re

ports UNB. . Witnesses said the accident occurred two kilometre from the town in the afternoon and the injured were rushed to the

Sadar Hospital. The seriously injured were identified as Sadre Alam and Aksed Ali, both motorcycle riders and Abdul Wahed. telephone operator of Islamir University who was in the babi taxi. Of them, condition of Ab-

dul Wahed was stated to be Police seized the autorickshaw, but its driver managed to escape. A case was filed with the police.

Another report says: Police arrested an absconding accused on the same day. He was wanted in connection with

several criminal cases. Serajul Islam was arrested from Jadua village by Mirpur police following a tip off. A

pipe gun was recovered from his possession. Protesters demand

release of kidnapped students

RANGAMATI, Mar 17: Several thousand people demonstrated at Bagaichhari thana in the hill district Saturday demanding immediate release of four students abducted by the tribal outlaws, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the agitators under the banner of Bangalage Chhatra Parishad demanded release of their abducted members within three days and submitted a memorandum

to the local administration. Earlier on Wednesday, police reinforcements were put on guard in the area to avert untoward incident.

Meanwhile, the district administration said they were trying to rescue the abducted

students from the capture of Shantibahini. Shantibahini men kidnapped five persons last month. They are Moker Hos-

sain and Jamal Uddin - supply manager and clerk of Karnaphuli Paper Mills, Ishaq. a fisherman Mofizuddin, a day labourer, and Delwar Hossain. Meanwhile, the Shap tibahini members pressured

ceasefire remaining in force. On Tuesday, security personnel arrested two Shantibahini men Pradip Chakma, 26, and Prabir Kushum Chakma, 24.

rickshaws rises in Natore From Our Correspondent

traffic jams on different roads despite a ban on its manufacture, it is learnt.

Natore pourashava banned the manufacture of new rickshaws as this was decided by a committee comprising representatives from the pourashava.

ing the town roads causing unnecessary jams and inconvenience of the passengers ev-

shaws could not be known. However, a pourashaya official said its number may cross seven thousand mark.

rickshaws is not checked right now, the traffic movement will be hampered badly in the next couple of years, said a traffic sergeant.

ss(i) Party, which analysts faces stiff competition in ci-

television. The main opposition

"The viewers will be dic-

The Hindu-revivalist BJP also plans to distribute scores of car horns that will blare a musical "BJP, BJP"

Simultaneously, millions of

colourful posters and cloth banners and life-size cardboard hoardings and cutouts of party leaders will be plastered on homes and streets all over the country. The only parties remaining

faithful to the printed word are

Food for work programme

JHENIDAH, Mar 17: Government has allocated 1,478 metric tons of wheat for the implementation of 147 schemes under Food For Works Programme (FWP) in Jhenidah district in current

dry season. According to sources, 354 metric tons of wheat was allocated for 38 schemes in Jhenidah sadar thana, 250 metric tons for 22 schemes in Sailkupa thana, 212 metric tons for 20 schemes in Harinakundu thana, 246 metric tons for 15 schemes in Kaliganj thana, 109 metric tons for 14 schemes in Kotchandpur thana and 307 metric tons for 38 schemes in Mohespur

thana of the district. The projects which included earth-filling works. construction of roads and culverts, excavation of ponds are likely to be completed by April, sources said.

Kidnapped girl rescued

JHENIDAH, Mar 17: An abducted schoolgirl, Shahina Akter, was rescued from village Shatbaria in Kaliganj thana of the district recently.

According to police sources. Shahina was kidnapped by some youngmen near Kacharitala in Harinakundu thana at about 1:20 pm on March 6 when she was returning from school. The abductors took her away in a microbus. Acting on a secret information, police rescued her and arrested Mamunur Rahman and Rezaul in this connection on the next day, police

From Our Correspondent

BKB loan JHENIDAH. Mat 17

Bangladesh Krishi Bank has taken a plan to disburse Taka 1.87 crore as loan in seven southern district as a part of their Income Generating Activities (IGA) this fiscal. According to Bangladesh

Krishi Bank (BKB) sources. they will disburse Taka 20 lakh Jhenidah district, Taka 22.5 lakh in Magura district, Taka 22.5 lakh in Bageshat district. Taka five lakh in Narail district, Taka 52 lakh in Kushtia district. Taka 60 lakh in Chuadanga district and Taka five lakh in Meherpur district.

According to the sources they had already started disbursing the money and it will be completed by June.

Awareness centres

JHENIDAH, Mar 17: Four awareness growing centres were inaugurated at village Manderbaria and Bhagabannagar in Jhenidah sadar thana by à social development organisation "Unnayan Dhara" recently. Talib Bashar Nayan, Direc-

tor, Unnayan Dhara, inaugurated the centres as chief guest. The centres were inaugurated under the financial assistance of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM). Mir Rezaul Karim, Regional Coordinator, DAM, attended the function as special guest

Daily and weekly newspapers, magazines, periodicals, religious books and other books are supplied among the members of Unnayan Dhara's library "Canakendra". A. good, number of rural people specially the women are getting benefit from the activities, the director said.

One killed in clash between rival families

JHALAKATHI. Mar 17: man was killed and two others were injured in a clash between two rival families at village Challis Kaunia in Rajapur thana on Saturday, reports The victim was identified

Police said the clash

erupted between the family

members of Yunus Molla and

his relation Aptar Ali Molla

as Yunus Molla, 45.

to Rajapur Hospital.

- Star photo

over felling of a palm tree. Yunus, is mother Amena Begum, 70, and brother Abdul Jafil, 25, were stabbed by their rivals during the clash. Yunus died on the way to hospital. The injured were admitted

Businessmen in Sherpur observe strike SHERPUR, Mar 17: Businessmen here kept the shutters

of their establishments dewn today, demanding solution to the current political crisis, reports UNB. Lending support to the Federation of Bangladesh

Industry (FBCCI) programme in capital Dhaka, the loca businessmen also brought out procession which paraded the main roads of the town. Later, a rally was held at the New Market. Presided over by SCCI president Golam Kibria Liton, the rally declared that

the businessmen would wear

black badges for indefinite pe-

ried to protest the crisis.

Chambers of Commerce and

in the area. - Star photo Prospect of citrus fruit farming bright From Our Correspondent MOULVIBAZAR, Mar 11:

Bundles of fire-wood being carried on a bi-cycle for use at

home in Sherpur. An acute scarcity of fire-wood prevailing

Moulvibazar district is bright. But the growers has been fac-

It is learnt from Moulvibazar District Agriculture Extension Department that there are one lakh 27 thousand 528 plants of orange in Shahbajpur and Nizbahadurpur areas of Baralekha thana and 50 thousand plants in Jaifarnagar area of Kulaura thana. There are about two thousand acres of land under orange cultivation in these areas. Every year huge quantity

ing problems for a long time

due to lack of government pa-

tronisation.

gardens

Orange plants are cultivated by local people, who lack knowledge about the cultivation. There was no motivation 4 programme from any agriculture department. A Subject Matter Specialist (SMS) of Moulvibazar district Agriculture Extension told The Daily

Star that they have no policy to patronize the orange cultiva-

Agriculture Research Institute at Akbarpur under Moulvibazar district had arranged several training programmes for orange growers to inspire them. A team of foreign experts had also visited the orange-growing areas of Kulaura and Baralekha thanas of the district.

orange plants. They added that of orange produced in these stroyed due to ignorance.

> alekha thanas, production of orange of this areas may fulfil requirements of the country.

Prospect for orange farming in

The Agriculture Extension Department with the help of

However, some orange growers of Baralekha and Kulaura thanas said. Now they are able to take proper care of the

only few years ago large number of orange plants were de-Local people said that if the government take proper steps and keen interest on orange gardening in Kulaura and Bar-

the locals for tolls and also continued abductions despite a

COTABATO (Philippines) Mar 17: At least 23 people 15

of them Muslim guerillas; were killed in gunbattles with security forces in the southern Philippines, a senior army commander said here today. reports AFP. Around 2,000 Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels mounted simultaneous dawn

Troops, MILF

gunbattles

leave 23 dead

attacks on army outposts in 10 villages around the towns of Lambayung and Sultan Saborongis on Saturday, said brigadier general Raul Urgello. commander of the sixth infantry division. The army fought off the at-

tacks using heavy weapons, killing 125 MILF rebels. One soldier and seven civilians were also killed, he said. Urgello said the MILF rebels blew up a bridge in

Lambayung, Sultan Kudrat province while retreating, re-

Muslim civilians hiding under It was the worst fighting

Marchers demand

thousand people representating political parties, trade unions and a variety of associations demonstrated Saturday in Rome to demand better conditions for immigrants, te-Organisers said 15,000 people had turned out despite

rally that was to continue through the night with a series of rock concerts by Italian and foreign groups in a central The marchers sang, danced and carried banners as they

trade wion organisation Cgil, Vil as along with around 140 au sociation and several political partiés. "This is a demonstration to

Italy is home to up to

Dacoity in eight shops in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Mar 17: Valu-

ables worth about Tk 8 lakh

were looted in a daring dacoity

committed in eight shops in Kumarkhali market on Thursday, reports UNB. Police said dacoits numbering 10 entered the market at midnight by overpowering the nightguards and robbed some television and VCR sets from

and Janata Flour Mills. A case was filed with the Protest rally

electronics shops, and gold

and cash from Mukta Jewellery

in B'baria From Our Correspondent BRAHMANBARIA, Mar 17: A protest rally was held by opposition parties as part of the indefinite non-cooperation programme at District Bar As-

sociation yesterday. Presided over by Amanul Hoque Chinto, the rally was addressed, among others, by Kazi Nazrul Islam Khadem, Adv Lutul Hai Sachho, Sayed Sirajul Islam and Abdul Wahid Khan.

Prices of building

materials rise

BANDARBAN, Mar 17: Development works are being hampered in the district for non-availability and price hike of building materials due to the on-going non-cooperation programme, reports UNB.

Acute crisis of rod and ce-

ment has been prevailing here

since last week while bricks are being sold at between Tk 2,800 and 3,000 per 1,000 as against Tk 2,000 earlier. Traders said they cannot bring here rod and cement due to total disruption in road communications with Dhaka,

the country. Sarbahara men kill one

Chittagong and other parts of

KUSHTIA, Mar 17: An arbitrator was killed reportedly by activists of the outlawed Sarbahara Rarty while he was conducting an arbitration at Kehurtala village in sadar on Friday, reports UNB. Police said the miscreants shot Abdul Gani, 40, son of Ra-

sul Khan, infront of the people

gathered in connection with

the arbitration. He was the

second victim of the gang who

killed district President of Kr-

ishak Sangram Samity Nabisutidin on March 2. A case was registered with the sadar police. The body was sent to Sadar Hospital for au-

Number of unlicensed | Notes from Jhenidah

NATORE, Mar 17: With the increasing of its number, unlicensed rickshaws are creating of the town. Besides, several factories are making rickshaws

The rickshaw, a slow and safe mode of transport is play-

The exact number of rick-

of the town are Chhayabani

If the increase of number of

According to a pourashava source, about 2700 rickshaws have licences. Most of the rickshawpullers are seasonal workers and they

often violate the traffic rules. Manufacturing of rickshaws is a lucrative business. It costs around Taka 5000 to Taka 7000 to make a rickshaw, said a rickshaw garage owner. Huge quantity of spare parts are smuggled in from India, he

Worst traffic jam-hit areas

Cinema Hall roads, Modern

Sadar Hospital roads, Railway

station area, Rajshahi-Bogra-Dhaka square, Old Bus Stand road, Chowkirpar, Lalbazar, Kapuriapotty intersection, Nimtala and Bata intersection. Local elite and sufferers. therefore, have urged the authorities concerned to take

immediate steps to mitigate

the plight of the town



Labourers collecting stone chips for use ... road construction at Panchagarh.