



Recipients of the Ibn Sina Award Dr RJ Garst, Major General (retd) MR Chowdhury, National Professor MR Khan, Professor Emiretus M Nabi Alam Khan. Chairman of the Ibn Sina Trust, Advocate Mujibur Rahman and the Director of Child and Mother Care Institute Prof MQK Talukder are also in the picture.

NATO ready to act, Clinton warns Milosevic

## US pushing Kosovar Albanians to accept self-rule plan

LONDON, Mar 6: US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was meeting today with former US Sen Bob Dole, a presidential emissary returning from a mission to try and seal a Kosovo peace deal with ethnic Albanians before a March 15 conference, reports AP.

The Clinton administration is pushing for Kosovar Albanians to accept a self-rule plan, so NATO allies can increase pressure on Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to agree to stop fighting and accept peace with separatists or face military airstrikes.

With that objective in mind, Albright is also meeting with Gen Wesley Clark, the supreme NATO commander, and British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook. Britain and France were partners in inconclusive peace talks last month in Rambouillet. Dole said he spoke to KLA spokesman Jakup Krasniqi by phone. Dole said his talks centered on concerns over the future of the KLA if it is forced to disarm under an agreement.

Dole held the talks in Macedonia because he was denied a Yugoslav visa.

Albright has kept in close contact with Dole during his talks. She made an unscheduled stop in London to meet with him as she returned home from a week-long Asia trip that included official visits to China, Thailand and Indonesia.

Albright was frustrated she couldn't get an agreement from ethnic Albanians at Rambouillet. Now she's looking for them to carry through with what she thought was a commitment they would sign the agreement, said a senior administration official.

"We misunderstood the Kosovar Albanians" at Rambouillet, said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Gaining the Kosovar Albanian's signature before peace talks resume March 15 outside Paris will allow the Clinton administration and NATO allies to focus on Milosevic, who they consider the real problem.

Albright and Clark will discuss three possibilities: A 30,000-troop peacekeeping force, including 4,000 Americans, should both sides sign an accord; airstrikes against the Serbs if the ethnic Albanians sign but the Serbs don't; and NATO's reaction if the Serbs make aggressive moves on the ground, and neither side signs, said State Department spokesman James P Rubin.

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## DPRK expecting serious food shortfall in spring

BEIJING, Mar 6: North Korea has nearly depleted its stock of food and faces another shortfall this spring before a new crop of potatoes and other vegetables can be harvested, a relief group reported Saturday, says AP.

Many people in the reclusive Communist state are living on very meager rations of food supplemented with bark, roots and grasses, said Kathi Zellweger of the Catholic relief group Caritas.

Food supplies will run out by the end of April, and the next harvest is not expected until the end of May, she said.

North Korea has depleted its food supplies in the spring for several years as it struggles with severe food shortages caused by flooding, drought and mismanagement in the centrally planned economy.

"It looks like a difficult spring again," Zellweger told reporters in Beijing on Saturday after a trip to North Korea's eastern provinces, where Caritas concentrates on helping the most vulnerable — children under 6, pregnant and nursing women and the elderly.

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Group discussions on legal and judicial reforms was also held at the workshop where participants suggested enactment of pragmatic laws in all respect in view of changing behaviour of human beings and prevailing conditions of the country.

M Aminullah, Secretary, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs attended the workshop as chief guest while Mohsin Ali Khan, operations advisor of the World Bank, Prof Moinuddin Hossain, World Bank consultant, A K M Shamsuddin, Deputy Commissioner, Rajshahi among others spoke on the occasion.

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