Talks with Milosevic fail

BUFFLY

Former hostage sues Iran: Former hostage Terry Anderson has filed a 100 million dollars lawsuit against Iran for allegedly financing and directing the terrorists who kept him shackled and blindfolded for nearly seven years, AP reports from Washington.

Anderson, former chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, was taken captive in Beirut, Lebanon on March 16, 1985. His Hezbollah captors shuttled Anderson between stuffy rooms, beat and berated him and taunted him with the false hope of release, his lawsuit said. During the entire period of his captivity, Anderson saw the sun once," said the suit, filed Monday.

141 arrested in New York: A New York state representative and a state official were among 141 people arrested during protests Monday over the police shooting of an unarmed African immigrant, police said, AFP reports from New York.

New York state representative Jose Serrano. New York State Comptroller Carl McCall, and Fernando Ferrer, a civic leader from the Bronx neighbourhood where the West African was gunned down, were among those taken into custody by police.

Jet crash claims 6 in Colombia: One person was rescued Monday from a plane crash that killed six people, while eight others were feared dead in another crash

sighted by search aircraft, AP reports from Bogota. Both planes were reported missing over the weekend. A federal official was the only survivor from a Piper that vanished in a heavy thunderstorm Saturday over mountains in southern Tolima state, rescue workers said.

UK suspends licence of MED-TV:
A Kurdish television station was ordered off the air Monday after Britain's Independent Television Commission accused it of showing programmes that incited viewers to violence, AP reports from London.

The watchdog commission suspended the broadcasting licence of London-based MED TV for 21 days. The ITC said the station called on viewers to carry out acts of violence in Turkey and ran programmes that allowed people to make inflammatory comments without balanced opinions. In response, about 250 Kurds gathered outside ITC's London headquarters Monday night, calling on commission officials to come out and explain the decision. Police said the protest was peaceful.

Female CJ appointed in NZ: New Zealand named its first female chief Justice — Sian Elias yesterday, AFP reports from Wellington.

Prime Minister Jenny Shipley said in a statement Elias would take up her appointment in May on the retirement of Chief Justice Sir Thomas Eichelbaum. "Sian Elias is being appointed because of her outstanding legal ability, her empathy with the community in all its diversity and leadership and foresight she will bring to this role," Shipley said.

Tigers kill 9 men in Sumatra: Tigers on the Island of Sumatra have mauled and killed nine men in the southern province of Lampung in a week, a report said yesterday, AFP says from Jakarta.

Six of the victims were killed in the Tanggamus district while working in a coffee plantation last week, district head Achmad Syah Putra said, according to The Kompas daily. The other three men were killed by tigers in the neighbouring west Lampung district in the same week, according to Nature Conservation Offices in Tanjung Karang, the main administrative city in Lampung province.

Doctors go on strike in Lanka:
Health services across Sri Lanka came to a halt Tuesday, as medical doctors went on a one-day strike to demand a restructured administration, AP reports from Colombo.

Director of Medical services K Jeganathan said only emergency services and intensive care units were functioning. Over 100 hospitals were affected by the strike, including the national hospital in the capital, Colombo, where only 10 of the 400 doctors reported for duty. The Government Medical Officers' Association launched the token strike after the failure of talks with Health Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva.

Quake rocks Tajikistan: An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of between 4 and 5 shook the Central Asian nation of Tajikistan overnight, but no serious damage or injuries were reported, a Russian news agency said, AP says from Moscow.

The quake was centered abut 40-km southeast of Dushanbe, the Tajik capital, the Interfax news agency reported. The tremor was felt in the capital and elsewhere in the region, which is prone to earthquakes.

World population to reach

9b in next 50 years

vear 2050.

projected to remain essentially

unchanged at 1.2 billion that in

the less developed regions was

expected to grow from 4.8 bil-

lion now to 7.8 billion by the

He said India alone would

grow by 50 per cent in the next

five decades, from one billion to

1.53 billion, and would be the

roughly 120 per cent from 156

million to 345 million for Pak-

China now has the world's

couple was now well below re-

placement level - at 1.8 chil-

this but Beijing enforces a strict

"one child per family" birth

and 2050 the populations of 30

countries were projected to de-cline. They include Germany,

from 82 million to 73 million,

Japan, from 126 million to 105

million, and Russia, from 147

Chamie gave no reason for

He said that between now

dren per couple.

control policy.

244 million for Nigeria.

largest country in the world.

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 23:

The world's population, ex-

pected to reach six billion in Oc-

tober, will be nearly nine bil-

lion by the year 2050, according

to the latest UN estimate on

UN population division projects

a much larger world population

than exists today. We are

anticipating a world close to

nine billion inhabitants," the

Division's Director, Joseph

Chamie, told the UN Commis-

sion on Population and Devel-

added. "I hope that this projec-

turns out to be far too high."

tion for the worlds population

for the year 2000 calculated 40

years ago was remarkably accu-

rate in predicting a figure of

slightly more than six billion.

Even though in the aftermath

World War Two, when the world

population was slightly above

two billion, he believed it would

nearly triple by the end of the

increase of some three billion

by the year 2050 was expected to

While the population of the

take place in less developed re-

more developed regions was

Chamie said the population

"I hope we are wrong," he

But he said a UN projection

opment.

century.

the May 4 date.

Under the Oslo peace accords

"These are among the sub-

with Israel, statehood could be

declared on that day, when the

imerim agreement expires.

"Fifty years from now the

Monday, reports Reuters.

Clinton seeks congressional support for NATO airstrikes

BELGRADE, Mar 23: Slobodan Milosevic's party on Tuesday rejected the key Western demand of a Kosovo peace plan foreign troops to police it —
 even as the Yugoslav president held a second, short meeting with a US special envoy, reports

There was no immediate word on the results of two hours of talks between Milosevic and Richard Holbrooke, who failed to change Milosevic's position in talks Monday night. But his party's action all but slammed the door on chances Yugoslavia will accept the peace plan as long as the West stands firm on the foreign troops provision.

NATO action may be imminent barring a dramatic reversal in Milosevic's stand. But fighting resumed Tuesday in Kosovo between Yugoslav forces and ethnic Albanian rebels, and officials remained defiant in Belgrade.

"We are not accepting foreign

Strike in Bihar

demanding Rabri

Devi's resignation

to protest against a string of

massacres closed many shops

and businesses in the eastern

Indian state of Bihar today, the

United News of India (UNI) re-

The 12-hour shutdown began

at 6:00 am across the sprawling

agrarian state of about 110 mil-

lion people bordering Nepal.

ruling Hindu nationalists and

allies - who form the main op-

position in Bihar — was also to

Seek the resignation of the

state's Chief Minister Rabri

UNI said shops and busi-

nesses were shut in Patna, the

state capital, while road traffic

was near normal. Banks and

government offices reported

Details from other parts of

Today's strike followed last

week's massacre of 35 villagers

belonging to upper-caste Hindu

landlord families by Maoist

guerillas who champion the

cause of low-caste landless

The state had earlier wit-

nessed two equally brutal mas-

sacres of landless farmers by an

outlawed armed militia patron-

ised by landlords who are polit-

Devi, who took over as chief

minister in 1997 after her hus-

band and predecessor Laloo Ya-

day was linked to a huge corrup-

tion scandal, has, however, re-

fused to quit despite mounting

India, Russia

demands that she should go.

Bihar were not immediately

The strike called by India's

ported, says AFP.

the news agency said.

Devi.

normal work.

available.

farmers.

ically influential.

NEW DELHI, Mar 23: A strike

military troops on our territory under any excuse and at any price, even at the price of bombing," the general secretary of Milosevic's Socialist Party, Gorica Gajevic, told an emergency session of the Serbian parliament.

"In case war is imposed on us, we will defend from the aggressors with all available means," she added. "And everybody must know that."

At an emergency session of Serbia's parliament, Ratko Markovic dismissed a Westernbacked peace plan as invalid because it was signed only by the "separatist terrorist organisation," referring to the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army. Markovic was head of the Serbian delegation at failed peace talks in France.

Holbrooke entered the presidential palace to meet with Milosevic again Tuesday morning after more than three hours of talks Monday night. Returning to his hotel early Tuesday, he appeared to hold out little hope for a breakthrough.
"I would be misleading you if I suggested that today's talks re-

sulted in any substantial change" in Milosevic's rejection of the peace plan, he said. In Washington, President

Bill Clinton, seeking to head off a Senate effort to block funds for US military action in Kosovo, is calling top lawmak-ers back to the White House to seek greater congressional support for the mission.

His efforts to win lawmakers' support at a session last Friday had mixed results. He invited the same group of about 30 House and Senate Leaders back Tuesday for further talks. Congressional and adminis-

tration aides said Clinton hoped to find a way to cool what has been a heated Senate debate over the prospect of further US military involvement in the Balkans.

Clinton suggested Monday that, barring a breakthrough in a last-minute diplomatic offensive by US envoy Richard Holbrooke, NATO stands ready to go ahead with airstrikes against Serb positions under the control of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

· "Serbia's mounting aggression must be stopped. Clinton

"There is strong unity among the NATO allies. We all agree that we cannot allow President Milosevic to continue the aggression with impunity."

Still, Clinton was far from winning such unity from the Republican-controlled Congress.

The Senate was scheduled to take a key procedural vote Tuesday on legislation by Republican leaders aimed at prohibiting Clinton from using US military power in the latest Balkans crisis without first getting congressional support.

But Paul said the defence

lawyers should have taken

their complaint to the country's

chief justice and not ask him to

Nov. 2, ended one day after

Malaysia's top opposition lead-

ers also expressed concern that

Anwar, 51, was not getting jus-

said Lim Kit Siang, the leader of

the opposition in Parliament

and chief of the Democratic Ac-

"It is clearly an unfair trial."

The trial, which began on

adjudicate on himself.

EU summit begins today to choose new president

BRUSSELS, Mar 23: European Union leaders will be under pressure to name a new chief executive this week to begin repairing the damage caused by the sudden resignation of the group's senior officials, reports

"There must be stability as soon as possible," German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer said Monday. "We must not have a repetition of the events we have witnessed."

Germany, which holds the EU's rotating presidency, will host the 15-nation summit on Wednesday and Thursday in Berlin.

The meeting had been scheduled to settle disputes over the group's budget and set the stage for admission of new members from Eastern Europe in the coming years.

But the EU was thrown into turmoil last week after Jacques Santer, head of the group's Executive Commission, and 19 other senior officials abruptly resigned following a report afleging fraud and cronyism in their ranks.

Santer, in his first address to the European Parliament since the resignations, said Monday the fraud report should become a "catalyst for deep and

lasting reform of the European institutions." Former Italian Prime Min-

ister Romano Prodi has emerged as the front-runner to succeed Santer, a former prime minister of Luxembourg. Prodi has said he is ready to

ing commission was due to step down Dec. 31. On Monday, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg proposed that the leaders ap-

That would give the govern-

If the EU leaders cannot quickly.

Anwar's trial ends abruptly Troops capture LTTE-held town: 19 rebels killed

COLOMBO, Mar 23: Sri Lankan troops captured a rebel stronghold town and adjoining areas in the north after killing 19 Tamil Tiger rebels in a twoday operation, the area's top military commander said today, reports AP.

One government soldier was also killed, Major General Lionel Balagalle told The Associated Press. Voice of Tigers, the rebels'

clandestine radio, made no comment Tuesday morning on the reported setback, but said: "A battle is going on." The radio was monitored in the northern town of Vavuniya, said.

Anwar's wife, Azizah Ismail, The newly taken area is who sat through all 73 hearings about 210km north of Colombo and has become the de facto and is known for the 17th-cenleader of Anwar's political retury Church of Our Lady of form movement, said the judge Madhu. The church and the adhad prevented the defence from joining areas served as sanctupresenting its case properly by ary to an estimated 13,000 ruling that much of its evidence Tamil refugees who had fled there to escape fighting else-Anwar was arrested on Sept. where in the north.

> The rebels had entrenched themselves in the area and their administrative offices were based there. Soldiers and rebels have

been training their guns on each other across barbed wire and mine fields in the region since 1997. "The total land area we cap-

tured will be about 325 square kilometers," Balagalle said when reached by the telephone in Vavuniya, his command headquarters. He said at least 19 rebels

were killed and an unspecified number injured in the two-day operation that started early Saturday. "No harm has come to the

refugees and we are looking after them," Balagalle said.

The rebels want a separate homeland for Sri Lanka's 3.3 million Tamils, accusing the 14 million Sinhalese majority of discrimination, a charge the government denies. Over 57,000 people have died in the insurrection since 1983 in the island nation off India's southern coast.

March 6-7, troops seized more than 500 square kilometers from Tamil rebels in their stronghold in the northern jungles.

The newly taken areas are west of a highway that runs north from Colombo to the Tamil-dominated city of

Thailand expels six DPRK diplomats

BANGKOK, Mar 23: Thailand said today it has decided to deport six Bangkok-based North Korean diplomats for suspected involvement in a bungled attempt to kidnap a former colleague and for holding his son hostage, reports Reuters.

Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan told reporters the diplomats must leave the country within 72 hours. "The Thai government has decided to deport six North Korean diplomats within 72 hours, he said.

dullah simply called on Paul to find Anwar guilty. him and should step down. sodomy. Pakistan rules out any timeframe

sign accord on military edn

NEW DELHI, Mar 23: India and Russia yesterday signed an agreement on training of Indian service officers in military educational institutions of that country and explored possibilities of further strengthening defence cooperation between them, reports PTI.

Visiting Russian Defence Nigeria and Pakistan would Minister Marshal Igor both grow even more rapidly, by Dmitrievich Sergeyev met his Indian counterpart George Fernandes and discussed istan and from 112 million to ongoing military cooperation and explored possibilities of further strengthening and speeding up the process.

biggest population. Chamie Fernandes recalled the longgave no figure but it is generally standing defence ties between estimated at some 1.2 billion. India and Russia and hoped But he said China's fertility that these would be further rate, which in 1950 was among consolidated in the years to the world's highest with approximately 6.2 children per

The agreement, initialled by senior officials of the two sides lays down broad terms and conditions of the training programme of service personnel, a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

Although New Delhi and Moscow have had strong defence ties, the agreement assumes significance since the United States has discontinued training of Indian service officers after the Pokhran nuclear tests in May last.

sue of Kashmir. lations between India and Pak-

sures will be difficult to sustain or even justify, if there is no Any efforts to normalise re-

But he said that Kashmir issue should be given more time for resolution saying, six weeks is not a long time to judge efforts to resolve a 50 year old dispute.

One should not underesti-

He also ruled out the possibility of reopening the consulates in Karachi and Mumbai or even the Khokrapar railway line connecting Rajasthan with Pakistan's Sindh province for

He said a proposal to augment the staff strength at the existing Indian and Pakistani missions in New Delhi and Islamabad is being discussed to improve the visa procedure

prisoners, verification will be done so that they are not detained beyond their sentence period and the relatives of the

to meet them.

Pak National Day AP adds: Tanks rumbled down the wide boulevards of the

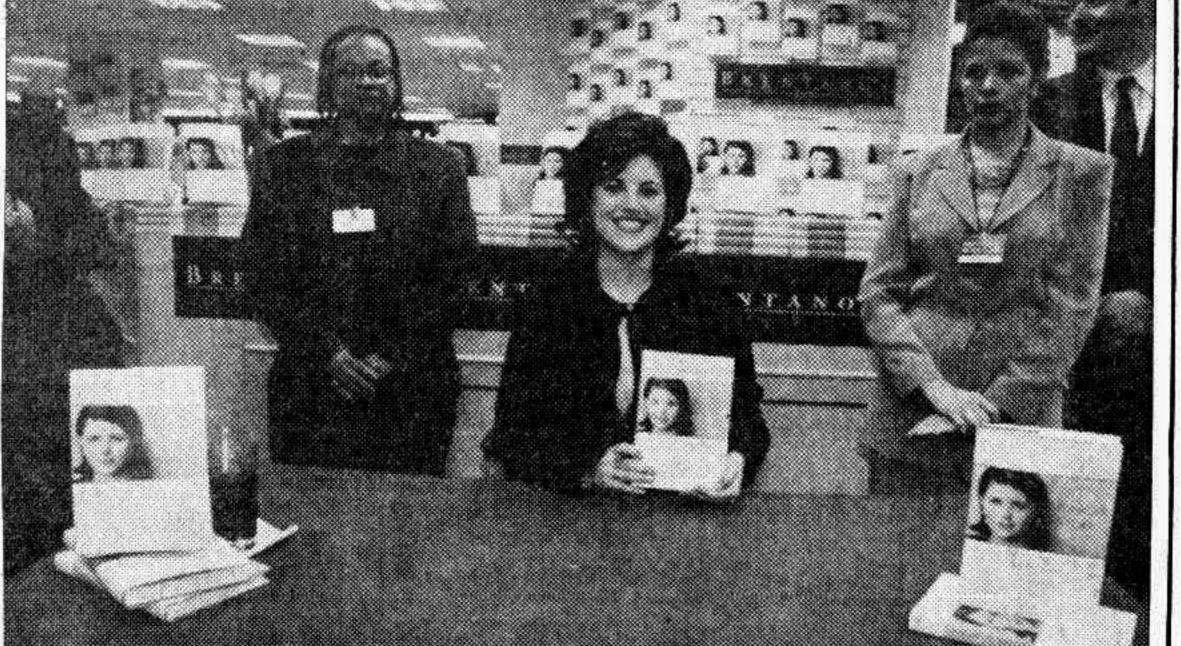
federal capital on Tuesday and a 21-canon salute thundered at dawn to herald the 59th anniversary of a resolution that led to the creation of Pakistan. At a parade of tanks, air

radar defence systems, missiles and soldiers, President Rafiq Tarar announced a new award to honour the scientists, who developed Pakistan's nuclear programme and paved the way for last year's underground explosion of several nuclear de-

Called the Survival Award, Tarar said "after conducting the nuclear tests our defences have become invincible and now our enemies cannot even look at us with evil intention in their heart."

"We have become an impregnable nation," Tarar said from a brightly decorated stage flanked by his military chiefs and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

The country's latest weaponry and radar defences were displayed at the National Day parade, which commemorated a 1940 resolution that led to the creation of Pakistan as a homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent.



Former White House intern Monica Lewinsky poses with a copy of her book in a bookstore in Los Angeles Monday. Lewinsky cut short a book tour in Great Britain and flew to Los Angeles, reportedly to attend an Oscar party and to sign copies of her book. - AFP photo

Off the Record

Mission to change history!

KATMANDU: A team of mountaineers on a mission to solve the mystery of who first climbed Mt. Everest left the Nepalese capital for the mountain Tuesday, expedition organisers said, reports AP.

The expedition members - 10 American, two Britons, one German and 12 Nepalese Sherpa guides - will attempt to trace the steps of British climbers George Mallory and Andrew Irvine. Some believe Mallory and Irvine reached Everest's 8,848-meter (29,028-feet) summit in 1924 before they disappeared on the slopes of the mountain, never to be seen again. Mallory and Irvine were last seen just 900 feet (270 meters)

from the summit in 1924 - 29 years before New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary and Nepalese Sherpa Tenzing Norgay made the first successfully documented ascent. The mountaineer-detectives led by Eric Simonson, of

Ashford, Washington, left for Tibet Tuesday to begin their climb from the northern. Chinese side of the mountain, said Ang Jangbu Sherpa who equipped the expedition. Simonson's expedition will be looking for the body of a man discovered by a Chinese climber in 1975 just below the spot

where an ice ax belonging to Irvine was recovered in 1933. The Chinese climber who had described the body as that of an English man dressed in old-fashioned clothes later died in an avalanche.

They will be looking for a camera carried by Mallory and Irvine that Simonson's team believe could have photographs of the two missing climbers on the summit. Eastman Kodak, the camera's manufacturers, said the frozen film could be processed if the camera has remained intact and has not been exposed to

Now, Dolly in thousands to serve humanity

WELLINGTON: Scottish researchers who created Dolly, the world's first cloned sheep. Tuesday won permission to breed thousands of genetically-engineered sheep capable of producing a human protein in their milk, reports AFP. PPL Therapeutics' New Zealand manager, Mike Aitkenhead,

said commercial production of the protein, Alpha-l Antitrypsin (AAT), had the theoretical potential to prolong life for thousands of sufferers of respiratory diseases such as cystic fibrosis and congenital emphysema.

PPL's Managing Director in Scotland, Ron James, said recent clinical trials had encouraged the company to scale up its production capacity in New Zealand. "Discussion with potential marketing partners for the

product are continuing, and the initial view of two potential partners of the trial results appear positive," James said.

Aitkenhead said PPL was planning to have a creamskimming plant, which would collect the human protein from the ewes' milk, in operation in 2001.

Construction of the farm would begin late next year. When the pharmaceutical product was ready for production, it would be necessary to have a second farm and a second skimming plant to ease the risk of any interruptions to supply of the protein.

Devilish devotee

SHIVPURI, Maddhya Pradesh: A man beheaded his two sons and offered them to Goddess Kali at a temple near here yesterday before making a bid to offer himself, police said, reports PTI. The heads of the boys, Devendra, 12, and Narendra, nine,

were found at the feet of the idol of Goddess Kali in the temple at Macha village, 29 km from here, when devotees went there in the morning, the police said. Ramcharan, 36, who killed his sons also tried to offer himself to the Goddess by using a sword, he had been admitted

to the district hospital where his condition was stated to be serious, they said. The reason for offering the boys to the Goddess was not known.

Ramcharan's wife, Radha, is blind and he also has a fouryear-old daughter, the police added. Senior police and administrative official have reached the village.

take the job but only for a full five-year term. Santer's outgo-

point a new Commission president at the summit. The appointment would be ratified by the EU assembly, which sparked the inquiry that led to the Commission's resignation.

ments time to pick the 19 other commissioners. They would then have to be approved by a new European Parliament after mid-June elections and would take office Jan 1.

agree on a successor to Santer this week. Fischer said a new summit would be scheduled

verdict on Apr 6

KUALA LUMPUR, Mar 23: The closely watched trial of ousted Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim ended abruptly today after defence lawyers refused to make their closing arguments and the judge found them in contempt of court, reports AP.

A verdict in the sensational sex and corruption trial was ex-

pected early next month. Anwar's lawyers demanded that a motion against the High Court judge conducting the trial be heard before closing arguments began. That motion called on Judge Augustine Paul to step down from the case as Anwar did not believe Paul was giving him a fair trial.

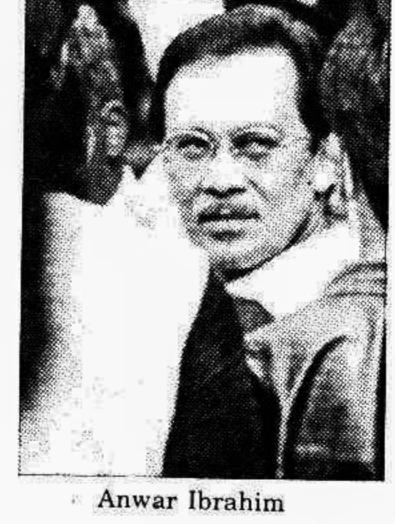
Paul, who sits as sole judge and juror, closed the trial and refused to hear the motion that Anwar had filed against him. He told the court that he would announce his verdict on the four corruption charges April 6.

He also said that he would initiate contempt proceedings against the nine-member defence team for insulting the court by refusing to make arguments. "If the defence chooses not to

me to make sure justice is done," Paul said. Prosecutors also refused to make their closing arguments. in light of the defence boycott. Attorney General Mohtar Ab-

submit, it is entirely up to them.

This places an extra burden on



"The prosecution has proved its case beyond reasonable doubt. Your Lordship should accordingly find the accused guilty," Mohtar said. Anwar was angered that

Paul refused to hear his motion. "It is very unfortunate for the judicial system in this country. It is tragic," Anwar said. However, he said, "I am very satisfied with the excellent performance of the lawyers."

Anwar, who was fired by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on September 2, 1998, on allegations of corruption_ and sexual misconduct, said in a motion to Paul last week that the judge was prejudiced against.

20 after leading a massive demonstration against Mahathir in the capital, Kuala

Lumpur. That night, a blindfolded and handcuffed Anwar was beaten so badly by the country's top police officer that doctors later said he could have

tion Party.

was irrelevant.

Each of the four corruption counts carries a jail term of 14 years and a fine of 20,000 ringgit (5,000 dollars). If convicted, Anwar will also be barred from entering politics for five years. He still faces another corruption charge and five counts of

for resolving Kashmir dispute ISLAMABAD, Mar 23: Pakgo very far, Aziz said. prisoners will also be allowed

istan yesterday ruled out setting any timeframe for resolution of the contentious Kashmir issue but asserted efforts to normalise relations with India are not likely to go very far without resolving the issue, reports PTI.

"I think it is too early to talk about that let us give dialogue a chance. One should presume that dialogue will fail and we have to go for third option. Aziz told newsmen here when asked whether Pakistan had given any timeframe to India for the resolution of the Kashmir issue failing which it may approach

UN for intervention. Aziz, on his return from SAARC Foreign Ministers' Conference in Colombo, said, during his meeting with his Indian counterpart Jaswant Singh he had made it clear that Pakistan is pursuing in good faith, various confidence building measures, agreed at Lahore in order to create a positive atmosphere for substantive discussions on

Kashmir and other related isthese confidence building meaprogress on the substantive is-

He also said, progress on

mate the complexity of the issue and difficulties involved in it. he added.

the time being.

from both the sides. On the exchange of civilian prisoners between the two sides yesterday at Wagah border, the foreign minister said that though it was a symbolic release, it would become a regular

feature after the ministers of state from both sides meet in April to put into motion a permanent mechanism. He said under this mechanism, two or three months before the release of the civilian

istan, without resolving the Kashmir issue, are not likely to

Arafat meets with Albright to seek support for statehood policy next week was pushed back, as some lead-ers have advised, it could lead to open-ended negotiations with no finite end. "We are just simply asking to

million to 121 million.

amid growing pressures for him to postpone a May 4 declaration fill the vacuum, the political and legal vacuum," said Saeb Erakat, the chief Palestinian of statehood, reports AP. Arafat spent nearly an hour negotiator. "There are many leand a half Monday night meeting with Secretary of state Madeleine Albright at her Georgetown home. Afterward, Albright said President Bill Clinton and Arafat would discuss Palestinian concerns over the legal questions surrounding

jects we are going to be talking States will work to get the about," Albright told reporters. stalled peace process moving Arafat was scheduled to meet with Clinton today, after a quick morning visit to New York to see UN Secretary Gen-/ -! Kofi Annan. tinian officials expressed concern that if the date

WASHINGTON, Mar 23: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat arrived in Washington to build support for eventual Palestinian independence,

> gal question related to May 4 that no one is willing to an-Last week, lawmakers in both the House and Senate said a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state by Arafat would be unacceptable and urged the White House to take a tougher stand on the statehood issue. Arafat is expected, in his meetings with Clinton, to pledge to postpone any declara-tion if he is assured the United

Erakat said Monday evening that the administration is "taking this issue very, very seriously," but that there are many questions about what will happen in May.

on immigration

residency here, reports AP.

Chinese and says they must be deported to China to seek approval for their residency applications. Lawyers for the migrants say that violates an earlier court ruling giving them the right of abode in Hong Kong. Hong Kong's Court of Final Appeal ruled in January that any mainland Chinese with at

least one parent who is a Hong

Kong permanent resident can

claim the right to live here, al-

though applications must be

able to get the required exit permit to leave.

HK court decision

HONG KONG, Mar 23: A Hong Kong court will decide next Tuesday whether the government can deport hundreds of mainland Chinese who have expired visas but are claiming

The government is locked in a court fight with 17 mainland

made from the mainland. Lawyers for the would-be migrants have argued that applications for residency should be made in Hong Kong in special cases, such as people who are in Hong Kong but fear that if they go back to China they won't be