

International

British army angry over IRA proposal

LONDON, Feb 22: The British Army has warned it will not take part in a "reconciliation" gesture alongside the IRA designed to put the Northern Ireland peace process back on track, newspapers reported here today, says AFP.

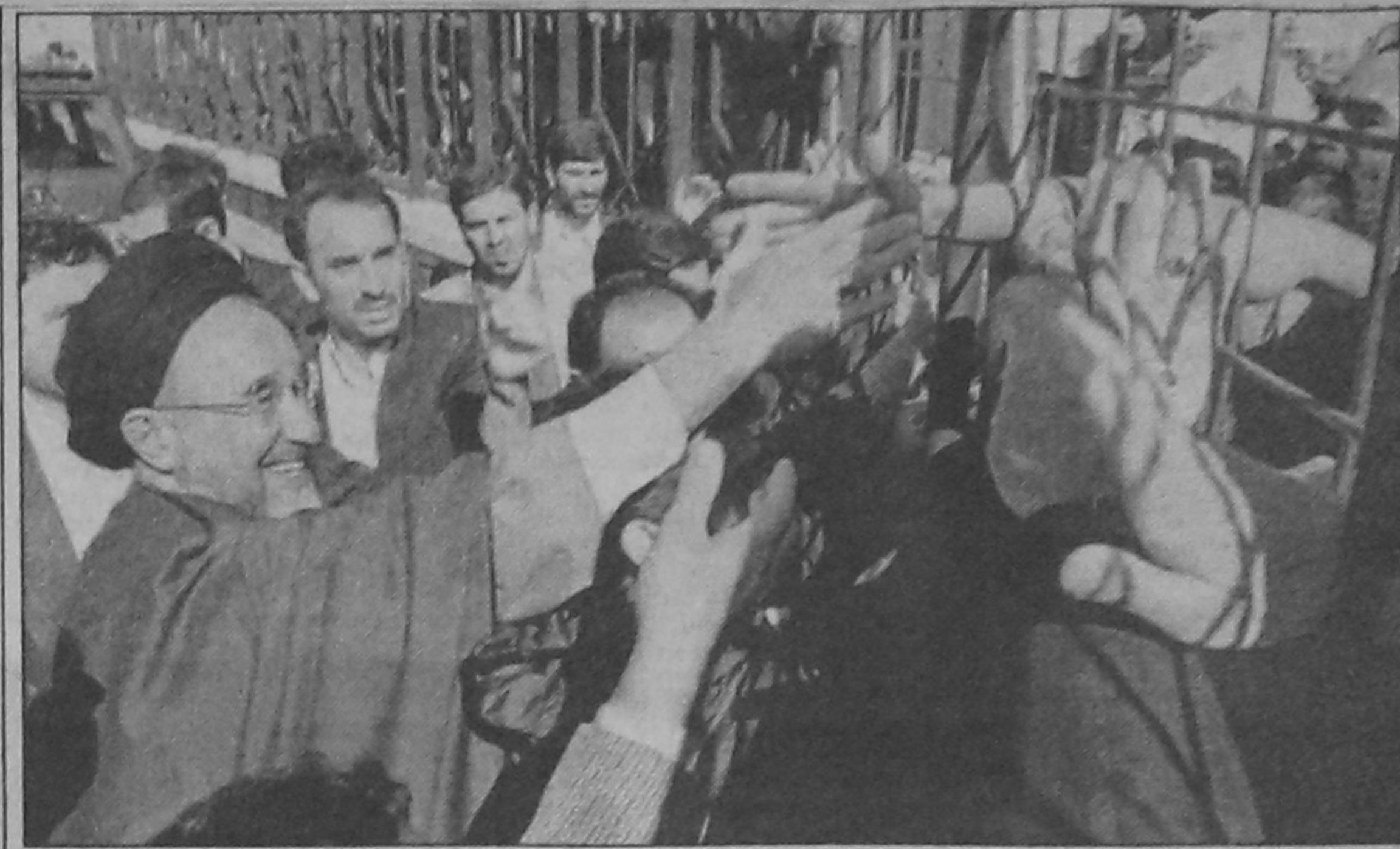
source in Northern Ireland as saying: "The army would resign en-masse." Mandelson's office stressed here that the minister did not have any kind of weapons ceremony in mind and that any withdrawal of troops would depend on the security situation.

Christian-Muslim riots leave 20 dead in Nigeria

KADUNA, Nigeria, Feb 22: Police battled overnight to regain control of the northern Nigerian city of Kaduna where fighting has raged between Christians and Muslims who want to introduce Islamic law, reports Reuters.

by Muslims for the introduction of strict Sharia law in Kaduna following its full implementation by one northern state and its planned adoption by others.

Christian, took office last May to end 15 years of dictatorship by soldiers from the largely Muslim north. More than 1,000 have died in various clashes since then.



Iranian President Mohammad Khatami greets supporters after inauguration of the first underground subway line in Tehran February 21. Iran's pro-Khatami reformers have won a majority in parliament, ousting the longstanding conservative majority by getting 152 out of 290 seats in last week's elections, according to official results published February 20, 2000.

Iran's legislative polls Reformists' gain on

TEHRAN, Feb 22: An influential reform leader in a strictly anti-American Iran has said that talks with the United States would not be a "sin." That view is shared by many reformist candidates set to take control of Iran's next Parliament, giving momentum to President Mohammad Khatami's programme of liberal reform, reports AP.

reporters Monday when asked his opinion on opening talks with the United States, with whom Iran has not had relations in over two decades.



Mohammad-Reza Khatami, the reformers' top candidate, poses for a photo in the office of the Islamic Iran Participation Front (IIPF) in Tehran Sunday as results show the reformers winning 75 per cent of the seats counted so far outside Tehran.

11 shot dead in polls violence in Bihar

PATNA, India, Feb 22: Paramilitary policemen on Tuesday shot dead seven men who tried to steal and illegally mark ballot papers during a crucial state legislature election in Bihar, widely regarded as the most lawless place in India, reports AP.

cer in charge of the area. Federal Rapid Action Force commandoes gunned down the seven attackers in Beethiah election district in northern Bihar, according to Sudhir Prasad, the election officer in charge of the area.

Birendra accepts resignation of 11 ministers

KATHMANDU, Feb 22: King Birendra today accepted the resignations of eleven ministers who have joined a group of disgruntled ruling Nepali Congress MPs seeking Prime Minister KP Bhattarai's ouster, official sources said, reports AFP.

Belgrade behind unrest in divided Kosovo town: US

KOSOVKA MITROVICA, Feb 22: American officials are blaming the Yugoslav government for fomenting the crisis in this ethnically divided Kosovo town, where French and British peacekeepers thwarted attempts by thousands of ethnic Albanians to cross into the Serb-controlled sector, reports AP.

told a Belgrade radio station that the Serbs were bringing in reinforcement from neighbouring villages to defend their part of the city of NATO cannot control the Albanians.



United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan checks the time before addressing the National Press Club in Canberra Tuesday. Annan admitted that there is no timetable for the withdrawal of UN peacekeeping forces in East Timor though he insisted that the UN would continue to work hand-in-glove with the East Timorese leadership.

Indian shelling kills 3 in Pak-held Kashmir

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan, Feb 22: Indian troops shelled villages on the Pakistan side of the disputed Kashmir region yesterday, killing at least three people, local officials said, reports Reuters.

Chinese media repeats threat to invade Taiwan

BEIJING, Feb 22: Chinese newspapers reported today an ultimatum to Taiwan to begin talks on reunification with the mainland or face war, but did not highlight the dramatic threat issued in a Cabinet paper, reports Reuters.

11,000-word policy "white paper" issued by the State Council, or Cabinet.

threat in the white paper was not entirely new, and the late paramount leader Deng Xiaoping spoke of unspecified "non-peaceful" action if the reunification issue remained unresolved.

Blast destroys jet in Kabul airport

KABUL, Feb 22: A powerful explosion rocked the Kabul airport Monday, airport officials said, reports AFP.

Hot-house pressure on Chinese pupils goes

BEIJING, Feb 22: Beijing's army of 1.6 million schoolchildren were celebrating today after the government moved to stop teachers piling them high with homework, state media reported, says AFP.

The English-language China Daily said the education authorities had removed the 100-mark system for pupils in the capital in which each piece of homework was graded from zero to 100.

BRIFFLY

Avalanches claim 3 in Alps: Avalanches swept down Alpine slopes in Italy and Switzerland at the height of the ski season Monday, killing at least three skiers. Rescue teams in Switzerland dug into the evening for an unknown number of people believed buried beneath the snow, AP reports from Bolzano.

Blast kills 11 in China: Firecracker peddlers showing off their wares sparked an explosion in a market that killed 11 people and injured more than 30 others in northern China, an official newspaper said Tuesday, AP reports from Beijing.

7 drown in Red River: Seven people, including two children and a pregnant woman, drowned when their overloaded boat sank on the Red River in the northern province of Ha Tay, a local police officer said Tuesday, AP reports from Hanoi.



Recording Academy President Michael Greene (L) presents rock music star Sir Elton John (C) with the MusiCares Person of the Year Award prior to a tribute honouring John Monday in Los Angeles, California. The benefit event included performances by (From L-R, background): Cheryl Crow, Jewel and Tony Bennett.

Muslim militants step up violence in Kashmir ahead of Clinton's India visit

SRINAGAR, India, Feb 22: Muslim guerrillas have stepped up their separatist operations in Kashmir ahead of US President Bill Clinton's visit to India, in a bid to raise the profile of their 10-year struggle, reports AFP.

which holds the northern third of Kashmir, of fomenting militancy in its territory. Islamabad denies the charge but extends moral and diplomatic support to the unrest.

Kashmir's most powerful militant group, Hizbul Mujahideen, has claimed that Indian security troops are planning to massacre Hindus, a religious minority in Kashmir, to undermine the Muslim drive for secession from India.

Not everyone here feels that Clinton's visit will have a positive effect on the Kashmir dispute.

'No Israeli troop withdrawal from around Jerusalem' JERUSALEM, Feb 22: Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, known to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Monday that there would be no Israeli troop withdrawal from in and around Jerusalem, public radio here reported, reports AFP.

BANGLADESH PARJATAN CORPORATION National Tourism Organization Works Division 233, Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka Urgent Tender Notice Sealed tenders are hereby invited from 1st class (unlimited/special class) contractors/firms enlisted with any govt/semi-govt organisations having experience of constructing a single building under any govt/semi-govt organisation worth not less than Tk 3.00 crore in a single work order for construction of Parjatan Motel & Recreation Centre at Khagrachhari Hill District of the Corporation.