Gunmen shoot dead 5 truck drivers in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Feb 29: Unidentified gunmen entered a large parking lot for trucks in India's Lyjolence-wracked Kashmir state and shot dead five drivers after identifying them as Hindus, police said, reports AP.

The killings late Monday came just a day after gunmen shot dead three Hindu women and a four-year-old boy in western Kashmir. Three Hindu men were kidnapped after the shooting and their whereabouts are still unknown.

Russia seizes last major Chechen base

MOSCOW, Feb 29: Russian troops today seized the village of Shatoi, the last major rebel stronghold in southern Chech- | facto boundary dividing Indian nya. Itar-Tass news agency quoted the Russian military command as saying, reports

The Russian military have said seizing strongly fortified Shatoi, located some 60 km south of the Chechen capital Grozny in the Argun gorge, was the key to controlling the last rebel-held areas in the southern mountains. The Tass report could not be immediately con-

The Russian military have said their immediate aim was to crush the strongest rebel groups and kill or capture their leaders before the snow melts in the mountains

Ruling party calls strike in Assam

GAUHATI, India, Feb 29: The ruling party in the northeastern state of Assam enforced a dawn-to-dusk strike today. paralysing businesses, schools and traffic to protest the killing of a Cabinet minister and four others in a landmine explosion. reports AP.

The Asom Gana Parishad party which heads the state government, called the 12-hour strike after Saturday's explosion, which killed the party general secretary, Nagen Sharma. and four people with him.

India to beef up troops in Kashmir border posts

SRINAGAR, India, Feb 29: and Pakistan-controlled Kash-India will send troop reinforce- mir. ments to vulnerable posts along its disputed Kashmir border beefing up the troop strength with Pakistan, following increas- and the weaponry of the per- on the Line of Control (LoC) ing cross-border attacks, a top ceived vulnerable posts," he have been asked to remain ex-

army official said here today. said. "We will be taking some tra-vigilant. This is to prevent any recur- other measures too." rence of Sunday's attack that left seven (Indian) soldiers dead rial dispute has triggered two and another missing in Now- wars between the South Asian shera." Major General PPS rivals, as well as a bitter two Bindra told AFP from Udham- month border conflict last pur-headquarters of the army's summer following the occupanorthern command, 50 km tion of mountain posts in Indian today their sporadic duels over south of the summer capital territory by Pakistan-backed the LoC.

the vulnerable posts along the an early warning post in Now-

The disputed 740-kilometer missing. Pakistan denied its dead. (460-mile) LoC acts as a de troops were involved.

"We have started identifying l'akistani troops with attacking Line of Control (LoC) and inter- shera sector that left seven In- Kupwara and many other secdian soldiers dead and another tors that left an Indian soldier

had been put on maximum istan of deliberately raising mili-That will be followed by alert following Sunday's attack.

India and Pakistan's territo- eight to ten troops, whose sole, Kashmir," Mukherjee said. task is to monitor the move-

> ment of Pakistani troops and the militant infiltrators. Meanwhile, Indian and Pakistani artillery units continued ton's visit.

Police blamed Pakistani long-running impasse. India on Sunday charged troops, for opening indiscriminate artillery fire on Indian positions in Uri. Teetwal, Keran.

Bindra said Indian troops Kashmir, Major General JR sovereignty.

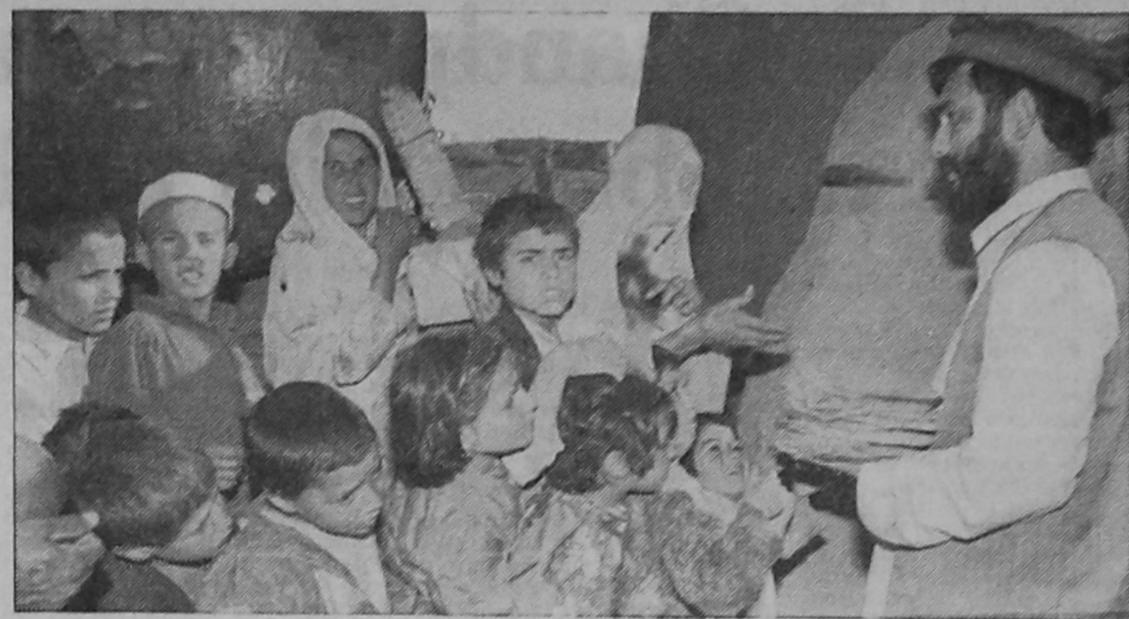
tary tensions in the region "All the early-warning posts ahead of US President Bill Clin-

ton's visit to India next month. Over the past two months the Pakistani troops have Each post is manned by opened almost all the sectors in

> "This is being done with the aim of internationalising the Kashmir issue ahead of Clin-

Clinton had recently offered to try to broker a solution to the

While Pakistan is keen to in ternationalise the Kashmir dis pute. India is adamantly op posed to any third-party inter ference, insisting it is a purely bilateral issue that rests or The deputy army chief in questions of national



An Afghan refugee distributes bread made from donated French wheat among Afghan children in Akhora Khattak in northwestern Pakistan Monday. France handed over a consignment of 7,000 tons of wheat to the Pakistani government on February 15 through World Food Programme as a donation to aid Afghan refugees. Pakistan shelters around 1.2 million Afghan refugees, mostly residing in the North West Frontier Province, which borders with neighbouring Afghanistan. - AFP photo

7 more killed in Aceh: Seven people have

been killed in the latest troubles in the province of Aceh, police and residents said yesterday, AFP reports from Banda Aceh. Police shot dead two suspected guerillas when they tried to resist arrest on Monday in the Rundeng area of West Aceh, local police chief Lieutenant Colonel Aris Sumarman said. "Both victims had been targets of our operations," he said.

Y'slavia for close ties with DPRK:

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Zivadin Javanovic has promised to strengthen relations between his country and North Korea, the North's media reported, AP says from Seoul.

Jovanovic made the pledge when he met with Kim Yong Nam. president of North Koream parliament, said North Korean foreign news outlet KCNA in a report late Monday night. The report did not say when the meeting with Kim, who serves as me North's ceremonial head of state, took place. The Yugoslav foreign minister arrived in North Korea on Saturday.

Blast outside school in Russia: A car exploded Tuesday outside a school in southern Russia, killing

at least one person, the school principal said. AP reports from Makhachkala. Aliyev Kazanbeyev, a school principal in Makhachkala, capi-

tal of the region of Dagestan, said that the car blew up shortly after dropping off a school-girl outside School No. 8. He said the force of the blast threw the car 5 metres (16 feet) into the air and flipped it on to its roof. The driver was killed and it wasn't clear whether there were more casualties. Kazanbeyev said.

Baghdad rejects UN plan to fund Iraqis for Haji

posal to get money to Iraqis to make the annual pilgrimage to Makkah, dimming hopes that an agreement can be reached before the Hajj begins in two weeks, reports AP.

The Security Council has exempted Hajj travel from the sweeping trade embargo it imposed on Baghdad in 1990, and has tried in the past several years to use proceeds from UNsupervised oil sales to help poorer Iraqis make the trip to Saudi Arabia.

Baghdad has demanded the United Nations deposit the money - an estimated 49.4 million dollars per year - directly into its Central Bank so that it can distribute the cash to Iraqis who can't afford the travel and lodging expenses on their own.

But the Security Council has refused to do so, saying it would plan. violate the sanctions. As an alternative, the council has offered to use agencies in third countries to distribute the estimated 2,000 dollars for each of the 24,700 pilgrims.

balked at the plan, saying its

UNITED NATIONS. Feb 29: sovereignty would be violated. Iraq objected to a new UN pro- As a result, no oil-for-food money has been made available to the pilgrims.

in a December resolution. the council asked Secretary-General Kofi Annan to come up with a proposal to get the money to the Iraqis as a way to break the impasse with Bagh

In a letter dated February 24 and released Monday, Annan proposed that the UN humanitarian programme disburse 250 dollars to each of the pilgrims from its office in Baghdad for local costs inside Iraq. The remaining dlrs 1,750 would be deposited with agencies in Saudi Arabia and Jordan to distribute to Iraqis once they arrive.

The Security Council discussed the matter on Monday and planned further consultations on Tuesday after France raised some problems with the

France, an ally of Baghdad on the council, suggested a counter-proposal on Monday that would create a joint UN-Iraq agency in Baghdad to re-But each year, Baghdad has ceive and distribute money for Hajj pilgrims.

UN launches opium control belt around Afghanistan

UNITED NATIONS. Feb 29: closed meeting of regional rep-The United Nations has launched a dlrs 65 million drug control initiative in the countries that border Afghanistan tion in the world and surplus in a bid to stem trafficking from the world's top producer of opium, a senior UN official said Monday, reports AP.

The "security belt" projects in Central Asia include training for border police and law enforcement officials and help in establishing national drug control agencies and policies, said Pino Arlacchi, the head of the UN Drug Control and Crime Programme.

The target countries for the UN programmes are Tajikistan. Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan. Iran. Pakistan, Kazkstan and Kyrgyztan.

The problem of illicit nar- said Afghanistan now produces cotics production in 75 per cent of the world's opium. Afghanistan and related trafficking has reached alarming the Taliban's supreme leader.

resentatives.

The region now has the vation. highest rates of heroin addicproduction may fuel efforts to develop new markets elsewhere. Arlacchi said according to his prepared remarks.

Despite pledges by Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia to ban poppy cultivation, the country expanded lands under harvest and produced 4,600 metric tons (5,070 US tons) of opium last year almost twice as much as the previous year.

A recent report from the International Narcotics Control Board, a quasi-judicial UN organisation that monitors adherence to UN drug treaties.

In response to the UN report. proportions." Arlacchi told a Mullah Mohammed Omar, is-

sued an edict ordering a onethird reduction in poppy culti-

But Taliban officials have said they cannot persuade Alghanistan's farmers to stop cultivating the illegal crop altogether because they have no other way of supporting them-

The United Nations has launched pilot projects in four regions of Afghanistan to help farmers switch to non-poppy harvesting, but the organisation estimates it will need dirs 25 million a year for five years to establish alternative development projects that would

Arlacchi said in an interview. In the meantime, the United Nations wants to stem the trafficking through border control and other projects, including projects to stem the import into Afghanistan of the chemical precursors needed to make opium.

wipe out production altogether,

Force always an option with Taiwan, China warns US

BEIJING. Feb 29 : China's dehence minister warned the United States on Tuesday that his government would never rule out using force to bring Taiwan back under mainland rule, reports AFP.

Hoatian told the visiting com- with Chinese military leaders. mander of US forces in the Paofficial Xinhua news agency reported.

warned the island it would face China. an invasion if it rebuffed attempts to reunify through dialogue, reflected Beijing's determination to bring about reuni-

He said Beijing wanted to

follow the peaceful path, but if it was foiled it would have to keep all options open. The reunification cause of

China is irreversible," he told "China will never commit Blair, who arrived late Sunday

Chi also called on the United cific Admiral Dennis Blair, the States to stop all arms sales to Taiwan, considered by Beijing to be a rebel province, and to "do Chi said last week's policy things that genuinely promote white paper on Taiwan, which the peaceful reunification of

> The invasion threat in the white paper last week provoked an outcry from US lawmakers who threatened to scupper

November's landmark Sino-US trade deal, while the White House also issued a firm warning to Beijing to stop the sabre-

US sources said it was hoped Blair's visit would lower crossstrait tension in the run-up to not to use force," General Chi for three days of consultations Taiwan's presidential elections on March 18. During the 1996 elections the

United States moved two naval carrier groups into waters off Taiwan after Beijing carried out large-scale wargames off the Chi stressed that China

wanted good relations with the United States. "China will definitely not pose a threat to the US," he added.



Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid (2nd L), accompanied by East Timorese leader Xanana Gusmao (L), Wahid's daughter Yenny (2nd R) and Indonesian military chief Admiral Widodo Adisucipto (R) lays a flower wreath at a military cemetery during his visit to Dili yesterday.

- AFP photo

Cheers, anger greet Wahid in E Timor

DILI. Feb 29: Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid made a historic visit to East Timor today, braving the wrath a brief meeting to hear their of the population over 24 years demands. of repression, to pledge the opening of a new chapter in the two countries' bloodstained history, reports AFP.

The day-long visit got off to a of atrocities here. violent start when Portuguese police fired warning shots at an munique with the UN transi- Wahid apologised to the Timoangry mob of youths which surged toward the armourplated Mercedes carrying Wahid But Wahid stuck undaunted

to his schedule, addressing a crowd in front of the governor's palace as UN military and police wrestled with protestors in the front line of a 4,000-strong

dent invited the leaders of the Protestors called for cap-

tured resistance fighters to be

located and demanded a trial for Indonesian generals accused Wahid later signed a com-

tions, reparations and borders before signing the foundation stone of Indonesia's first diplomatic mission here.

Wahid, who was a Muslim scholar in his early 30s when Indonesian troops invaded the former Portuguese colony at the

screamed abuse, as the presi- Cruz cemetery, the site of the 1991 massacre of at least 100 protestors inside the palace for civilians by Indonesian forces. He also commemorated the

estimated 20,000 Indonesians who died in East Timor, laying a wreath at a nearby military cemetery before heading for a brief press conference and then to the airport. After the wreath-laying

tional Authority in East Timor rese people, who lost an esti-(UNTAET) on building new rela- mated 200,000 people in the bloody aftermath of the inva-

"I would like to apologize for the things that have happened in the past... for the victims, to the families of Santa Cruz, and those friends who are buried

here in the military cemetery. "These are the victims of circumstance that we didn't want,

Barak sends fresh signals to Syria over Golan

JERUSALEM, Feb 29: The for a full peace. Barak government has sent Damascus fresh a signals over Clinton administration apparback to the negotiating table, lock.

reports Reuters. A close aide to both Prime official confirmation of Syrian Minister Ehud Barak and assassinated Israeli leader statements, as well as an indi-Yitzhak Rabin said on Monday that Rabin told Washington in 1993 he would be willing to cede the Golan to Syria in exchange State Warren Christopher:

US President Bill Clinton's spethe Golan heights after the cial envoy Dennis Ross said a and normalisation, then Israel week of shuttle diplomacy had ently failed in its latest effort to failed to end a month-long Is-

claims regarding Rabin's

rect Barak signal to Damascus.

Barak aide Danny Yatom said

Rabin told then-US Secretary of

coax Israel and Palestinians raeli-Palestinian peace dead-In what was seen as the first

"If all of Israel's needs are The aide spoke hours after fulfilled, that is, needs in the sphere of security, water (rights) will be willing to come down from the Golan Heights".

> Israeli-Syrian talks, which resumed last December after a 45-month-long freeze, broke down again in January over Barak's rejection of a Syrian demand that Israel commit itself to a full pullout from the Golan, captured in the 1967 Middle East War.



Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation Paribahan Bhaban, 21, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000

International Short Tender Notice No. BRTC-04/2000

Import of Genuine Spare Parts/Assemblies for Ashok Leyland Double Decker Buses of Indian Origin Model ALPD-4/2

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) will receive sealed typed International Tender on 21st March, 2000 up to 12 hours for Import of genuine spare parts/Assemblies for Ashok Leyland Double despite the efforts of rescuers cially as people begin dying of Decker Buses Model ALPD-4/2 of Indian origin on C&F Benapole basis against cash foreign exchange. Rates shall have to be quoted in US dollar. Tender documents may be obtained from 5th March, 2000 from the office of the undersigned and the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka & Chittagong during office hours on production of receipt showing payment of Tk. 1000/-(one thousand) (non-refundable) with the Accounts Department. BRTC reserves the right to accept or reject any tender in part or full without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Manager (Purchase)

Leap year bug bites Japan

TOKYO. Feb 29: The leap year an agency official said. computer bug today caused forecast system, knocked out of rain in (the western city) Kyhundreds of post office cash oto even though there was no machines and barred workers rain at all," agency official from a nuclear institute, re- Gouki Chiba said.

expected in Japan, where it had been largely written off by officials who were blase after the millennium computer glitch failed to bite on New Year's Day. Leap years occur every four

years, except in years which can be divided by 100. The exception Telecommunications to this rule comes if the year is divisible by 400, as in 2000, leading some computers to fail. Japan's weather forecast system spewed out the wrong rainfall, wind and temperature readings because of the leap

year glitch. the meteorological agency said. At 1:00 a.m. (10:00 pm BST, Monday), agency officials discovered erroneous data on computers at 43 sites of 150 covered by the Automated Meteorological Data Acquisition System,

"One computer showed there havoc with Japan's weather was 972 millimeters (38 inches)

"Other computers showed the The bug had bigger teeth than wrong data for wind velocity and temperature," Chiba said. The computerised weather stations were all repaired later. Hundreds of post office cash machines also failed because of

the leap year bug.

spokesman Takajiro Sekiguchi said 1.200 of its 25,000 automatic teller machines (ATMs) went wrong but all were repaired by the early afternoon. "The trouble with the postal ATMs was caused by the leap year problem," said Jiji Press

news agency. And nuclear workers found they could not get past their computerized security system at the government-run Japan Nuclear Cycle Development Institute in the western Fukui

Thousands more still at risk in Mozambique

Floods claim thousands of lives

MAPUTO, Feb 29: Thou- dead was in the thousands. risk in Mozambique's flooding

rose. The deluge has claimed thousands of lives, officials said, spokesman for the South impoverished African nation African military, said heli- three weeks ago. copters rescued more than 3,000 people Monday, including send three more military heli everyone in immediate danger copters Monday to join the five

along a particularly hard-hit already in operation. area of the Limpopo River. But Michele Quitaglie, a spokeswoman of the UN World Food Programme, said thousands more were still at risk. "We're a long way from being

sands of people remained at Other aid workers said the toll would continue to climb, espewho plucked people from trees flood-borne diseases over the and rooftops as the floodwaters next few weeks. The Mozambican governmen

estimates more the 200,000 people have been left homeless Maj. Louis Kirsten, a since torrential rains hit the South Africa said it would

The United States on Monday allocated 1 million dollars through the US Agency for International Development to help pay for aircraft needed for able to rescue everybody," Quin- search and rescue and for the delivery of relief supplies. Addi-While there was no precise tionally, two US military planes | DFP-4240-24/2 death toll. Quintaglie said it was were en route to deliver shelter rtain that the number of materials and blankets

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, R&H Road Division, Moulvibazar Telephone: 52245

Tender Invitation Notice

As per group list.

Name of work

Head of expenditure Estimated cost Earnest money Authority to approve estimate Time for completion of work

Ministry of Posts and Offices where tender will be

Offices where tenders will be : 1) received

10 Last date of selling tender

12 Specific date and time of: 13.03.2000/30.11.1406 Bangla at 12-45 PM. Date and time of holding :

14 Eligibility of contractors

cost of thousands dead, also Some cheered and some laid a floral wreath at Santa

Tender Notice No 9 (nine) EE R&H, Road Division, Moulvibazar 1999-2000. Sealcoat work alongwith necessary repairing on different

kilometres of different roads under Moulvibazar Road during 1999-2000 fiscal year. Divided in 2 (two) groups. : Taka as per group list. As per group list.

Superintending Engineer, R&H, Sylhet Road Circle, Sylhet.

: 1) Executive Engineer, R&H Road Division, Moulvibazar/Habiganj/Sylhet/Sunamganj/Planning Division-1 (P&D), Sarak Bhaban, Dhaka/Planning & Design Division, Comilla. 2) Sub-Divisional Engineer, R&H, Road Sub-Division,

Moulvibazar/Kulaura/Srimongal Mechanical Sub-Division, Moulvibazar. Additional Chief Engineer, R&H, Comilla Region,

2) Superintending Engineer, R&H, Sylhet Road Circle,

3) Superintending Engineer, R&H, Procurement & Monitoring Circle, Dhaka. 4) Executive Engineer, R&H Road Division, Moulvibazar. 7.03.2000/24.11.1406 Bangla till office hours.

11 Date and time of receiving: 8.03.2000/25.11.1406 Bangla till 12-30 PM.

14.03.2000/31.11.1406 Bangla at 12-45 PM in office chamber of undersigned. As per group list.

Group List					
Group No	Name of work & location	Estimated cost	Earnest	Time allowed	Eligibility of contractors
I (one)	Sealcoat work with necessary repairing work on the 21st (part) and 22nd (part) km of Zori-Sheowla Road under Moulvibazar Road Division during 1999-2000 fiscal year.		Tk 12,620/-	25 (twenty- five) days	'A' to 'E' general class contractors of R&H Department.
2 (two)	Sealcoat work with necessary repairing work on 7th km (part) and 9th km (part) of Barolekha-Latu Link Road of Bianibazar-Barolekha-Zuri Road under Moulvibazar Road Division during 1999-2000 fiscal year	Tk 4,99,682/-	Tk 9,994/-	20 (twenty) days	'A' to 'E' general class contractors of R&H Department.

Abul Bashar Mohiuddin Ahmed Executive Engineer, R&H Road Division, Moulvibazar