# INTERNATIONAL

# Israeli troops, Palestinians US officials report progress in exchange gunfire in Gaza

## Passover holiday begins amid tension

AP, Jerusalem

Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen exchanged fire in the West Bank and Gaza Strip early yesterday, as Israel prepared for the weeklong Passover holiday amid new warnings by Islamic militants to set off

In the West Bank, Palestinian police arrested a suspected informer who allegedly helped lure two Palestinian gunmen to an area under Israeli control where they were seized by Israeli forces. The army said the two men arrested by troops belonged to Tanzim, the armed wing of Palestinian leader

Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement. In the Gaza Strip, three Palestinian policemen were wounded overnight in a heavy gunbattle with Israeli troops near One of the officers was in critical condition with a shot to the head.

In the confrontation, Israeli "Area A," under full Palestinian Egypt,

protesting Israeli "assassinations" of Palestinians.

The public are to be allowed back

inside Italy's Leaning Tower of Pisa

lire (\$12) for a ticket to make the

dizzy climb when the monument re-

closed to the public at the start of

1990 for a daring restoration project

using huge lead counterweights

which should keep the building,

which stands apart from the main

body of Pisa's cathedral, safe for the

much when you consider it took 200

place," Italy's Public Works Minister

to build the monument in the first

Nerio Nesi said on Friday.

"Eleven years of work are not that

Tourists, accompanied by a guide

and security personnel, will be

The 12th century tower was

It involved pulling the tower back

Tourists will have to pay 25,000

for the first time in 11 years.

aimed at reducing its lean.

opens in November

next 300 years.

CNN, Rome

reopens in November

tower, said.

300 years ago.

began in 1173.

tanks and naval patrol boats fired control, while the supermarket is in Force 17, a Palestinians security retains overall security control. service near Netzarim. A bulldozer later razed the position and two

the army said. Israel has accused clothes tried to grab them, Anwar months.

Early Saturday, Palestinians fired fire were also reported in five locations in the West Bank.

On the outskirts of Ramallah, two escalation. Palestinian gunmen, lad and Hussam al-Malhi, members of the the weeklong Passover holiday same clan, were arrested in a super- which celebrates the exodus of the market late Friday. Ramallah is ancient Israelites from slavery in

Israeli border police arrest a Palestinian boy during clashes after Juma prayers on Friday in the Old City of

Jerusalem. Three Palestinians were rushed to hospital with bullet wounds during a confrontation in the West Bank

town of Bethlehem in which Israeli troops fired tear gas and rubber bullets at a crowd of around 70 stone-throwers

allowed up the tower in groups of 30,

Pierfrancesco Pacini, head of the

office which responsible for the

An inauguration ceremony will

Officials said by the time tourists

The tower leaned six degrees, or

13 feet, off the perpendicular, on its

south side before work began -- now

its tilt is nearly back to the level of

not enough for the naked eye to

detect but sufficient to stabilise the

the soil beneath it started shifting

shortly after work to construct it

monument, experts have said.

The decrease in lean, though, is

The tower started leaning when

are back, the tower's tilt should be

be held on June 16. Visitors will be

allowed to walk up to the top as well

as to step outside onto the loggia, at

the second "story" level.

reduced by 40 centimetres.

Leaning Tower of Pisa 70 arrested

heavy machineguns at a position of so-called "Area B," where Israel

REUTERS, Haikou

talks on their return.

island province of Hainan.

take place," he said.

Washington.

U.S. officials prepared for a third

meeting with the 24 detained crew

of a U.S. spy plane on Hainan island

on Saturday after President Bush for

the first time reported progress in

we will be able to see the crew," U.S.

defence attache Brigadier General

Neal Sealock told reporters in

Haikou, capital of the southern

crew today, I am positive that will

working on a letter containing an

agreed account of how the Navy

surveillance plane collided with a

Chinese jet fighter off the coast of

South China, and an expression of

them home through intensive

discussions with the Chinese gov-

ernment. We think we're making

progress," Bush said on Friday in

His comments reflected guarded

Sealock told Bush by telephone

optimism in Washington after

Sealock met for the second time

with the crew on Friday.

"We're working hard to bring

regret for a missing Chinese pilot.

"We were promised to see the

Washington and Beijing are now

"We are awaiting word on when

Jad's brother Anwar said a friend asked Jad and Hussam to come to a abandoned warehouses, the army meeting place on the outskirts of town to discuss business. The friend From the position, mortar shells asked the two to wait at the superwere repeatedly fired at Netzarim. market, where two men in civilian Force 17 of being responsible for said. There was a brief struggle many of the shooting attacks on before the two were taken away by Jewish settlements in the past six uniformed Israeli soldiers, according to the brother.

Israeli Defense Minister a mortar shell toward the Jewish Binyamin Ben-Eliezer has said settlement of Alei Sinai in northern troops would enter Palestinian-Gaza. No one was hurt. Exchanges of controlled territory, if necessary, but Israel has not done so in the past six month of fighting, despite the recent

Saturday also marked the start of

in Seoul for

About 70 students were detained for

questioning yesterday after staging

an anti-American rally at the US

outlawed student organisation

Hanchongryon, occupied four lanes

of an eight-lane boulevard in front of

Riot police quickly hauled away

the students, who lay on the pave-

ment with interlocked arms. No

Earlier, students scattered leaf-

The protesters, members of the

embassy in central Seoul.

anti-US

protests

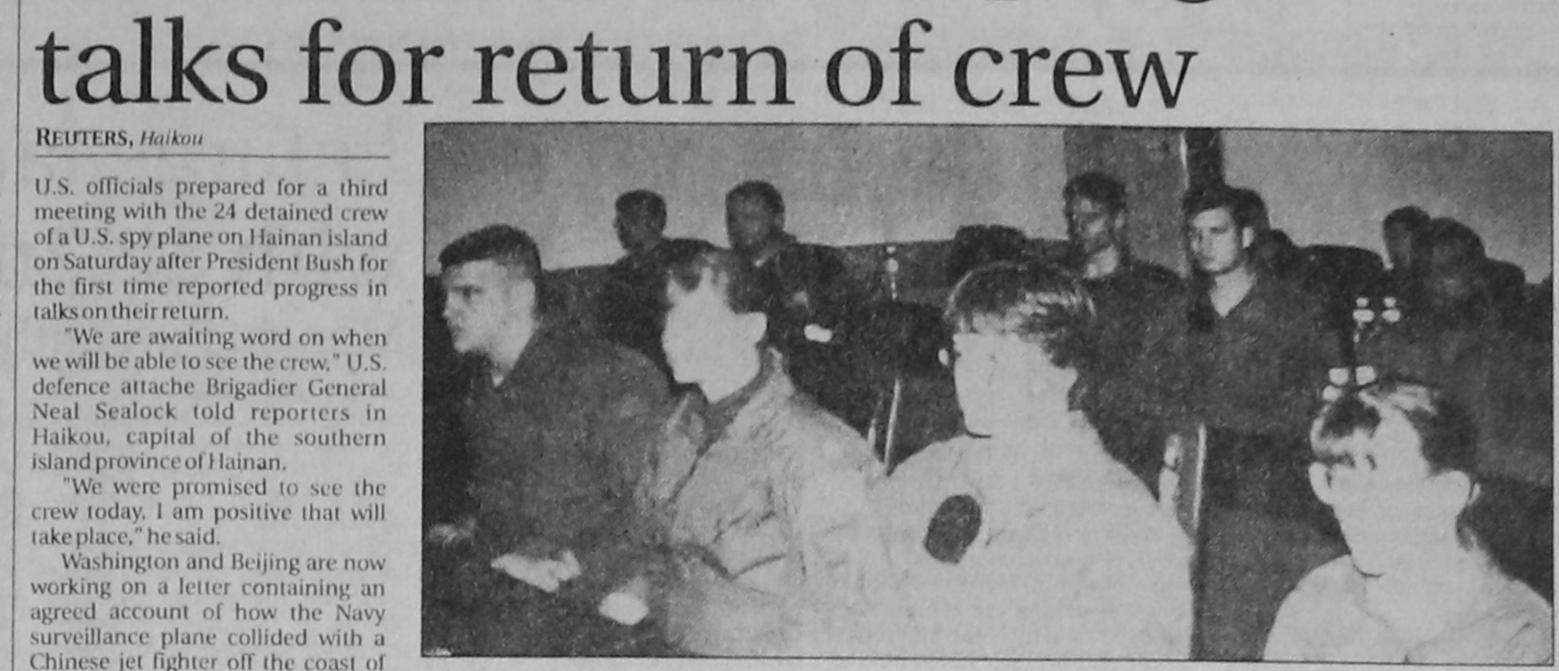
AP, Seoul

South Korea.

similar slogans.

injuries were reported.

system.



This undated photo released by CBS News reportedly shows some crewmembers of the US plane detained in southern China.

feel real proud. They look real good." In Haikou, Sealock told reporters ent

the 21 men and three women in the U.S. Navy crew detained at a Chinese military base were in "great

getting released from their current her husband Wang Wei. situation and returning home,"

first without a Chinese official pres-

Chinese state newspapers meanwhile splashed on their front pages an emotional letter from the wife of the missing pilot to Bush, charging "They're looking forward to him with cowardice and defaming

U.S. officials have portrayed for veering into its jet.

after that visit it would "make you Sealock said after the second visit the Wang as a "Top Gun"-style daredevil known for risky tactics.

> The letter was delivered to the U.S. embassy in Beijing on Saturday morning.

China blames the U.S. plane, which was on a reconnaissance mission over the South China Sea,

### Nepali rebels attack police post, kill 31

REUTERS, Kathmandu

Nepali rebels killed 29 police officers and two civilians in an attack on a police post in a village in the west of the country, state radio said yester-

Radio Nepal said 12 policemen were wounded and 11 others were missing after the clash. There were 72 policemen at the post at the time of the attack, the radio said.

Deputy Prime Minister Ram Chandra Poudel blamed the late Friday attack on rebels of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist.

### Another quake rocks Jakarta

XINHUA, Jakarta

An earthquake, measuring 5.7 on the Richter Scale, jolted Indonesia's Bengkulu province again yesterday but no casualty was reported.

The Antara News Agency quoted the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency spokesman as saying that the quake occurred at 06:07 am local time (23:07 GMT Friday).

The quake centered at 4.86 degrees southern latitude and 100.89 degrees eastern longitude.

# Benazir's fate hangs in balance

Former prime minister Benazir Bhutto's fate hangs in the balance despite a Supreme Court verdict against her corruption conviction, Pakistani media

"By setting aside the Lahore High Court conviction, the Supreme Court News daily said.

"But by remanding the case for re-trial it has in fact kept her fate hanging

tunes, the paper said, but added: "Will she be let go off the hook?

who vow to keep her out." Pakistan's top court on Friday accepted appeals by Benazir and her jailed

Benazir and Zardari were both given five-year prison sentences, fined a total of 8.6 million dollars and disqualified from parliament for seven years

minister Nawaz Sharif, on charges of allegedly taking huge kickbacks from a

The Nation newspaper said Benazir, who lives in self-exile in London, will not have another argument to prove that she was a target of political vindic-

### RUPANTARITA PRAKRITIK GAS COMPANY LTD (RPGCL)

(A Company of Petrobangla) B.S.E.C Bhaban, 102, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue Kawran Bazar, Dhaka, Bangladesh

No: 05.06.47/01

Date: 28-3-2001

## Notice for Short Listing of Expatriate/International Consulting Firms for Design & Implementation of Ashuganj NGL Fractionation Plant Project in Bangladesh

Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Limited (RPGCL), a company of Petrobangla under the Ministry of Energy & Mineral Resources, Government of Bangladesh intends to appoint an internationally reputed consulting firm to provide consultancy services for Design & Implementation of Ashuganj NGL Fractionation Plant at Ashuganj, Bangladesh.

On the above context, RPGCL intends to prepare a shortlist of internationally reputed consulting firms having requisite experience in Design, Implementation & Construction Supervision of Ashuganj NGL Fractionation Plant & associated facilities with proven experience in the field of Natural Gas Liquid (NGL) processing facilities.

Principal assignments to be performed by the consulting firm are, but not limited to; as follows: Preparation of tender document including conceptual design, technical specification etc. of 110 MT

per-day capacity NGL Fractionation Plant at Ashuganj. Assist in evaluation of bids & award of contract for supply & construction of plant.

Approval of design/drawing & overall supervision of construction, testing, commissioning & acceptance of plant.

Interested Consulting Firms are hereby invited to submit proposals along with their printed brochures, annual reports showing organization background & financial standing, general & related experience, resources/logistics, personnel with individual experience & academic background etc.

The proposals shall be evaluated on the basis of the following information as shown below: Particulars General Information: (a) General Information of the firm including name, address year of establishment with functional

break, if any, etc. (b) Experience in general consultancy works along with projects executed & currently in hand. © Experience in Bangladesh & South Asia region along with project executed & currently in hand. (d) Financial standings: Bank Solvency Certificates & last three years audited reports of the firm.

(e) General information of the local agent including organization set-up manpower experience etc. Experience in relevant consultancy works i.e. Design & Implementation/Supervision of NGL Fractionation Plant along with list of such projects executed & currently in hand with documentary evidence of successfully completed works. Curriculum Vitae of personnel to be seconded to the project, Principal Experts must have at least 15

years experience in the respective field with good academic background. The main categories of consultants will be, but not limited to Process Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Instrumentation & Control Engineer, Electrical Engineer, Contract Specialist, Financial Analyst., Date of appointment of the personnel by the firm & duration of contract with them, if any, shall have to be mentioned. Details of resources, number of staff, office equipment, computer, hardware/software, library &

other facilities. Interested firms may contact the following officials for further details:

The Managing Director Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Ltd. BSEC Building (9th floor)

Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215. Tel. 8114677, Fax: 88-02-8113168.

Proposals along with relevant supporting documents to be submitted at or before 1200 hours (BST) on 15th May 2001 at the office of the Managing Director, RPGCL, 9th floor, BSEC Bhaban, 102, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.

RPGCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever.

विना वद्य याय...

সময় আর স্রোত কারো জন্য অপেক্ষা করে না- এমন কথা আজকের ছোট্ট শিশুটিও জানে, কিন্তু...বোঝে ক'জনঃ

মাধ্যমিক পরীক্ষার পরবর্তী সময়টা কি

শুধু এমনি এমনি কাটিয়ে দেবে?

নাকি - তা কাজে লাগিয়ে পেশাগত জীবনের পথে নিজের যোগ্যতাকে এগিয়ে নেবে এক ধাপ, পাল্টে দেবে তোমার

জীবনধারা - সে সিদ্ধান্তটা অবশ্যই তোমার... তবে সিদ্ধান্তটা নিতে হবে এখনই, কারণ ওই যে-

সময় আর স্রোত কারো জন্য... তো... চলে এসো আজই এ্যাপটেক এর যে কোন সেন্টারে।

याधायिक भरीकार्थीएमत जना धार्मिटिक ठान करत्र ए वकि विस्थय कार्म-

যা তোমাদের জন্য একান্ত উপযোগী।

DFP-8658-2/4 G-626

বিশেষ আকর্ষণ!! ডিজিটাল ডায়েরীসহ

আরো কিছু..

Managing Director Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Ltd.

# AFP, Islamabad

has in a way vindicated Benazir Bhutto in the eyes of public opinion," the

in balance. The verdict gives a "big psychological boost" to Benazir's political for-

"It depends on many other things not in the control of the current arbiters

husband Asif Ali Zardari against their April 15, 1999 corruption convictions and ordered a re-trial of the case.

by an accountability bench of the Lahore High Court. Benazir had claimed the conviction, during the rule of ousted prime

Swiss firm during her 1993-96 rule had been politically motivated.

# Indian troops on high alert in Guwahati

AFP, Guwahati

Indian troops were on high alert yesterday against violent protests by militants in turbulent Assam state on the anniversary of a powerful separatist

The United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), which is fighting for an independent homeland in the oil and timber-rich northeastern state, observes its 22nd foundation day today. Rebel sources said the main celebrations will take place at the ULFA

headquarters in the Himalayan nation of Bhutan, with similar functions planned in London, Myanmar and New York. "Security forces have been put on maximum alert fearing possible attacks by ULFA militants on vital installations like crude oil pipelines and railway tracks," a top police official told AFP.

the embassy, demanding the with-In the past, ULFA militants have blown up oil pipelines and attacked drawal of American soldiers from security personnel in a bid to demonstrate their firepower on its anniversary. Troops have been patrolling vulnerable areas to protect a 1,160 kilometres "Withdraw US troops!" they crude oil pipeline that crosses the state, connecting to the Barauni refinery in chanted. They wore headbands with

A police spokesman said extra police and paramilitary forces had been They also protested Washingdeployed at refineries and oilfields, while air surveillance was being conton's plan to build a missile defense ducted.

More than 3,000 ULFA members, including some top leaders, have surrendered over the past two years while hundreds have been killed in encounters with security forces. "The mass surrenders have put pressure on the militants to strike at soft

targets in order to prove they are still a force to reckon with," an army commander engaged in counter-insurgency operations said. The ULFA fights out of well-entrenched bases inside Bhutan and carries out hit-and-run guerrilla strikes in Assam.

Meanwhile, surrendered ULFA militants are organising an anti-terrorism rally today to coincide with foundation day.



त्यागात्यादगत्र ठिकामा :

प्रिका: ■ वनानी: (कान: ৯৮৮-६४०৯, ७०১৯৯० ■ शानमित्र: (कान: ৯১২৮-६४৪-৮)

■ मित्र पृत्तः (कानः ৮०३৯) १৯, ৮०३৯४०৮ ■ पृत्तात्मा हाकाः (कानः १३३৮७८८, ०३৯०८२३४४-७)

■ इंडाइम: त्याम: ৯०৫०४०), ৯৩৪১৭৬১ **■** काक्ब्राइम: त्याम: ४०३৯०३), ४०३९०४९ ■ विका: (वान: ৮৯১९२७८, ৮৯১৮৪১৫

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