ernment Council categorically

said that the three councils

would not be dissolved as

those were elected through

free and fair polls. He also said

that the rights of the people in

the Hill Tracts region would be

protected on the basis of Chit-

tagong Hill Tracts Regulation

1900 which was replaced by

The members of the CHT

commission also called on the

Awami League chief Sheikh

Hasina on January 3. Sheikh

Hasina, however, assured them

of initiating a fresh political

move to solve the issue

through a parliamentary sub-

committee if her party was

grachari and Rangamati coun-

cils respectively Samiran De-

wan and Gaptam Dewan have

expressed their resentment

over the fresh demands of the

tribal students and categori-

cally said that the students had

a very good link to the Shan-

ent political leaders to the

demands of the tribal students

he said : there should be a

common policy of all political

He said that before sup-

porting the demands of the

disgruntled elements of the

hill tracts the political parties

should announce their pro-

armed forces in the area.

Samiran Dewan said that be-

cause of the presence the

armed forces in the area it was

possible to maintain law and

ment Chairman Gaotam Dewan

said that there was no problem

in this region except the activ-

ities of Shantibahini. By now

the Shantibahini men have also

cal government election he

called on Awami League presi-

dent Sheikh Hasina, who also

did not oppose the bill. He said

that who believe in realising

the demands by waging armed

He said that prior to the lo-

become frustrated, he added.

Rangamati Local Govern-

Supporting the presence of

grammes about the CIIT.

parties about the hill tracts.

About the support of differ-

The chairman of Kha-

voted to power.

the local government bill.

Focus on election- '91

Simmering discontent in Chittagong Hill Tracts

From Page 1 Col 7 litical parties have aggravated

the situation. The local leaders of the council said, the dissolution of the councils would jeopardise the process of countering the secessionists movement in a political way.

The leaders of the Shantibahini who have already lost their grounds after the Local Government Councils were set up have come up with fresh political moves to unsettle the issue and destabilise the exist-

ing system. According to a report published in a section of Indian dailies the Shantibahini men have contacted many interna tional human rights organisations and were successful in ventilating their resentments and register their demands.

While the Shantibahini men are operating from their 12 camps in Tripura and Mizoram area on the other side of the border, several mass organisations of the tribals inside the country have launched fresh agitation against the Local Government Councils, administrative sources say.

Among the active mass organisations there are: Greater Chittagong Hill Tracts Hill Students Council, Greater Chittagong Hill Tracts Hill People's Council and Hilly Professionals Organisations The common demand of these three organisations is dissolution of the existing local government councils.

Former Ershad regime in consultation with the local tribal leaders, who favoured a peaceful solution, set up an institution of self-administration through enactment of Local Government Council Bill divid-

The Hill Tracts area into three administrative districts. Provisions have been made in the bill to give 22 areas of the administration except desence, finance and foreign affairs to the councils. Of the 22 three i.e. education, health and family planning and agriculture were been transferred to the Local Government last year. The national government is also ready to transfer rest of administrative powers as soon as cnactment of by-laws is

The council has established domination of the tribals over the non-tribals (only the tribals could be elected as chairman of the council). The first election to the district council was held on January 25, 1989, which was highly appreciated both at home and abroad.

During the last two years the major works done by them included rehabilitation of the refugees from India, motivational work among the tribals about the consequences of the insurgency and investment of local people in the development activities. But the divergent opinions among the tribals over the solution and rivalry of a section of the tribals against the leaders of the local councils have given rise to a new phenomena.

On December 19 the CHT Ilill Students Council in a leaslet circulated throughout the country and later submitted to the Acting President demanded, dissolution of the Chittagong Hill Tracts councils, reservation of three seats for the tribals in the parliament from CIIT; judicial enquiry into the killings which was occur from time to time; repatriation of the tribal refugees from India before the clections, making of a fresh voter list - or to stop the elections in these three constituencies for the time being and formation of a national committee with the representatives of political parties, alliances, peasants, labourers, lawyers, journalists, professionals, intellectuals, cultural workers for a solution of the problems through discussion.

On December 30 the CHT Hill People's Council also announced seven-point charter of demands which contained the five demands of the Hill Students Council. The other demands are : immediate release of all hill people detained during the Ershad regime. withdrawal of Civil Affairs Order of the Chittagong Cantonment and stoppage of arrest, harassment of and repression on the tribal and allowing foreign journalists, travellers, human rights organisations to visit the Hill Tracts without any obstacle. The CIIT professional council also sup-

ported the above demands. Hill Tracts administrative source said that these demands were modified forms of the Shantibahini memorendum, which was submitted to the Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission comprising the representives of eight foreign organisations who visited the CHT last December.

Shantibahini's conditions for a settlement included in the memorandum are a tripartite discussion between Bangladesh government, Indian government and Parbattya Chhatagram Jano Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) (the political organisation of the Shantibahini formed by Manabendra Narayan Larma) and inclusion of representatives of refugees, United Nations, international human rights organisations in the talks, employment of UN observer to implement the decisions; halting settlements of 'Muslims' in Hill Tracts and bringing back the settlers; giving back lands to locals from the 'Muslim' settlers; compensation to the families who have lost their members in attacks by settlers; security to the Jumma people (they call the tribals as jumma); stoppage of religious conversion, doing away with concentration village, withdrawal of military, paramilitary camps from the CHT; repeal of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Local Government bill; and supervision of the peoples' representatives of India and other international human rights organisation during implementation of the

repatriation of refugees. The Hill Tracts Commission during its 15-day visit to CHT areas tried to find out the fact about the allegation made by the Shantibahini. They also met the national political lead-

The administrative source said that the commission could not find any evidence about the alleged atrocities by the settlers or law enforcens there. The eight nation non-government commission comprises Germany, Holland, England, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

On December 30 Acting struggle wace trying to foil the President Justice Shahabuddin peaceful solution. Ahmed at a meeting in Ranga-He also confessed that the mati with the local tribal lead-Shantibahini did not recognise ers and leaders of Local Gov-

their alternative leadership in the hill areas, If any one wants to come to the peaceful life he must recognise the present leadership in the region, he said. However, he hoped that with the installation of democratic government the tribals would achieve more.

He said, 'the demands like provincial autonomy, uprooting the settlers, withdrawal of armed forces and presence of India as guarantor to the solution of the problems could not be accepted and as those were not in line with Constitution of the country."

Gaotam Dewan said that if the Shantibahini men found any thing wrong in the present leadership they could come and sit across the table for negotiation.

About the political solution to the problems as raised by different political parties Gaotam Dewan said that the political solution was a very wide term. He said that the existing arrangement was also a political solution, which could be extended, developed and consolidated in future.

He said that the outlawed Shantibahini were playing at the hands of foreign forces. But, he added the external forces would be able to do anything if the people remained

He categorically said that i the council was dissolved he would wage a movement.

Mr Gaotam observed that the activities of Shantibahini was anti state but the movement of hill students council was not subversive. But he said that there was deep relation between these two groups.

When contacted Area Commander of the armed forces and chairman of the Hill Tracts Development Council Major General Mahmudul Hassan told the Daily Star that it would be very sad if the present process was thrown overboard. The onus is on the political government whether to continue the process or think about any alternative solution', he added.

Certain quarters violating code of conduct : Abbas By Staff Correspondent

Islami Abbas Ali Khan has called upon the people to vote for Jamaat nominees to ensure fulfillment of the basic needs.

He was addressing a meeting at Savar bus stand on Thursday Abbas Ali Khan said the lot

of the people has not been improved as the country was being ruled by dishonest persons He said those people were again trying to get elected by buying votes.

The Jamaat leader alleged that some quarters were violat ing the Electoral Code of Conduct. He said those who attacked the workers of opponent parties were fascist forces. He cautioned the people to remain alert about the enemies of democracy.

Students pledge

From Page 1 Col 8

Pro-Vice-Chacellor, Syndicate members and Provosts of Dhaka University, leader of All Party Students Unity and Dhaka University Central Students Union and senior police officials.

During the meeting Prof. Moniruzzaman Mia said, the students community regarded that the interim government being a government of national consensus was completely neutral.

He said the student com munity was ready to extend full support to the police under the interim government for freeing the country including the campus of all illegal arms.

The student leaders pledged that they would have no reaction whatsoever if anyone was arrested for possessing illegal arms. They would rather co-operate with the police, they said.

The student leaders also said they were for the kind of polities which discarded arms and was based on morality.

They expressed their concern that illegal arms, if not fully recovered, could frustrate their expectation of having a democratic government through free, fair and peaceful polls, for which they had struggled.

Khaleda

From Page 1 Col 4

Ershad to jail, Begum Zia said

he must be tried and sent to

jail because he had killed many

people during his nine years of

Begum Zia said Ershad had

The BNP chief wondered

to go to jail as the people of

this country would not forgive

why Ershad was afraid of

death. She said he should not

be afraid of death if he was a

true Muslim as he claims, Begum Zia said Ershad was afraid

because he was a hypocrite and

betrayer and grabbed power

from an elected government in

1982 in the darkness of night.

She pointed out to the

caretaker government that the

associates of Ershad was plan-

ning to jeopardise the elec-

tions by using their illegally

carned money and unautho-

Begum Zia said all assets of

the associates of Ershad should

be attached as those belonged

to the people. She said the

party which ruled the country

in 1972-75 was abolished with

the introduction of BAKSAL,

the one-party system. She said

rised arms.

autocratic rule.

The Midnight Bile US' slanderous interference Acting Ameer of Jamaat -e

BEIJING, Feb 7: China said today that a US State Department report condemning it for human rights violations was slanderous interference in its internal affairs. "The report cites false rumours to slander and attack China," said Foreign Ministry sopkesman Lizhaoxing. "This is totally inacceptable, reports Reuter.

Sharif announces economic reform.

ISLAMABAD. Feb 7: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif today announced a major economic reform package to open Pakistan up to foreign investment. He told a news conference that virtually all controls on the movement of foreign exchange into Pakistan and repatriation of private and corporate profits and capital had been lifted, reports Reuter.

Mitterrand talks to Rafsanjani

PARIS, Feb 7: French President Francois Mitterrand held telephone talks today with Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, announced an official French government spokesman, but no details were available. Iran recently launched a peace initiative to end the war, which led to an official visit to Teheran by French Foreign Ministry Secretary General Francois Schoer to discuss the issue, reports Xinhua.

French commander in Gulf sick

PARIS, Feb 7: Brigadier-General Jean-Charles Mouscardes, commander of French ground forces in Saudi Arabia, has fallen illand will be replaced. Défence Minister Pierre Joxe said today. Joxe told reporters Mouscardes, 56, would return to France on Friday. He will be replaced by Brigadier-General Bernard Janvier, 52, reports Reuter.

Salyut-7 crashes into Andes

LONDON, Feb 7: The abandoned Soviet space station Salyut-7, which crashed into the Andes Mountains today, was only one of more than 3-1/2 million pieces of space junk circling the earth. But aeronautical experts say people on the ground face only a tiny risk from the fragments of the more than 3,600 satellites and other spacecraft placed in orbit since the launch of the Soviet Union's Sputnik in 1957, reports Reuter.

Genetics pioneer died

LEXINGTON(Massachusetts), Feb 7. Dr. Salvador Luria, a pioneer in the development of modern genetics who won the Nobel Prize, died Wednesday at age 78 at his Lexington home of a heart attack, according to a university spokesman. Luria shared the Nobel Prize for medicine or physiology in 1969 with Max Delbruck of the California Institute of Technology and Alfred Hershey of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, reports AP.

Spill closes US highway

ENON(Ohio), Fcb 7: Authorities closed off a portion of Interstate 70 in western Ohio on Wednesday after a truck carrying a hazardous chemical spilled part of its load. Between 150 pounds (68 kilograms) and 170 pounds (77 kilograms) of phosphorus pentasulfide spilled onto the highway, said Battalion Chief Pete Nowman, hazardous materials coordinator. If the chemical comes in contact with water, it can produce a poisonous gas, hydrogen sulfide, reports AP.

Mortar attack

From Page 1 Col 4

Police said there had been an explosion in Whitchall, where most British ministries have their main offices, but did not confirm that mortars were involved.

One said he heard three explosions and then saw the van with its roof ripped off and

A Labour Member of

"The word that it is a mortar has gone round very quickly and the first conclusion is that this is the work of Saddam Hussein," he said, referring to threats by the Iraqi leader to unleash terrorist at-

" This is very much out of character with previous Irish Republican Army attacks on the Mainland," he added.

From Page 1 Col 7

per kg, Katla at Tk. 60, Ruhi at Tk. 100 to 110, Mrigel at Tk. 75. Chital at Tk. 120 and Pangash (medium size) at Tk. 95 per kg.

sales declined by 30 to 40 per cent after the outbreak of the Gulf war. Md. Abu Taher, a grocer at Fakirapool, said that there was no panie-buying because of the war. Golam Mowla, another grocer at Shantinagar, told this correspondent that stocks were adequate in the wholesale markets but prices were rising due to hoarding by a section of dishonest traders.

sources at Scotland Yard police

headquarters quoted by

Britian's Press Association na-

No one has so far claimed

responsibility for the attack

and Scotland Yard spokesmen

would not immediately say

whether the police were blam-

ing the Irish Republican Army

Outsiders blast

bombs at DU

Moitri hall

By Staff Correspondent

created panic at the Kuwaft-

Bangladesh Mottri Hall of the

Dhaka University by exploding

a number of cocktails and

breaking some furniture on

Wednesday night. None was,

Hall sources said, argument

between the female students of

the hall and the outsiders led

to the incidents. The youths

sneaked into the compound

when leaders of different half

unions of the university were

coming to attend the installa-

tion ccremony of the Moitri

attended by the university

Vice-Chancellor Prof Montruz-

zaman Miah, had to be cut

short because of the untoward

The installation ceremony,

however, injured.

Some unidentified youths

tional news agency.

(IRA) for the action.

A white Ford transit van was ablaze in the street near the Ministry of Defence. They reported hearing several explo-The sky reported quoted

journalists and television technicians who had been near Number 10 Downing Street as saying they had heard several explosions.

ablaze.

Parliament, Paul Flynn, was in his office overlooking Whitchall when the attack was carried out. He said on Sky he heard one long blast that could have been a series of explo-

tacks because of the Gulf war.

Irish guerillas were responsible for a motar attack today on the residence of Prime Minister Major, according to

Banks

the country had a still larger amount of surplus funds than the local private banks. Their surplus totalled Taka 172.42 erore on January 24. Total deposits of foreign banks stood at Taka 1594.04 crore - Taka 424.71 as demand deposits and Taka 1169.33 crore as time deposits.

The sources said the surplus funds with foreign and local private sector banks were because of slacks in import activities. These banks are mainly involved in import financing activities, sources

Both liquidity shortage and excess funds reflect however no healthy signs in the banking sector. According to banking circles, liquidity constraints showed that non-performing assets were on the rise due to inefficiencies in credit operations. Surplus funds meant the banks were not able to deploy their available funds in cost effeetive lines, they added.

Hasına From Page 1 Col 7

incidents.

any new one, she commented. Speaking on various problems of Tongi the AL president, who is also the leader of the Eight Party Alliance said the AL government rehabilitated the homeless people of the area. But the post '75 governments acquired the lands for which prices were not paid, she alleged. AL, if voted to power will pay their just

Sheikh Hasina urged people to vote for her party to restore people's basic rights and institutionalise democracy.

Menon

From Page 1 Col 5 politics of these party-govern

ments, he said while addressing a public meeting at labibpur under upazila of Barisal district a party press release said in Dhaka. Mr. Menon said future of democracy in the country

could not be ensured unless the mistakes and wrongs of the past by the two parties were acknowledged and pledges to prevent recurrences were made.

petition on

Badruzzaman.

Mr. Aminul Huq, the attorney general of Bangladesh was detention when the court rose for the day.

Hearing resumes on Sunday.

(PABX), 863035, 863036.

Editor: S. M. Ali

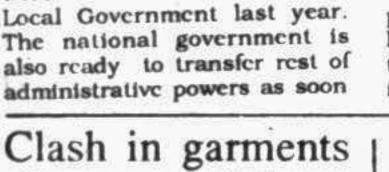
Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd.,

52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset

Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam

Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial offices:

28/1, Toynbee Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: 246023-4



By Staff Correspondent About 500 garments workers on Thursday ransacked a garments factory at Maghbazar on Thursday.

factory: 10 hurt

Police said, a procession led by Garments Sramik Federation arrived at Moghbazar at noon chanting different slogans for their demand. At one stage the processionists got violent and attacked Rose Garments. They damaged property worth Taka two lakh. Police upon receiving the information reached the spot and lathi charged the mob.

The workers stoned the police. About ten policemen and several demonstrators were injured in the clashes.

After several hours police brought the situation under control. Police also arrested four garments workers from the spot.

Gorbachev

From Page 1 Col 4

gether and to urge full partici-

pation in the Kremlin's referendum on the union. "All my convictions are based on preservation of the

union," the Soviet President said Wednesday night. "The Soviet Union is a super power,' he said. "Huge cfforts were made to make it so powerful, and we could lose it

very quickly". Hearing on Moudud's writ

The hearing of the writ petition filed by Mr. Moudud Ahmed, a former Vice-President of Bangladesh, challenging his detention continued Thursday before a division bench of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court consisting of Mr. Justice Mohammad Ismailuddin Sarkar and Mr. Justice

still arguing in support of the

Mr. Moudud Ahmed, was arrested on December 20 under the special power's act 1974 on the charge of prejudicial activities.

Oilfields set ablaze force also struck Iraqi posi-

tions Thursday. Iraqi officials said the slightly injuring 29 people. overnight raids on Baghdad killed 22 civilians and injured many others.

From Page 1 Col 4

conservation in the wake of the Gulf war.

Iraq said Allied planes carried out 33 raids against it during the night and Baghdad retaliated with a missile attack on Haifain Israel.

But unlike almost all previous statements, Baghdad radio reported no Allied planes were shot down in the latest raids. Israel has reported no missile strike since Sunday, when

two Scuds fell harmlessly in the Jewish state. A third crashed into Saudi Arabia,

FLOUTING AUSTERITY: Floods of light added to decoration of a house celebrating a wedding in Dhaka despite order for power

Iraq says Allied bombings have killed hundreds of civilians since the war's outbreak, but U.S. military sources suggested today that Iraq is delibcrately putting non-combatants in harm's way - by moving anti-aircraft guns into civilian neighborhoods in Baghdad and Kuwait City.

A US military official speaking under condition of anonymity said none of the Iraqi gun positions in civilian neighbourhoods had been under attack, but said the matter was under review.

The US battleship Wisconsin fired its huge guns in action for the first time since the Korean War on Thursday, adding its firepower to the Allied bombardment of Iraqi positions in Kuwait, a US military officer said.

The Wisconsin, which tar-

geted Iraqi artillery guns, was the second World War Two battleship to start shelling Iraqi positions. Its sister ship, the Missouri, turned its 16 inch guns in the Iraqis on Monday.

The US S. Wisconsin conducted its first naval gunfire support mission since the Korean War, engaging and probably destroying an Iraqi artillery battery in southern Kuwait, the officer said. The officer also said that US

planes destroyed four Iraqi planes trying to fly to Iran this week rather than just two as earlier reported. A U.S. military spokesman

said on Wednesday that U.S. planes attacked and destroyed two SU-25 Iraqi planes and probably two Iraqi Migs as The US officers said navy A-

overnight.

6 attack aircraft struck and heavily damaged an Iraqi patrol boat in the northern Gulf

says Iraq may have accurate Soviet SS-12 missiles in addition to its inaccurate modified Soviet Scud missiles, according to a report Thursday in The Times of London. The paper reported: "The SS-12 with a range of almost

A US intelligence study

-Star photo

600 miles (about 1,000 kilometers) was one of the weapons which the Soviet Union was supposed to have destroyed after the 1987 (U.S. Soviet) Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. "It is now increasingly

thought that a small number of the missiles may have been parked in Iraq by the Soviet military to evade the treaty". It quoted unnamed US

Administration sources as say ing the \$S-12 is on a US intel ligence list detailing weapons which it is believed Iraq may possess but has not yet used in the Gulf war.

it was President Ziaur Rahman who had introduced the multiparty system in the country and this had given the abolished party the opportunity to emerge in the political scene Begum Zia said there is an

other party which is misleading the people by secking votes in the name of Allah. And just because of this, the party which had ruined the country during its regime would go to power and eliminate the name of Allah from the Constitution.

hended that if his party goes to power it will make the country a bottomless basket again. Begum Zia said the sheaf of paddy was absent during the

last nine years and because of this the curse of Allah was on the people. The flood of 1988 was a proof.

Essentials

Retailers said that their

The BNP chief appre-From Page 1 Col 7 crore in time deposits. Foreign banks operating in

prices, she assured.