

## EC leaders agree on political union treaty

MAASTRICHT (The Netherlands), Dec 11: With agreement on a political union treaty here Tuesday, European heads of state and government have taken a step towards a joint foreign and security policy for the 12-member European Community, reports AFP.

While Britain's hesitations have limited its scope of action, the EC has decided to scrap its decades-old mechanism of "political cooperation" based on consensus decision-making in favour of a "common foreign and security policy."

The EC, which during the recent Gulf War proved itself an "economic giant, a political dwarf and a military worm," in the embittered words of Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens, should now be empowered to intervene in the international arena more rapidly and efficiently and speak with a single voice.

The treaty endorsed here mandates the 12 EC states to

undertake "common action" and speed up the implementation of policy decisions through the process of qualified majority voting.

Under such a procedure, EC countries have a weighted vote based on the size of their population, with heavyweights like Germany and Britain granted 10 votes each, and tiny Luxembourg just two.

However, according to the treaty, community heads of state and government must decide by unanimous vote which joint moves they can make. Then EC foreign ministers are to decide again by unanimous vote which decisions can be taken by a weighted vote.

Germany and France, which had hoped qualified majority decision-making would be the general rule for all joint foreign policy action, were obliged to accept a compromise in order to keep Britain on board.



Chinese Premier Li Peng (left) is greeted by his Indian counterpart P V Narasimha Rao Wednesday in Delhi. It is the first visit by a Chinese premier since 1962 Sino-India war. —AFP photo

### Li Peng

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time Li arrived.

Indian authorities had warned repeatedly they wanted no embarrassment or disturbance during Li's visit. He is the first Chinese government leader to travel to India since Chou En-Lai's trip in 1960.

Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao called the visit a milestone in relations between the two countries, which fought a brief war in 1962 and remain in dispute over two areas of their 2,400-mile-long (3,800-kilometer) border.

Hopes were dim of breaking the deadlock on the boundary issue, but Li and Rao will endorse agreements on border trade, space cooperation and establishing consulates in Bombay and Shanghai, officials said.

"I am convinced that my current visit will help increase mutual understanding, deepen friendship, expand cooperation and promote an enduring and steady development of the Sino-Indian relations," Li told reporters after he was welcomed by Rao.

### Code of conduct

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They have also agreed to expel from their respective parties any member proved guilty of terrorism.

Any conflict between the parties would be resolved on bilateral basis through discussion, the leaders said adding that their student fronts would also abide by the code of conduct.

Those who attended the press conference were: Advocate Amjad Hossain, a central leader of Awami League and convener of Pabna District All-Party Terrorism Resistance Committee, BNP District President Azadi Hassan Pinoo, District Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Maulana Mohammad Abdur Rahim, District Secretary of Jatiya Party Shaikat Ali Sikat and District JSD (Rab) leader Abdur Rashid.

### Bhasani's birthday today

The 111th birth anniversary of Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani will be observed today (Thursday) throughout the country in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

The day's programme includes milad mahfil and discussions on the life of the great leader by various socio-political organisations.

In the city, the Bhasani Smriti Sangsad will hold a discussion on "Moulana Bhasani and Independence of Bangladesh" at its office at Nayapalita at 4 pm. Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah, State Minister for Communications Fazlur Rahman are among others, who will participate at the discussion.

The National Awami Party (Bhasani) will hold a milad mahfil in the morning and a discussion meeting in the afternoon at Mirpur.

### One stabbed to death: 2 held

By Staff Correspondent

A young man Javed, 28, was stabbed to death near the entrance of English Road brothel Wednesday morning, police said.

Two persons, one Abul Alas Nasir and another Kamal were arrested from the spot, police said.

### Suicide

Our DMCH Correspondent says, one Nurzahan (25) of Arambag committed suicide early Wednesday by taking poison.

Police said that her husband Zinnah, a business man, abandoned her a few days ago. She was declared dead at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

## Constitution silent over admn tiers, says AG

Attorney General Aminul Huq in his first hearing on the upazila parishad repeal ordinance yesterday said local body means sharing of power with the legislature and that it would decide the quantum of its power, reports UNB.

He told the court that local body was in fact a political division and "Legislature is competent to make law what should be the number of tiers of local body."

Constitution did not mandate how many tiers of local bodies will be there, Attorney General argued, justifying the promulgation of the ordinance which abolished the upazila parishad and elected representation.

Aminul Huq also referred to number of presidential orders or ordinance promulgated in different time relating to local government and local bodies.

Earlier, placing his argument, Barrister Amirul Islam said although the ordinance which established the upazila system was promulgated when the country was being ruled by martial law keeping Constitution suspended, but the law was incorporated with the Constitution with the reviving of the constitutional rule.

"Whether repealing the ordinance is consistent with the Article 9 of the Constitution, where it said state will encourage the local government, the court questioned the Attorney General.

"The upazila system introduced in 1982 came by an ordinance and has gone by an ordinance", Attorney General

Aminul Huq submitting to the court said "there is no illegality in repealing the ordinance."

"Where it is mentioned in the ordinance that the upazila will function for transitional period", the court questioned the Attorney General as he stated that the government machinery existed in the upazila for a temporary period.

"Upazila is there, in the name of defunct upazila", the court putting its query asked the Attorney General.

Putting his strong argument against the ordinance Barrister Islam said the ordinance was contrary to the Article-9 of the Constitution.

Although the upazila parishad was abolished by the ordinance but all power of the parishad run by an elected chairman had been entrusted on Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), he said.

Quoting Articles 7, 9, 11 of the Constitution which say that absolute power lies with the people — the ordinance also curtailed the rights of the people ensured by the Constitution, Islam submitted.

He said the ordinance was also contradictory to Articles 59 and 60 which was passed through the 12th amendment of the Constitution.

He argued that law which can not be passed by parliament due to constitutional bar, can not be passed by the President by an ordinance.

The High Court division bench of the Supreme Court comprising Justice Abdul Jalil and Justice Naimuddin Ahmed will resume its hearing this morning.

## Riyadh writes off debts, pledges aid

DAKAR, Dec 11: Saudi Arabia announced Tuesday it was forgiving the debts of the world's poorest Muslim nations and giving the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) 10 million dollars to overcome its financial problems, Senegalese Foreign Minister Djibo Ka told reporters, reports AFP.

The minister, who was speaking as the OIC's sixth summit entered its second

### Mukhter

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on November 29.

But Tejgaon police are yet to receive the finger print report of the recovered revolver from the CID and fresh autopsy report from the authorities concerned of Sir Salmullah Medical College Hospital (SSMCH).

The CID report added that the recovered pellet was of the same bullet found in Mukhter's head.

Meanwhile, the bail petition of Mary Janet Shyamoli, a girl friend of the former chairman, who was arrested in this connection on December 1 will be moved at Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court on December 14.

### SAARC summit

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for a retreat within the city the same day.

The conference will be preceded by a two-day Ministerial Preparatory Meeting.

Heads of delegations are expected to reach Colombo in the afternoon on December 20 and are scheduled to leave for home next morning.

The conference will be held in Bandarnaik Memorial International Conference Hall in the centre of the capital. It was built in 1976 to host the Non-Aligned summit.

The SAARC summit which was scheduled in early November, had to be postponed at the eleventh hour as King Jigme Singhe Wangchuk of Bhutan expressed his inability to attend it due to domestic troubles at home.

## One killed, 6 hurt as dacoits attack nightcoach

MANIKGANJ, Dec 11: A bus driver was killed and six passengers were injured when dacoits attacked a nightcoach Tuesday night at Muljan on Dhaka-Aricha Highway, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the dacoits repeatedly stabbed driver Belayet Hossain (45) when he refused to stop the vehicle. He succumbed to injuries on way to Manikganj Hospital.

The injured were given first aid at the hospital but their identity could not be known.

Witnesses said the armed dacoits, numbering about 10, was travelling in the guise of passengers in the Madaripur-bound bus. They suddenly attacked the driver and the passengers of the bus at about 11 pm.

Some of the dacoits decamped with belongings of the passengers worth about Tk 50,000.

## Show Cause for arrest of Ahsanullah

High Court Division bench of the Supreme Court yesterday served a show cause notice to the government asking for a reply within seven days as to why Ahsanullah Master will not be released, reports UNB.

Former Chairman of Gazipur Sadar Upazila and Joint Convener of Upazila Chairman Samity Ahsanullah Master was arrested by police from Gazipur on December 8 while coming to Dhaka.

### Textile traders

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should not be limited to shopping centres. Law enforcing agencies should find out the real route of smuggling and the hideouts where contraband goods are stored, they said.

Speakers also referred to price hikes of yarn by Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation during the last few months. This has given rise to prices of local products which lost competitiveness in the market.

The textile manufacturers, workers and merchants from different parts of the country joined the rally in processions carrying anti-smuggling banners and placards. They chanted anti-smuggling slogans.

The Deshi Bastra Shilpa Sangram Parishad comprised Bangladeshi Chhapa Saree Byabasay Samity, Bangladesh Textile Dyeing and Screen Printing Industries Association, Bangladesh Grey-Kaparh Prastutkari Tanti Samity and Islampur Bastra Saree Byabasay Samity.

### Shutdown

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December 16. The Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, however, told this correspondent that the government would try to include the representatives from the workers in the wage commission which will fix the wage for the workers. Although he declined to give any hints about the amount of minimum wage, the minister said that the amount would not be less than Taka nine hundred.

According to a highly placed source both the Jute Minister and the leaders of jute mills workers in Wednesday's meeting have reached a verbal agreement that no decision on denationalisation of jute industries would be taken without consulting the workers.

The Jute Minister would again discuss the matters with the leaders today at 11 am.

### Ctg hartal

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Rickshaw pullers suffered physical torture, witnesses said. Those injured in the cocktail blasts and due to torturing were admitted to the Medical Hospital and other clinics.

No police vans or patrols were seen on the roads here during today's hartal. Besides normal life came to a halt during the hartal period. All vehicles stayed off the roads and highways and shopping arcades and markets remained closed.

BCL activists reportedly forced shopkeepers inside narrow lanes here to pull down their shutters.

Both private and public offices here could not function fully due to thin attendance while banks could not operate.

Carrying of cargo to and from Chittagong Port was suspended during the hartal period due to the non plying of trucks, Mills and factories at Nasirabad and Sitakunda industrial belts suffered production losses.

BCL activists also brought out a series of processions from different places here calling for the arrest of the alleged killers immediately.

## The Midnight File

### Gorbachev, Yeltsin private talks held

MOSCOW, Dec 11: Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin held private talks at the Kremlin today after both leaders met earlier with the country's top military leadership, officials said. The Kremlin meeting came after Yeltsin apparently won backing from Soviet Defence Minister Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov for his plans to create a new commonwealth between Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. The independent news agency Interfax said Yeltsin had told Shaposhnikov and other top generals that the Minsk Accord was "the only way to lead the country out of impasse," reports AFP.

### Armenia, Kirgizia agree to join commonwealth

MOSCOW, Dec 11: Russian President Boris N Yeltsin said Wednesday that the republics of Armenia and Kirgizia have agreed to join the commonwealth that was formed during the weekend by Russia, Byelorussia and Ukraine. Yeltsin told reporters that the republics of Kazakhstan, Tadzhikistan and Turkmenia will decide Thursday whether to join, reports AP.

### JP workers urged to observe "Anti-Repression Day"

Acting Chairman of Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury has urged party workers to observe countrywide "Anti-Repression Day" today (Thursday) making the arrest of party chief Hussain Muhammad Ershad. Former President Ershad who was taken to custody on December 12 last year was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for keeping illegal arms. Mizan Chowdhury said Ershad had handed over power peacefully to the Chief Justice with the expectation that people's democratic aspiration would be fulfilled. "But our expectation has been dashed to the ground. The present government has completely failed to tackle the situation because of its inefficiency," reports UNB.

### Honecker asked to leave Russia by tomorrow

MOSCOW, Dec 11: The Russian government has told former East German President Erich Honecker he must leave Russia by Friday or face extradition to Germany, the newspaper Izvestia reported today. The report said Honecker had asked for political asylum from Soviet authorities, reports AFP.

### Jute, textile

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and surplus labour force as the root causes of the huge losses of these industrial units, he said. Bangladesh jute mills corporation at present has 32,000 excess labourers, Bangladesh Railway 20,000 and Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation 20,000.

For making the public sector enterprises as profitable organisations, the Finance Minister said, we would have to solve the excess labour problem with full understanding with the trade unions by compensating adequately the excess labourers, improving labour-management relationship, raising efficiency, and restoring financial discipline. The government needs 18 months to two years time for revitalising the ailing enterprises, he said adding that after making them viable, those units would be disinvested.

Citing a number of examples of financial irregularities committed during the autocratic regime of Ershad in the public sector enterprises, he said, even when an industrial unit had been closed for six months the employees had taken over-time allowances for work. The Minister was also very critical of the sluggish performance of the private sector jute mills and said, the owners were running the units at the cost of the state money or credits provided by financial institutions.

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### Saifur

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sector has scope for expansion provided smuggling was checked and there was better management.

The minister called for vigorously continuing the anti-smuggling drive and said this would help save the textile industry from ruination. Curbing of cigarette smuggling would help increase the revenue receipts. He said that the anti-smuggling drive has already shown positive effect on the economy.

Commenting on the labour unrest, Saifur said this would discourage labour intensive industries in the future and thus squeeze employment opportunity. At present the labour force was increasing by five per cent a year. A ten per cent increase in gross domestic product is needed to cope with it.

The minister predicted a bright prospect for agriculture this year and said the strikes and barricades by the labourers would affect the farmers in real terms because harvest of vegetable and other perishable goods to markets would continue to be affected.

Ruling out any harsh measure to tackle the workers' unrest, Rahman expressed his government's readiness to discuss with any group to resolve the crisis.

Emphasising the need for upholding democratic values and norms like tolerance, accommodations and dialogue the minister said intolerance could only erode the people's faith in democratic rule and politics, needed to maintain the state's integrity.

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### Two held for Shariful murder

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 11: Police today arrested two influential persons in connection with Monday's Shariful Islam murder case at Khaga village in Sadar upazila of the district, reports UNB.

The arrested are local Awami League leaders Abdul Bari and Rafiqul Islam.

Shariful Islam (26), Organising Secretary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Bahuli Union unit was killed by alleged miscreants near his residence Monday.

Abdul Bari after the arrest today refuted allegations regarding involvement of his party in the murder case and demanded neutral investigation of the killing.

He alleged that Shariful, who joined BNP about nine months back, was killed by his co-workers on suspicion of his returning to Awami League.

Meanwhile, BNP-backed Jubo Dal leaders accused Awami League for the killing and demanded punishment of those responsible. The JCD and the Jubo Dal brought out a procession in the area this evening protesting the killing.

Shariful was one of the 71 accused in a compensation case filed by Bari for ransacking his house on October 2 last.

### OIC summit

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the Gulf War, the sources said. The summit initially was to end Thursday, but delegates said it would finish later Wednesday.

Arafat made an impassioned appeal Tuesday night for the conference, representing the world's 1.1 billion Muslims, to "forget our differences" and negotiate a common position on the peace talks. But leaders started leaving Monday when they could not agree, a Kuwaiti delegate said.

Leaders rushed through more than two dozen resolutions on issues ranging from Afghanistan and Cyprus to rights of women and children. All were passed Monday night, delegates said, though no official announcement has been made.

Iran expressed strong opposition to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, saying they could not deal strongly enough with the Palestinian issue. But Iran failed in an attempt to remove some moderately positive references to the talks from the resolutions.

Sheikh Jaber opened the meeting with a blistering attack on Iraq. Over opposition from some African members, he pushed through a resolution condemning Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and failure to comply with UN resolutions ordering war reparations.

Syria, in a surprise move to toughen the Arab position against Israel, proposed a resolution equating Zionism with racism that was adopted over mild objections from Egypt.

The resolution was a challenge to the United States which, in a move to encourage Israel's participation in the peace talks, said last week it would seek the repeal of a 1973 UN resolution equating Zionism with racism.

## Press Note

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Masum, one of the main accused in the murder case of Dhaka University student leader Mahbubul Alam alias Mahbub. Masum was arrested on December 9.

They brought out a procession after the rally which gradually became aggressive while proceeding towards UBL Crossing. When the procession was obstructed near the UBL Crossing due to jam on the road, the police official on duty along with his force tried to control the traffic to facilitate the movement of the procession. At that time some members from the procession attacked his (police official) jeep, No-HA 8982.

They damaged the hood and the bonnet of the jeep. The police tried to disperse them by charging lathis when they damaged a microbus at the same time. Three were arrested while damaging the police jeep.

At that time one person was hurt when he fell down from the bonnet of the jeep, the Press Note added.

The Press Note said it was not true that the police jeep hit the procession.

### 6 BCL leaders released

By DU Correspondent

Quamruzzaman Ansari, General Secretary of the Chhatra League (S-A) Dhaka University unit, and five others arrested following a clash between police and BCL (S-A) activists Tuesday in the Gulistan area were released yesterday.

BCL (S-A) held a rally in front of the National Press Club after the release of Quamruzzaman Ansari, Tabul Chowdhury, Tofael Ahmed, Sajjad Hossain, Rafiq Ahmed Dollar, Abdul Manna from the court at about 5 p.m. yesterday (Wednesday).

The rally condemned the police action after a police vehicle hit Mohammed Babul, a BCL (S-A) leader causing a serious fracture in his leg during the procession Tuesday demanding the immediate release of Masum Ahmed Masum, a BCL (S-A) leader, one of the accused in the Mahbub murder case and the killing of three of its workers by Shibir activists in Chittagong.

Addressing the rally, Ashim Kumar Ukil, General Secretary of the BCL (S-A) said that they were not afraid of repressions and did not care about them.

BCL activists were ready to fight in any situation to establish democracy in the country, they added.

The rally also noted that the unilateral arrest of BCL (S-A) activists could not stop its ongoing movement but would rather intensify its campaign to remove the autocratic behavior of the present government.

Demanding the release of Masum, the rally urged the people and the student community to be alert against the autocratic role of the government.

However, the rally gave a clarion call to all sectors to work for the establishment of democracy in the country and root out terrorism by arresting the original terrorists who had been sheltered by the government.

The rally was addressed by Asim Kumar Ukil, GS of BCL, Ahmed Hossain, Acting President of BCL, Golam Mustafa Sujon, DU unit President of BCL and Quamruzzaman Ansari.

Editor : S. M. All