The Midnight Eile

UN envoy sees little hope

Benazir urges US to resume military aid

KARACHI, Jan 5: Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Sunday urged the United States to resume military aid to Pakistan despite misgivings about its nuclear programme, reports AP.

"The stoppage of US aid has hurt our conventional defense capability. I would urge the US government to release essential military aid, which our army and air force badly need," said Ms Bhutto, whose party was routed in 1990 elections following charges of corruption and abuse of power.

In October 1990, the United States cut off aid-including dollars 573 million already promised for the ensuing year-to pressure Pakistan to end a nuclear programme that US analysts say is aimed at obtaining nuclear weapons. Most of the money went to Pakistan's military.

Pakistan contends the nuclear programme is aimed solely at producing badly needed energy. Pakistanis also argue that Washington's nuelear policy is discriminatory, punishing some countries while turning a blind eye to others such as India, which detonated a nuclear device in

Predominantly Hindu India and Islamic Pakistan have been antagonistic neighbours since their creation in the 1947 partition that ended British colonial rule of the subcontinent. They fought wars in 1948, 1965 and 1971.

Pakistan is trying to get weapons deals with China and Arab nations. The Indian military, meanwhile, has been hurt by the collapse of its main arms supplier, the Soviet Union. The Indians have been working to improve relations with the United States as a possible source of arms.

'If America is getting closer to India, we would not mind as long as it is not at the cost of Pakistan," Ms Bhutto said, "The US should not abandon Pakistan now."

She issued the statement on the anniversary of the birth of her father, the late Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who reportedly set out in the mid-1970s to make Pakistan the first Islamic country to possess atomic weapons.

Bhutto was overthrown in a 1977 military coup that his supporters contend was engineered by the United States to stop Pakistan's nuclear programme. He was hanged two years later.

called for closer cooperation,

tics suffered by South Asia and

the gigantic tasks ahead will

ereate insurmountable pres-

sure on it for evolving a mech-

anism, for the proper man-

agement and resolution of in-

tra-and inter-state conflicts."

he said, adding and thus, em-

barking upon a path of mean-

ingful cooperation for mutual

Terrorism hinders

free thinking'

By DU Correspondent

the way of building an atmo-

sphere of free thinking in uni-

versities, according to Dhaka

University Vice Chancellor

Prof Maniruzzaman Miah of

programme of the Arts and

Biological Science Faculty at

Teacher-Student Centre [TSC]

of Dhaka University, the Vice

Chancellor hoped that anti-

terrorist activities can be

wiped out if all student organ-

isations put in their combined

ism rally will be held on

January 12 and asked all stu-

dents to join the rally to make

a fresh vow to free the campus

from terrorism. He urged the

students to devote themselves

Coastal guards

nab dacoit

guards in disguise of fishermen

today swooped on a gang of

dacoits and recovered some

arms and ammunition sta-

cked on a boat near Sun-

darban in Pater canal. The

coastal police arrested one of

the dacoits while seven of his

accomplices managed to flee

Press Note

on firearms

deposited to district commis-

sioners will be returned to the

owners immediately if they are

found to have fulfilled the

terms and conditions of the li-

cences, a Home Ministry Press

Note said here Sunday, reports

deposited firearms and li-

cences will be returned to the

owners if the deputy commis-

sioners are satisfied that they

have fulfilled the conditions of

The deputy commissioners

will deposit the firearms and

licences if it appears to them

that the arms holders have

managed the licences in im-

proper ways or misused them

illegally or had not followed

the conditions of the licences,

given to those arms holders,

in such cases and the deputy

commissioners will take legal

actions after a speedy enquiry,

that the people of all spheres

would extend their coopera-

tion in implementing decision

for maintaining law and order

The government also hopes

the Press Note added.

llowever, receipts will be

the Press Note further said.

the licences.

The Press Note said, the

All firearms and licenses

the scene, reports UNB.

BARGUNA, Jan 5: Coastal

to studies.

He said a grand anti-terror-

Speaking at the orientation

Dhaka University.

Terrorism is a barrier in

benefit."

*The tremendous difficul-

Abdus Sabur explained.

South Asia

From Page 1 Col 7 tributing to violent conflicts in South Asia.

Defying the global trend in reduced tensions following the end of the cold-war cra, inter-state relations in the region have shown little signs of improvement in recent years, speakers agreed. Areas and issues of conflict have increased while those of cooperation remain under-explored.

However, the South Asian sub-system as a component of the changing international system cannot be insulated from the emerging global secnario. To that extent, postcold war era relaxation of tensions may remove some of the external inputs to South Asian conflicts, speakers pointed

It would be preposterous to imagine that conflicts in the region, particularly the Indo-Pakistan rivalry, will disappear with the withdrawal of the superpowers, said Dr Gowher Rizvi, Macarthur fellow at Oxford University, at the seminar.

"But the absence of external power which bolsters the smaller states or creates a lopsided balance of power will have a powerful psychological impact, which may well make the South Asian states more accommodating," he added.

In the present context, South Asian nations will have to travel a long way to find out the wisdom in making compromise solution to bilateral disputes that would facilitate a departure from conflict to a course of cooperation in the

The region remains entangled in numerous conflicts and, at the same time, it has given regional cooperation within the framework of SAARC at best a low-key profile when the need of the hour

Anti-smuggling drive

From Page 1 Col 7 the smugglers to resume their activities because the government takes up the problem as a priority one," said Shah Abdul Hannan, who heads the Task Force.

A member of the National Board of Revenue, Hannan, however, added that the control mechanism would be relaxed with the awareness sharpening among the people against smuggling and the smuggled.

Officials associated with the drive also indicated that motivational programmes, for creating more awareness among the people, and demand reduction programmes like development of the quality of the locally produced commodities would also be taken up by the government.

The newly-formed antismuggling Cell, with a Joint Secretary of the llome Ministry as its chief, was composed of a Deputy Secretary, and Assistant Secretary and other staff members, according to the sources.

The body would monitor the performance of the regional task forces and feed the NAC on the progress of the drive, they said.

The NAC during its meeting would review the reports and recommend measures, they added.

Editor: S. M. Ali **Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

situation.

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the opening session of the IEB convention in the city yesterday.

\mathbf{PM}

From Page 1 Col 4 crats responsible for the country's economic backlash and urged the government to take measures for changes in the administrative system.

Later, the Prime Minister distributed iEB medals for 1991 to three distinguished personalities for their contribution in the field of engineer-

The recipients are: Prof. S.M. Nazmul Iluq (posthumous), S M Al-Hussaince and S M Shahidullan.

A special medal was also awarded to engineer A M Manjurul Alam who died in an accident while on duty at the Ghorasal Urea Fertilizer Factory on June 19 last year.

Workers strike work at Chittagong port

CHITTAGONG, Jan 5: A daylong strike by the Clearing and Forwarding Agents Employees' Union brought the operation at Chittagong port to a standstill Sunday, reports UNB.

The strike was called by the Union to press its five-point demand which includes payhike, formation of welfare fund and issuance of appointment Sccretary of the Port

Authority M A Mannan said delivery function in the port faced a total deadlock today due to the strike.

Despite the strike, the clearing and forwarding agents were learnt to have rejected the demands of the employees

Top officials on study tour

A 19-member team of senior officials of the rank of Joint Secretary leaves for Bangkok today (Monday) on a fortnight's study tour. The tour is part of the three-monthlong eleventh senior staff training course arranged by the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre, official sources said today, reports UNB.

Two criminals rounded up

Tejgaon police yesterday arrested two notorious criminals following a surprise raid to their hideout at Begunbari

The defence evidences in

the corruption case against

deposed president Ershad

were yesterday described by

the prosecution as "absolutely

blatant lies, concocted and

fabricated" and designed to

save the accused, reports UNB.

in favour of the main charge of

amassing wealth beyond

known sources of income

against the accused. Attorney

General Aminul Haq dashed

down the defence claim that

the money found in Ershad's

official residence belonged to

that more than Tk 2 crore was

raised by Jatiya Party through

subscription from its rank and

file and the money kept with

party chairman Ershad for

buying the party house, ob-

Burcau of Anti-corruption with

amassing wealth of Tk

2,21,65,238 including a cash

of Tk 1,90,81,565 beyond

known sources of income es-

timated at around Tk 73 lakh.

The money found wrapped in

sarees and clothes in 22

trunks was seized from

Senabhavan, his official resi-

dence, soon after he was

overthrown by a mass move-

the Attorney General referred

to the defence evidence of

Jatiya Party resolution of July

11, 1990 and submitted

nowhere it was mentioned in

the resolution that subscrip-

tion will be raised for the pur-

cording to the party constitu-

tion Jatiya Party's highest body

is the presidium and the sec-

ond highest is the central ex-

Again, he contended, ac-

chase of the party house.

Continuing his argument

Ershad was charged by the

served the Attorney General.

It is absolutely a blatant lie

Jatiya Party.

Making a strong argument

Khaleda asks JCD workers

Form joint bodies to curb terrorism

A task force team recovering smuggled sarees from

-Star photo

the prosecution argued.

tantamounts to forgery.

thought".

added.

money.

The prosecution also

pointed to the interpolations

in money figures in the Jatiya

Party registers which were

submitted to the court as de-

fence evidence. This, he said,

About the party constitution

produced in the court by the

defence, the Attorney General

observed "it is fabricated,

forged and a product of after-

tended that it (constitution)

bears no date of printing,

name of the publisher nor the

printing house. He said under

the Printing and Publication

Ordinance 1973 every book

and paper published should

have those and a copy should

be submitted to the relevant

department of the govern-

ment. The so-called constitu-

tion of Jatiya Party suffers from

gross violation of the law, he

constitution provides for

keeping funds with the party

chairman and that funds may

be raised without giving re-

ccipt signed by treasurer and

"This book was published

after initiation of this case

fused to divulge its name", the

A different copy of Jatiya

party secretary general

Party constitution produced by

the prosecution was published

Mahmudul Hasan on January

15, 1984. It provides for

keeping party funds with bank

and that joint signature re-

quires for withdrawal of

a draft constitution which was

later finalised with amend-

The defence claimed it was

even the printing press re-

Attorney General submitted.

the secretary general.

This copy of the Jatiya Party

The Attorney General con-

Bangabazar Market in the city yesterday

ecutive committee. But is is

not clear which committee

adopted the resolution for rais-

deposition of defence witness

Shah Moazzem Hossain UP

Sccretary General) who said

the party central committee

had not decided to raise the

fund. He could neither say

which committee adopted the

fund raising as claimed by the

defence falls through. "It is ab-

solutely a concocted paper of

resolution to save the skin of

Ershad", observed the Attorney

ther recalled the statement of

defence witness Tajul Islam

who was claimed to have au-

thorised to collect funds from

the party rank and file. He

contended that Tajul Islam had

categorically stated that he

himself did not receive money,

office clerks (numbering six)

did it from whom he (Tajul)

General argued, all the nine

other defence witnesses said

they had deposited the sub-

scription to Tajul Islam. The

inconsistent statement of the

witnesses showed the defence

identity and addresses of the

Jatiya Party office clerks who

received the money so that

they can be brought to the

stand as witness, Aminul Haq

ment of subscription bears the

signature of the office secre-

tary. But the party constitution

provides the receipts should

have signature and seal of trea-

surer and general secretary,

The receipts against pay-

Again, Tajul failed to give

claim is fictitious, he said.

Whereas, the Attorney

later collected.

pointed out.

The Attorney General fur-

Therefore, the very basis of

The prosecution recalled

ing the fund.

resolution.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Sunday called upon the members of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal for taking up initiatives to form a combined committee with other student organisations for checking terrorism effectively, reports

"As the largest student organisation you have a greater responsibility of maintaining proper and healthy trend of student politics with fortitude and patience, the Prime Minister told the leaders of the elected college student bodies of JCD of greater Faridpur district who came to meet her at her Sugandha of-

The Prime Minister said teachers should also be in-

volved in the combined committee for eradication of ter-

Begum Zia said, the JCD members had to play a pioncering role to motivate misled students back to the path of an ideal life.

The general students are now conting under the flag of JCD as they have the faith that it will always uphold the politics of development and peaceful atomosphere, she

The Prime Minister further said that the new and young leadership had to be groomed in JCD as well as in other front organisation of BNP to avoid stagnancy in the sphere of nation building activities.

Bid to foil UP polls to meet iron hand: CEC

ful atmosphere, reports BSS.

Speaking at a cross section of people at Teknaf Upazila the Chief Election Commissioner said that none would be allowed to create disturbance in the spontaneous participation of the people in the coming union parishad

He said that any evil atto foil the elections would be dealt with an iron

Task Force team recovers Tk 9 lakh goods

By Staff Correspondent

gling Task Force Sunday raided a secret warehouse in the capital and recovered about three thousand and five hundred picces of smuggled sarecs, officials said.

tip, from the Customs intelligence, a Task Force squad swooped on the Bangabazar Market at Fulbaria in the capital and recovered the Indian cotton sarees, stockpiled in a secret warehouse.

day's catch was valued Taka nine lakh. Another team of the Task

Force also raided the Gulshan Market-I.

empty handed, sources said.

ments. The word "draft" was

however not mentioned any-

gued that section 5 of the

Political Parties Ordinance

1978 provides that all funds of

a political party should be de-

posited in scheduled bank.

Keeping funds with party

chairman negates the existing

The Attorney General re-

ferred to the seven letters

Ershad wrote to the

Authorities including the

Home Ministry following his

detention. Nowhere in those

letters he mentioned that he

left behind such a huge amount

of moncy of Jatiya Party at

had adequate chance to inform

the authorities. It is an absurd

proposition that he would not

inform the authorities about

Jatiya Party's money kept with

him which he left behind in

The Attorney General fur-

ther argued that Mustafizur

Rahman, brother-in-law of

Ershad who was on the 8-

member inventory committee

that prepared the list of arti-

cles at Senabhavan also did not

claim that the money belonged

It was the onus absolutely

on them (the defence) to

prove that the money belonged

to Jatiya Party, prosecution is

not bound to examine each and

everybody, argued the Attorney

manner in which the money

was kept in 22 trunks, and the

unusual time of raising fund

when the situation was boiling

Referring to the defence

to a mass upsurge.

He mentioned the unusual

his official residence.

to Jatiya Party.

General.

He argued that the accused

Scnabhavan.

Again, the prosecution ar-

where in the book.

Committee, a platform of the shop owners, said that no untoward incident took place during the four hour-long raid which began at 10 am.

COX'S BAZAR, Jan 5: The Chief Election Commissioner, Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf; today called upon the people in general and the poparties and contesting candidates in particular to extend their all out help in holding the coming union parishad elections in a peace-

Members of the Anti-smug-

They said that acting on a

According to officials, Sun-

The team however returned

Md. Helal Uddin Helal, Convenor of the Dhaka Metropolitan City Market Convening

party chairman for ready pay-

ment for the Dhanmondi

house, the prosecution said

such an argument is not ac-

ceptable for, the treasury rules

provide for payment in cheque

misappropriation of gift mate-

rials by the accused received

during his tenure of presi-

dency, the Attorney General

said a total of 120 such articles

were listed. After analysing and

sifting the inventory 31 arti-

cles worth over Tk 11 lakh

were seized which were given

Mohammad Ali Khan, wanted

to know the whereabouts of

the rest 89 gifted articles as

listed by the inventory com-

The Attorney General in-

formed the court that those

were given to Mustalizur

Rahman, nominee of Ershad

for receiving his personal ef-

ruled the learned judge and

said it cannot be that gift items

are with someone for, the

court must dispose off those

gift materials - some belong to

the government and some to

agreed, on recovery (of gifts)

count, the court may pass an

heard directing his clerk

Please note, those 89 items

are to be produced before the

The Attorney General

The learned judge was

The court was adjourned till

"Those must be returned",

Interrupting, Judge

to the Toshakhana.

As for the first charge of

as well.

mittee.

Jatiya Party.

order.

of ceasefire in Somalia NAIROBI, Jan 5: A special UN envoy said Sunday he saw

little hope of obtaining a ceasefire between warring clans in the devastated Somali capital of Mogadishu. James Jonah, UN undersecretary for African affairs, made a surprise return to Mogadishu on Saturday for talks with the leader of one of the factions, President Ali Mahdi Mohamed, reports AP.

Germany's refugee-capacity 'largely exhausted'

BONN, Jan 5 : Germany's ability to take in more refugees has been "largely exhausted" after a record number of asylumseekers — more than 2,50,000 people — arrived last year, a senior government official said Sunday. German Interior Minister Rudolf Setters said Germans are growing impatient over seeing their tax money go to paying for room, board and social services for more and more refugees, reports AP.

China urges Israel not to deport Palestinians

BEIJING, Jan 5: China on Sunday urged Israel to reverse its decision to expel 12 Palestinians following the slaying of a Jewish settler. "We urge the Israeli side to reconsider the decision and stop the deporting," the official Xinhua News Agency said, quoting an unidentified Foreign Ministry spokesman, reports AP.

Wage Commission

From Page | Col 8 clude five representatives from the SKOP and one each from the Patkal Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad and the public sector Textile Mills Workers and Employees

The SKOP leaders submitted the list of their representatives in the proposed Wage Commission on December 29. a day after the scheduled date of announcing the Wage Commission was over. The leaders of the jute and textile workers however selected their representatives much earlier. According to the official

sources, the Prime Minister approved the proposed Wage Commission yesterday and it is likely to be announced today. According to the agree

ments and the MOU signed carlier, the Wage Commission will announce the 'national minimum wage' for the industrial workers within two months after the formation of the Commission while it will submit its complete report within four months.

The workers of jute and textile sectors and the SKOP were simultaneously struggling to press their six, eight and five point charter of demands that include fixation of minimum national wage for both the private and public sector at Taka 1400, halt to disinvestment in the trade and industries and repeal of certain clauses of labour laws that allegedly go against the interests of the workers.

Of these, the government meanwhile gave its word in black and white that it would not go for further disinvestment unless it could reach a consensus with the labour leaders on the issue.

A 12-member joint committee for scrutinising the existing labour laws has already been formed with seven members from the workers side and five from the government. This committee would prepare a report suggesting that the government repeal

certain clauses and form some new ones. The first meeting of this committee is scheduled to be held tomorrow. About the Wage Commission

report, the Jute Minister Brig. Hannan Shah (retd) and Abul Basher, a labour leader separately told The Daily Star yesterday that they were hopeful about a solution that would sccure the interest of the workers on the one hand and ensure increased productivity on the other.

Jail wardens

From Page 1 Col 4

and held a rally at the paradeground Sunday evening, jail sources said.

The wardens, at the rally also demanded a civilian be appointed IG (Prisons). They said that ousted president HM Ershad introduced appointment of the top post from

among the army personnel. About 277 jail wardens in Chittagong Central Jail also did not draw their salaries till Sunday and demonstrated in demand of removal of the salary-discrimination, our Staff Correspondent Chittagong reports.

Twenty-three jail wardens at Gazipur District Jail also did not draw their salaries of December raising the same demands, our Gazipur Correspondent says quoting sources.

About 215 jatl wardens in Khulna jail also demonstrated inside the barracks raising similar demands and did not take the salaries of last month. our Staff Correspondent from Khulna reports.

Jail wardens say their pay was two-taka higher than that of a police constable during the period between 1923 to 1962. After that period, paystructure of the wardous and the constables was same, they point out.

In the new pay-scale, their basic pay has been fixed at Taka 975 whereas the the personnel in other agencies of the same rank draw Taka 1050 as basic effective last month.

Govt meetings

In case of holding any ur-

The directive will be effective for all ministries, depart-

The latest directive supersedes all previous circulars and instructions on the subject.

Writ

From Page ! Col 8

Paurashava filed the writ peti-

Dr Kamal Hossain, B K Das, Mahmudul Islam, Kazi Shahabuddin Ahmed and Shamim Hasnacen appeared on behalf of the petitioner while Deputy Attorney General, A Y Salchuzzaman, appeared

ing the Bangladeshis to enter Mongdu despite having transit passes.

taking war preparations. Rohingya Muslims who en-

there was continuing. Bangladesh has also strengthened security along its border with Myanmar follow-

ing reports of a troop buildup by that country.

Editorial on Page 4

Monday morning when defence counsel Strajul Haq just rose to place his argument.

Defence concocted story to save Ershad: AG desperate attempt to prove that the money was kept with

From Page 1 Col 8

gent meeting on Saturdays or before 12-30 pm, permission from the Prime Minister will be required.

ments and head offices of all nationalised and autonomous organisations.

tion challenging the Paurashava (amendment) Ordinance 1991.

for the state.

Rohingyas

From Page 1 Col 3 security forces were not allow-

The returnees further reported seeing Myanmar troops

tered from Arakan alleged that repression on the Muslims