

Georgia falls to opposition hands

Gamsakhurdia flees to Armenia

MOSCOW, Jan 6: Fleeing Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia arrived in Armenia today, the Armenian representation here said, reports AFP. A spokesman for the representation said over telephone that he had confirmed the president's arrival at Yevan in northeastern Armenia. The Georgian president had fled Tbilisi at dawn Monday toward Azerbaijan. Russian press reports said he had left Azerbaijan in the afternoon for an undisclosed destination. President Zviad Gamsakhurdia was arrested in Azerbaijan and taken back to Tbilisi today, hours after fleeing under attack by armed opposition forces, an opposition spokesman said. The spokesman for Tengiz Kitovani, one of the opposition leader, said Gamsakhurdia was arrested in Kazakh and arrived back in Tbilisi early Monday afternoon. He had fled his besieged headquarters in the parliament building before dawn, leaving the city in opposition

hands. There was no immediate independent confirmation of the report. Gamsakhurdia early today fled the parliament building where he has been holed under an opposition siege for two weeks and the building was sacked shortly afterwards by rebel forces. Zurab Pochkhveria, spokesman for the Military Council set up by the opposition last week to run the republic, said Gamsakhurdia fled the building between 3:00 and 4:00 a.m. (0000 and 0100 GMT) during a violent attack on parliament. Part of the building was on fire early today, an AFP reporter said from the scene, and most Gamsakhurdia loyalists had fled after the president's escape, though some gunfire was heard from inside. The opposition forces were seen carrying off objects left behind by the president and his men.

Wage commission

From Page 1 Col 8 will be considered as the permanent members of the commission. Of the five members, one — Dr Abdul Hye Mandal of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) — will act as the research director of the commission. Two other members of the commission are Dr Montazuddin Ahmed, Professor of Economics of Dhaka University and M A Quader Mollah, President, Institute of Chartered Accountants. The members of the workers are: Mokhelesur Rahman, Abdus Salam Khan, Shafiqur Rahman Majumder, Abul Basher, Iqbal Majumder, Ataul Islam and Fazlul Hoque Mantu. The name of the members representing the owners will be given today, an official source said. The size of the commission may be enlarged through coopting some more members soon, the source added.

PM: Police

From Page 1 Col 8 with honesty and sincerity to earn the confidence of the people. The Prime Minister said those who would discharge their duties properly would be awarded. She also warned that negligence of duty would be dealt with severely. Begum Zia said strict supervision of the police force was needed to check the activities of the terrorists who wanted to hinder the development process of the government. She urged the officials to help implement the welfare oriented programmes successfully by keeping the peace and stability in the society. "Bring the terrorist to book without any fear or favour" Begum Zia told. The Prime Minister said that late President Ziaur Rahman had improved the condition of the police force. He had introduced metropolitan system in the police force and set up armed police battalion, she added. Begum Zia regretted that during the last nine years of autocratic rule the country's police force had not been developed.

BL College students call 15-day strike

From Staff Correspondent. KHULNA, Jan 6: All Party Students Unity (AJSU) of BL College here today has called a continuous 15-day strike in the college demanding resignation of the Principal and judicial inquiry into the January 1 incident on the college campus. One student was killed and nine persons including journalists were injured in a clash between police and students on January 1.

Transport

From Page 1 Col 7 The owners are demanding of the authorities to take measures to stop 'illegal collection' of tolls, by a section of workers. On the other hand, the transport workers are blaming the owners for not complying with the agreement of issuing appointment letters. Earlier on Friday, the owners' representatives held a meeting at the Association office here and decided to go for the indefinite strike from Monday. Transport workers' union sources said 20 per cent of the owners have not yet issued appointment letters to the workers despite tripartite agreement between the government and the transport owners and workers. The strike will disrupt road communication between the capital and the northern region.

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Returnees from Kuwait are living up for fresh visas everyday. The picture was taken yesterday. —Star photo

Corruption case against Ershad It's a battle of the throne: DC

The chief defence counsel (DC) for Ershad Monday submitted that the corruption case against his client is a design to size up the former president who ruled the country for nearly nine years, reports UNB. Describing the trial of Ershad as historic, Advocate Sirajul Haq observed "it's a battle of the throne... the throne is involved in it". "This is one of the simplest cases but is being given a big dimension in a spirit of vendetta so that he can never again raise his head high", added the defence counsel. As he was making forceful arguments before the special court of district and sessions judge Mohammad Ali Khan, Ershad sitting in the dock was listening to him with rapt attention. A mighty general and former president Ershad was accused of amassing wealth of Tk 2,21,65,238 including a cash of Tk 1,90,81,565 beyond his known sources of income which was estimated at around Tk 73 lakh. Refuting the charge Advocate Haq said the money seized from the Scenababan is not Ershad's. It was deposited to him by the dedicated members of Jatiya Party. Political party fund is deposited to a man who enjoys the confidence. It's nothing wrong if he was kept the money. The defence counsel argued that conscious efforts were being made by Jatiya Party to buy a house for its central office at Dhanmondi and the money involved was amply supported by government files. The money was deposited by Jatiya Party members to their chairman. Even if 5 per cent of the claim appears to be true, the charge against the accused falls on the ground, argued the defence counsel. Advocate Haq, assisted by his lawyer son Anisul Haq who made necessary papers readily available to his father, submitted that the charge itself is defective. You cannot charge someone of amassing wealth without

saying how he amassed it. Has he robbed the money or took bribe, the defence lawyer questioned. Quoting relevant rules, the defence counsel said the accused was charged under Section (1) (c) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947 which deals with disproportionate income. But, he argued, one cannot be prosecuted under this section in isolation. The accused has to be proved guilty under clauses (a), (b) and (d) of section 5(1), that is, bribery and other unfair means of amassing wealth. No charge has been proved about the source of the money. Again, Advocate Haq argued, application of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947, a temporary law enacted by alien rulers, is malafide. He referred to the Anti-corruption Act, 1957 that provided for pre-trial inquiry and examination of the inquiry report by a council. The accused should be given the facilities of an advantageous law, demanded the defence counsel. He referred to Article 27 of the Constitution which guaranteed equal rights to all and argued that Ershad should have been tried under the latest law. Advocate Haq submitted that the accused was condemned without having been heard. The accused was always available for being asked about the money and its source. In this context he quoted a given to the accused to explain his position even if it was not written in the law book. He referred to the prosecution contention that Ershad's nominee Mustafizur Rahman who was on the 8-member inventory committee did not say that it was Jatiya Party money. How Mustafizur would know this? argued the defence counsel and said he (Mustafizur) was authorised by Ershad only to receive his personal effects. Asking Mustafizur about the money is no enough, he added. The submission and arguments of Advocate Haq often punctuated with humorous

Jail wardens

From Page 1 Col 5 ination in pay-structure, jail sources said. The jail wardens in Dhaka also plan to submit memoranda to the IG and the DIG of the Prisons Directorate and to the Home Ministry today (Tuesday) to press home their demands, wardens said. The jail wardens, however, throughout the country were on their duties, jail authorities said. Jail authorities said that it was a matter of Taka 52 lakhs per year to meet the demands of 5,802 wardens in the country. The jail wardens in Comilla observed a sit-in strike in front of the Comilla jail gate in protest against the salary-discrimination. They also demonstrated outside the office of the DIG there, our Comilla correspondent reports. About 50 jail wardens in Kishoreganj district jail kept the office of the Superintendent of the jail under lock from 10 am to 12 noon raising the similar demands, our Kishoreganj correspondent reports. The wardens in Khulna district jail also demonstrated in front of the office of Jail Superintendent here for two hours in the morning. They brought out processions and paraded the city streets, our Staff Correspondent from Khulna reports. The wardens in Jessore Central Jail and in five other sub-jails under Khulna district jail also carried on similar programmes in protest against the salary-discrimination, our Staff Correspondent from Khulna added. Similar reports were also received from Chittagong jail.

Row over college union election: Principal forced out of office

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 6: The Principal of I.ajl Wahed Mariam Degree College at Chandakona in Rajganj upazila was forced out of his office today by some activists of a student organisation, reports UNB. College sources blamed pro- Awami League Chhatra League (S-A) supporters for the outrage. They also locked up his office, apparently being agitated by filing of a case by the Principal against eight Chhatra League's in connection with Sunday's ransack of the college office.

Shantibahini

From Page 1 Col 6 and 120 rounds of ammunition from the spot. The officials said that acting on a tip off the security forces stalled a Shantibahini ambush on the Bangla speaking villagers in Talkali area of Dighinala upazila at about 9 am today. The captured outlaw was identified as Bipul Chakma, they said. The injured Shantibahinians were flown the Combined Military Hospital here from Khagrachhari for treatment.

Indonesia

From Page 1 Col 8 Asian Nations (ASEAN). "Indonesia is still waiting for explanation from Singapore about the agreement," Alatas said. He said he expected the latest deal, to allow the US Naval logistics command to move to Singapore from the Philippines, was within the framework of a 1990 agreement to give US Air and Naval forces limited access to facilities. Indonesia, the giant of the region, is extremely sensitive to any military links with foreign powers by its neighbours Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Brunei with whom it forms ASEAN. Alatas said the issue might be raised later this month at the ASEAN summit in Singapore.

World Bank

From Page 1 Col 7 of fixing the target for family planning workers at the field-level termed the system as 'a coercion'. Bangladesh authorities did not agree with this argument as the whole family planning programme is a target-oriented one.

Myanmar troops

From Page 1 Col 5 renew the country's invitation to the Burmese Foreign Minister to visit Bangladesh. The spokesman expressed the hope that the Burmese Foreign Minister would visit Dhaka shortly to discuss all bilateral problems for a peaceful solution. Bangladesh Ambassador is also due to call on the Burmese Home Minister tomorrow (Tuesday). "It's a positive development", the spokesman told newsmen, adding "the situation has been contained". The official expressed optimism that Myanmar would positively respond to the friendly gesture of Bangladesh. Responding to a question, he said that Myanmar troops were yet to return arms and ammunition they had taken away from the BDR camp. He said that the list of Rohingya Muslims who had taken shelter in the eastern region of Bangladesh after fleeing Myanmar was being prepared. The first instalment will be delivered to the Myanmar authorities as quickly as possible to start repatriation under the agreement the two countries reached during Foreign Minister Rahman's visit to Yangon in November.

22 secretaries retire

From Page 1 Col 7 The retirement age throughout the ASEAN countries is also 60 while the developed nations of the West and Japan are contemplating to extend it to the age of 65. Two years ago, the retirement age at the United Nations was raised from 60 to 62. Observers also feel that Bangladesh should look into the issue of retirement of the country's senior officials immediately in line with the international and regional trends. The argument has acquired an immediacy due to the fact that the government has extended the age limit for the entry into government ser-

Move to streamline stocks

The government, in a move to streamline the drooping Dhaka Stock Exchange, has asked the enlisted companies to submit their up-to-date balance-sheets, reports UNB. Authorities have also questioned statements on holding of annual general meetings by the companies and the dividends offered by them to shareholders, official sources said yesterday. A recent official survey found none of the nine DSE counsellors maintaining up-to-date personal balance-sheets. Sources said the instruction for submitting audited balance-sheets would also be served on general members of the DSE. Sleeping partners are on the increase in the DSE. The exchange now has 195 regis-

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The Midnight File

200,000 Tamil refugees to go back to Lanka

NEW DELHI, Jan 6: India will begin repatriating about 200,000 Tamil Refugees back to Sri Lanka, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said today. An Indian chartered vessel is to take the first batch of 5,000 refugees back to the strife-torn island, which lies across the narrow Palk Strait from India, in the third week of January, the spokesman said, reports Reuter.

6,000 listed missing in Croatian civil war

BELGRADE, Jan 6: About 6,000 people are listed as missing in the civil war in Croatia, the Red Cross agency which searches for people who have disappeared said today, the Tanjug news agency reported. The agency has been created by the international committee of the Red Cross and by the Red Cross of Yugoslavia, reports AFP.

Ghali proposes military team for Yugoslavia

NEW YORK (United Nations), Jan 6: UN Secretary General Butros-Ghali has proposed sending 50 military observers to Yugoslavia immediately to help monitor a fragile ceasefire. In a report released today Butros-Ghali recommended first assuring the validity of the latest ceasefire accords before dispatching UN peacekeeping forces to Yugoslavia, reports AFP.

Unauthorised homestead

From Page 1 Col 5 Talking to The Daily Star last night the Rajuk Chairman Anwarul Alam admitted that according to the reports he received from his subordinates, the demolition of the dwelling of Ismail at Green Road was illegal. 'I will see to the matter tomorrow', he added. The Chairman however claimed that notice to the dwellers had been served but was not adequate from the legal point of view. Surprisingly, no authorised officer of the Rajuk nor any person on behalf of the authorised officer was present on the spot during the demolition of the homestead, confirmed the Rajuk sources. No unauthorised structure can be legally demolished unless the Rajuk authorities go through some prior formalities. The formalities include serving notice asking the dweller to remove the unauthorised structure by himself within a particular period and announcement of the date and time of demolition by the Rajuk, in case the dweller fails to respond to the Rajuk call to remove the unauthorised structure, through loud-speaker. Besides, the authorised officer, as per rule, must be present at the spot physically during demolition of the unauthorised structure. The responsibility of the Magistrate present there is only to observe whether any violation of the rule occurs while the presence of police is necessary as a preemptive measure to combat any possible resistance from the dweller of the unauthorised structure. But in case of yesterday's eviction at Green Road, the Magistrate and the police themselves indulged in the illegal activities and demolished the semi-pucca structure of one Ismail Miah. Ismail Miah had been living there for the past 20 years with his four-member family. The piece of land on which Ismail Miah erected a semi-pucca structure, however, belongs to the heirs of late Ali Amjad Khan who let this poorman live there temporarily.

JCD committees in Khulna dissolved

KHULNA, JAN 6: Khulna district and city committees of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal were dissolved Monday in the wake of intra-party conflict. The decision was taken at a close door meeting chaired by Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali who is also the President of Khulna district BNP, sources close to the meeting said. The sources said the two committees were dissolved as the recent debacle in student union elections at Daulatpur BL College and Khaliapur Mohan College was attributed to intra-party conflict of JCD, reports UNB.

Uranium found in Nepal

KATMANDU, Jan 6: Traces of uranium have been found in Baitadi district in west Nepal, the official vernacular daily, Gorkhapatra, reported Monday. The uranium particles were found while examining a sample brought from Chaulani Gadh in Baitadi recently, the daily said, quoting Shambhu Prasad Singh, director of the department of mines and geology, reports AP.

Advertisement for Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Co. Ltd. (A Subsidiary Company of Petrobangla). Includes contact information: 'Phones: 232200, 232172, 258462, 812135-42'. A table for 'Notice for payment of arrear gas bills' with columns for bill number, due date, zone, and area. The table lists various zones and areas with their respective due dates. At the bottom, it says: 'Our valued customers are requested to clear their outstanding dues immediately and keep the receipt at the place of use to be produced before the disconnecting team. Our respected customers are also being reminded that all payments be made through designated Banks only. No person is authorised to collect cash on any pretext whatsoever. All officers/employees of Titas Gas and its approved contractors/their representatives carry valid identity cards. For any query/clarification regarding gas connection/bill please contact Manager (Sales) over Phone: 323598 or Manager (Revenue) over Phone: 323546 or the local zone office. DFP(BA) 10820-2/1 G-29 Authority'