

### Exiled war hero returns today to rule Algeria

**ALGIERS, Jan 15** : The war hero named to head Algeria's new ruling council will return to his divided nation Thursday from nearly three decades in exile, officials said Wednesday.

Mohamed Boudiaf, 72, was named Tuesday to head the High State Council, a ruling body put in place by the military dominated Security Council that pressured President Chadli Bendjedid to resign last weekend.

However, Boudiaf's appointment seemed partly symbolic.

The most powerful of the ruling body's five members appeared to be the defense minister, Gen Khaled Nezzar, one of three generals who helped push Bendjedid from power. He played a leading role in the four-month state of emergency Bendjedid declared in June to suppress fundamentalist unrest that claimed at least 55 lives.

The Security Council swiftly canceled the second round of parliamentary elections which the Islamic fundamentalists had been expected to win. They dominated last month's first-round balloting, Algeria's first free national elections.

The fundamentalist movement seeks to establish an Islamic state, though its leaders have not made clear the extent to which they would enforce curbs on women's rights, coeducation and alcohol consumption.

On Tuesday, the authorities announced that the High State Council would finish out Bendjedid's term, which was to end in December 1993.

That allows those in power to defer presidential elections that the constitution says must be held within 45 days of a president's resignation.

The new council will represent some of the country's most important factions: religious activists, war veterans and democratic groups. But the military will still have the leading role.

Boudiaf, who has spent the 28 years in neighbouring Morocco, was to be accorded a welcome fitting his rank as head of state, official sources said.

The former ruling party, the National Liberation Front (FLN), leveled its first official criticism at the new leadership Wednesday, even though the military is led by generals with FLN ties.

The party, which until 1989 had no legal opposition, described the new High Council of State as unconstitutional. It said the planned collective presidency was "fraught with dangers."

Hocine Ait-Ahmed, head of the moderate Front for Socialist Forces, demanded that the election process be resumed.

Ait-Ahmed said in a French radio interview that the government might ban the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front and warned that such a move could trigger violence.

"Anything is possible given that they have dared to carry out a coup d'etat," Ait-Ahmed said. He said his party would work to maintain peace and act as mediator "to avoid violence and civil war."



Bangladesh Chhatra Union workers demonstrating in demand for trial of Jamaat chief Golam Azam in the city yesterday. —Star photo

### OIC information conference opens with call for joint action

**CAIRO, Jan 15** : The two-day second conference of the OIC information ministers began here today with a call for strengthening joint action by Islamic countries in the field of information, reports BSS.

While adopting the agenda, the conference laid stress on several recommendations which include an up-to-date information plan, code of ethics for Islamic information, programme for development of information and communications, reduction of communications tariffs for press organizations, distribution of electromagnetic frequencies, status of line and Islamic States Broadcasting Organisation (ISBO), proposals for establishment of a union of journalists of Islamic countries and for setting up "Islamic vision" to cooperate in the field of satellites. The OIC information ministers conference was participated by member-countries delegations, headed by information ministers.

Bangladesh was elected a vice-chairman of the bureau of ministers to follow up implementation of the resolutions. The bureau will act like a standing committee of the ministers.

Saudi Arab's Minister for Information Ali Saher in his capacity as the Chairman of the erstwhile committee called for gearing up information networks by the member-countries especially in the Arabian group of the OIC.

Host country Egypt's Information Minister Mohamed Safwat Al Sharif stressed that the Islamic world should venture into the fields of space and satellite technology with a view to strengthening relations among its different regions and developing its abundant expertise.

Early today Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda and other heads of delegation called on President Mubarak and thanked him for hosting the conference. Information Minister Huda conveyed the President a message of wishes from Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The Minister, on his way to the two-day OIC information ministers' conference told a press conference Tuesday in Dubai that Bangladesh government had already taken up measures to ensure a free press, an independent judiciary and welcomed the opposition to play its role for making democracy meaningful to the nation.

The Information Minister who had also an extensive parley with the Director General of Information, Dubai government, Sheikh Hasher Maktoum was extended all-out cooperation in modernising Bangladesh Television network and its programmes.

### Milk need sharply exceeds production

**By Staff Correspondent**

The daily requirement of milk in the country is now nearly 10 million tons but the supply is only 1.74 million tons.

This was stated by the Minister of Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah Al Noman in the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) Wednesday.

Replying to a question, the Minister said that of the total supply, 1.34 million tons is produced in the country while 0.40 million tons is exported.

The milk requirement has been estimated according to the daily per head requirement of 240 grams, he said.

The Minister also told the House that the government has taken various steps to increase the production of milk. They include increasing the number of pure bred cows, cultivating fodder for them, decreasing their death-rate by providing better treatment, and setting up of more dairy farms in the country.

### CUTA call to close down halls for 6 months

**CHITTAGONG, Jan 15** : Chittagong University Teachers Association (CUTA) today urged the authorities to close down the university halls at least for six months with a view to restoring academic atmosphere on the campus, reports UNB.

The association (Hamid-Ittehar group) also decided fresh to continue its non-stop class boycott programme demanding reinstatement of Prof Alamgir Mohammad Strajuddin.

Islamic Chhatra Shibir in a press statement condemned the suggestion of the association for closing the halls of the university and the call for strike terming it as a conspiracy to destroy the academic life of 12,000 students.

Meanwhile, general students who will observe a four-hour token strike in front of the university library from 10 am to 2 pm tomorrow (Thursday) today submitted a four-point memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor Rafiqul Islam.

### 17 hurt as JCD, BCL clash

Two Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists were injured yesterday in a clash between the supporters of JCD and Awami League backed Chhatra League at Mirpur Degree College, reports UNB.

Abdul Hannan Khandakar (25), General Secretary and AKM Shefaul, Alam Liton (25), Vice President of JCD unit of the college, were admitted to DMCH.

The condition of Abdul Hannan was stated to be critical.

In Strajganj, at least 15 students were injured in a clash between activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Awami League backed Chhatra League during the student union election of Ullapara Akbar Ali College yesterday.

Police said the clash broke out after news of JCD's lead in most of the seats spread in the college premises.

Eye witnesses said that on hearing the news activists of Chhatra League attacked the counting centres and exploded cocktails and handbombs.

### Insurgencies put Indian army under pressure

**NEW DELHI, Jan 15** : India's army chief has said border state insurgencies are putting his troops under unusual pressure and has promised to minimise their involvement in quelling revolts in Punjab, Kashmir and Assam, reports UNB.

"There is no denying the army has been considerably stretched during the last three to four years," General Sunilth Francis Rodrigues said in an interview published in the latest edition of the official newsletter Sainik Samachar (forces news).

"I am conscious that continued use of the army in aid to civil authority is causing serious dislocations to our men and their families," said Rodrigues, chief of army staff.

India's army, the world's fourth largest with more than one million men, prides itself on never having intervened in domestic politics. Senior officers have complained that too much counterinsurgency work could undermine this.

"These are trying times as the army, the symbol of national integration, has to rise to the call of the nation," Rodrigues told his troops in the interview.

He was referring to separatist revolts raging in Sikh-majority Punjab and Muslim-majority Kashmir and to Assam, where Maoist guerrillas have just offered a ceasefire. At least 7,000 people died in the three revolts last year.

**Editor: S. M. Ali**  
**Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam**  
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### Non government teachers to get benefit raise

The government will announce shortly certain benefits for private school, college and madrasa teachers who have threatened to go for strike from January 18, reports UNB.

This was stated by State Minister for Education Prof Yunus Khan in parliament last night in response to a call notice moved by Abdul Awal Mia (AL).

Yunus Khan said the government had agreed in principle to accept the demands of the non-government teachers for enhancing their benefits. An official announcement is coming shortly, he added.

Referring to their demand for Welfare Trust, Khan said the government was also taking steps to constitute a new committee for the Trust.

Earlier, a Welfare Trust was instituted by the Ershad government, but the caretaker government of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed dissolved it due to anomalies.

In his notice, Awal gave a comparative picture of the government-financed and the private education in the country.

Abdul Awal said the private school and college teachers were deprived financially compared to salary and benefits being enjoyed by government school and college teachers.

Of the total 48 lakh students, 44 lakh are studying in private schools and colleges while only four lakh are in the government-run schools and colleges, he said.

The allocation for 223 government colleges is Tk 75 crore in the current fiscal year while it is only Tk 50.70 crore for 651 private colleges, he further said showing the disparity.

He said per head expenditure for a government college student is Tk 2437, for a cadet student Tk 30,000 while for a private college student it is only Tk 767.

Awal suggested formation of a parliamentary committee to remove the disparity between the public and the private education in the country.

### Foggy weather to continue for 2 more days

Foggy weather for the last two days has slowed down life all over Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Visibility during the early parts of the day was very poor affecting air, road and river traffic.

Tuesday's fog lingered for six hours and yesterday's for three hours. Hundreds of vehicles were stranded at ferry stations and many vehicles were seen using their headlights even in the morning.

Weathermen explained that this fog which may continue for another two days is part of a phenomenon affecting a wide tract of land stretching from northern India right up to the Chittagong Hill Tracts. It signals a further fall in temperature.

A Strajganj report says, four people and 200 winter birds were killed in chill coupled with dense fog in the district since Tuesday.

Three old men were reported to have died of biting cold in Tarash upazila.

### Thai Crown Prince

**From Page 1 Col 5**  
 Deputy Prime Minister Meechai Ruchupan, officials and six mediators.

Prior to his visit to Bangladesh, the Crown Prince went on a six-day visits to Pakistan and Bhutan.

Thailand was one of the first South East Asian countries to recognise Bangladesh after the War of Liberation in 1971. Thailand opened its embassy in Dhaka in 1974 while the Bangladesh mission in Bangkok was set up in 1975.

The relations between the two countries is friendly and cordial. The political and economic links between Thailand and Bangladesh have grown steadily over the years. The two countries share identical views on a number of international issues.

Both Thailand and Bangladesh support the UN Resolution on the Middle East and Namibia as well as Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. Both the countries tend to promote third-world interests and ask for international peace.

There are quite a number of agreements signed between the two countries, covering airlinks, trade and commerce.

A number of high-level visits have also been exchanged. The bilateral agreements signed are on trade, cooperation in fishing, cultural cooperation, joint chamber of commerce, joint commission, working arrangement on cultural exchange programme, investment of capital and protection of capital, shipping, air services, and an MOU on air services.

### Palestinians put forward blueprint for self-rule

**WASHINGTON, Jan 15** : Palestinian negotiators here have presented the Israelis with a blueprint for self rule in the occupied territories, calling for an interim government and the withdrawal of Israeli troops, the Washington Post reported today, reports AFP.

Presented as the third round of bilateral talks between Israeli and Arabs got under way at the State Department, the proposal was described by the Palestinian delegation as "a model" for future bargaining with Israel, the daily said.

The reaction of Israel's representatives at the talks was not immediately known, the daily said, adding that it had obtained a copy of the two-page Palestinian proposal, which was not made public.

The plan calls for a 180-strong assembly to be elected under international supervision among all Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem, from which a chairman and a 20-member executive council would be chosen. Before the elections, the proposal said, Israel would free all residents of the territories under detention and halt the building and expansion of Jewish settlements in the territories it occupied during the 1967 Middle East war.

Israeli military forces would also be withdrawn from the territories, under UN supervision, to mutually agreed points along the border, the proposal added.

The United Nations would assist in creating a Palestinian internal security force to be placed under the control of the governing authority, the post's version of the plan said.

Under the terms of the peace process begun late October in Madrid, limited self-rule in the occupied territories would last five years as a prelude to further negotiations on the future of the territories.

A second round of bilaterals was held here in December. The third was scheduled for January 7 but the Arabs delayed their arrival until last weekend to protest Israeli expulsions of Palestinians from the occupied territories. (Earlier story on Page 5)

### Beijing making blacklist of reformist intellectuals

**BEIJING, Jan 15** : The Chinese government is compiling a blacklist of academic works advocating Western idea and democracy in an attempt to purge reformist intellectuals, Chinese sources said, reports AFP.

The ministry-level State Education Commission issued a document ordering top universities and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) to check all dissertations written in the last five years for "political problems".

It said the institutions would be barred from accepting any graduate students in the future if the directive is ignored, according to the sources who include Chinese professors, researchers and journalists.

The sources added, however, that the effort is meeting passive resistance and would likely fail.

China is trying to intensify ideological control after the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe. The intended purge seems to have been engineered by Communist Party hardliners who harbour a deep distrust of intellectuals.

The Education Commission, overseen by conservative party elder He Dongchang, 67, has especially targeted the four Beijing universities most active in the 1989 pro-democracy movement as well as CASS.

The four are Beijing University, Chinese People's University, Beijing Foreign Languages University and China Politics and Law University. CASS is the leading government think-tank.

University graduate student advisors in each department are going over dissertations written since 1986 for signs of "bourgeois liberalism," the official term for harmful western influences.

The year 1986 marked the start of an unusually liberal academic period that came to an abrupt end after the crackdown.

After advisors review the works, they are to hand a list of all dissertations to university presidents for submission to the Education Commission. The commission is then to review a random sampling of papers from each school.

But dissertation advisors are using the vagueness of the commission document to avoid fingering any of their students, university teachers said.

"It's a stupid move on the part of the government. All it will do is further antagonise intellectuals," one professor said. "I said nothing about political content when I reviewed the dissertations."

A CASS official predicted that the intended purge would fail because the government did not have the manpower to go over thousands of dissertations and because intellectuals have learned to look out for each other.

"If they say my work has political problems, my boss will say it is a scholarly pursuit of facts."

### The Midnight File

#### India, Russia finalise new political treaty

**MOSCOW, Jan 15** : India and Russia today finalised a new political treaty and signed memoranda of understanding on trade and supplies of defence and power generation equipment, official sources said today at the end of the three-day talks between high-level delegations of the two countries. The political treaty contains elements of the 1971 Indo-Soviet friendship treaty while the memoranda on trade and defence and power equipment supplies have been structured to allow flexibility to meet changes in the two countries' economies. Foreign Secretary JN Dixit told reporters, reports PTI.

#### ULFA bid to buy arms from Myanmar

**IMPHAL, Jan 15** : The police today claimed that the banned ULFA had tried to purchase sophisticated arms from neighbouring Myanmar. They said that one ULFA activist, Bijoy Barua, had come to Manipur in November last and handed over Rs 40,000 to Krishnamohan Singh, member of the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) of Manipur, as an advance payment for procuring sophisticated arms and ammunition, reports PTI.

#### Gamsakhurdia leaves for safe haven

**MOSCOW, Jan 15** : Ousted Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia left the Armenian town of Idzhevan Tuesday, apparently for a haven elsewhere in the Caucasus, a spokesman for Armenia's Interior Ministry said. Gamsakhurdia had been in Idzhevan for nine days, since fleeing Georgia after succumbing to a bloody two-week uprising, reports Reuter.

### 8 killed, 34 injured in road mishaps

**By Staff Correspondent**

Eight persons were killed and 34 others were injured in four separate road accidents yesterday.

A young man died on the spot and five others were injured when a speedy truck knocked down a rickshaw and a motor-bike at Rampura in the city at about 8:30 last night.

The body could not be identified and was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue.

Of the injured, Ferdous Akhter Hossain and Ibrahim were admitted to the DMCH and their condition was said to be critical.

Sabujog Police rushed to the spot and seized the truck. The driver however managed to escape, police said.

A 50-year old woman died on the spot when she was run over by an auto-rickshaw at Rampura near Ekramunnesa High School at about 6 am. The woman was identified as Shukkur Bibi and the body was sent to the DMCH morgue.

Police seized the auto-rickshaw. The driver escaped Gulshan police said.

A Narsingdi report says, four people were killed and 25 injured when a bus and a truck collided on the foggy Dhaka-Sylhet highway yesterday morning, reports UNB.

Truck driver Nur Hossain (35) was among those killed in the accident in Keyakanda area, police said.

Two other dead were bus passengers Liaquat (30) and Ebadullah (28). The other victim was yet to be identified.

Witnesses said the Dhaka-bound bus coming from Sylhet collided with the Bhatrabound truck from Dhaka at about 7 am amidst dense fog.

Among the injured, 10 were admitted to Bhatrab Hospital in serious condition.

A report from Pabna says, two people, including an Union Parishad chairman candidate, were killed and 7 others injured in a road accident near Dhamrai on Dhaka-Archa highway.

**Flag meet**  
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 Cox's Bazar area during the last two months.

"They will not be expatriated against their wishes", Rahman told the House.

He said government is making all efforts through discussions so that the refugees can return home as honourable citizens of Myanmar without any hesitation and fear.

Meanwhile, he said, a list of refugees is being prepared. Necessary measures have been taken by the Foreign and the Relief Ministries to take care of the refugees.

The Foreign Minister told the House that the foreign envoys in Dhaka were informed of the situation on the border and the steps taken by the government. This was also communicated to all Bangladesh envoys in different countries.

He said the foreign envoys and their governments have appreciated as just and realistic the steps taken by Bangladesh.

### Women trafficking

**From Page 1 Col 7**

Speaking through an interpreter, they expressed ignorance about the fate that was waiting for them. These women were rescued along with 25 children and 10 men.

Reports from different parts of the country say identity of traffickers and their agents are known to people of the locality concerned and, in cases, to police. The agents are normally paid Taka 300 to Taka 500 each excluding the cost of food and accommodation during the whole journey from the point of origin to the destination point in India.

Sources say the traffickers operate from Panichhara in Cox's Bazar and Mirpur in Dhaka.

The recruiting agents of the trade have mobile sub-agents, in most cases women, who establish contacts at the grass-root level. Once the individual recruitment is done by portraying a bright picture of the future it becomes a group operation. Normally the size of the group does not exceed 10. But there are reports when in one swoop the members of BDR rescued 128 women and children from a village Mahadevpur in Biral upazila of Dinajpur district. They hail from the district of Cox's Bazar and were trapped by Amirul Islam, Ansar Ali, Mokhlesur Rahman and Ara of village Deghra Narayanpur under Biral upazila.

One of the recruiting agents, Wazed, who is engaged in the trade for the last three years, said they have contacts in all the bordering districts of the country. But for convenience they prefer the districts of Jessore, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Dinajpur.

Wazed has four wives, two in Dinajpur and two in India, who work as his accomplices.

According to Wazed he has taken 600 women out of the country during 1989 to 1990. Wazed claimed traffickers pay a substantial amount as bribes to ensure their trade.

Over the years, the traders have been showing inclination towards younger women. In some cases young girls who have not yet reached their puberty are smuggled for use as child prostitutes.

Wazed said children in most cases are sold to one Sudhir Babu of Balurghat in India and to another person in Rajasthan. Wazed has no idea what happens to these children.

Government measures, on inquiry it was found, are not enough to cope with the growing problem. The Directorate of Women Affairs is aware of the problem but unable to handle the situation. The Directorate normally deals with cruelty to women and has a cell to enforce rights of the women who complain.

A senior official, preferring anonymity, said under the circumstances it is difficult to deal with the problem.

Reports say the rescued women and children normally end up in jails, known as safe custody. What ultimately happens to them could not be ascertained. There are also complaints of these women again falling prey to traffickers by way of bailis moved by relatives in disguise.

Different organisations have identified some reasons for the problem which include poverty, labour migration, lack of employment opportunities, problems of dowry, cruelty to women and sex tourism.

With trafficking in women becoming part of consumer culture it has become a serious problem for Bangladesh and needs immediate intervention by the government.