Saddam forms special force

for his protection

force led by his son to protect him, his palaces and key cen-

tres from Shitte Muslims and other rebels, diplomatic

Honecker to be charged

with manslaughter

Honecker, now a refugee in the Chilean embassy in Moscow,

will eventually be charged with manslaughter even if he

doesn't return to Germany, a justice official said Wednesday.

Jutta Limbach, a spokeswoman at the Berlin Justice Ministry,

said she expected the charges to be filed "by springtime," but

CIS chiefs meet Feb 7-8

Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) are to meet here

February 7 and 8 to discuss trade and economic issues,

Large foreign currency

MOSCOW, Jan 29: The 11 heads of government of the

did not expect Honecker to be tried in absentia, reports AP.

BERLIN, Jan 29: Former East German leader Erich

sources said Wednesday, reports AP.

From Page 1 Col 8

per cent letter of credit (LC)

count rate by half per cent.

With all such efforts, the gov-

ernment is trying to raise the

flow of liquidity. High-level

government sources said, even

with all the measures, it would

take at least another six

months for the economy to

economists view that most of

these measures will not work

as expected. They stated that

even in the recent auction of

the 91-day Bangladesh Bank

bill held on January 27, the

bids were for a staggering

amount of Taka 100.50 crore

at the rate of about eight per

cent only. They said this phe-

nomenon clearly shows that

the banks are burdened with

huge idle money due to the

slackened economic activities.

The inter-bank borrowing rate

was also abnormally low at II

per cent, which also indicates

the poor activities of the finan-

in almost all the sectors has

also dropped between 20 and

40 per cent. According to a

study of Bangladesh Employ-

ers' Association (BEA). This

combined with low import and

high FER shows the shattered

condition of the economy,

said the FER swelled up fur-

ther as huge foreign aid re-

mained unutilised. Bangladesh

received foreign loans amount-

ing to 212 million dollar in

1991-92 in addition to 220

million dollar as grant. The

donours have already started

complaining about the low aid

utilisation. Government

sources said lack of counter-

part fund was a major reason

for under-utilisation of the aid.

The slackened import and the

chronic loss in the public sec-

tor enterprises resulted in a

poor revenue earning of the

government which could not

On the other hand, export

performance was about seven

Malaria

From Page 1 Col 7

has solved down in the country

since the merger of the con-

trol programme with the gen-

eral health services in 1977.

threats posed by malarial dis-

eases besides the other prior-

ity health issues in the high

endemic countries including.

Bangladesh the WHO represen-

that an inter-regional pre-

summit conference on malaria

would begin in New Delhi.

India, on February 3 to review

the present malarial condition

in the South-EAst Asian region.

come of the regional confer-

ence would be presented at

the ministerial conference

which takes place in

Amsterdam, Netherlands on

October 1992, he added.

The suggestion and out

Dr Abeyesundere informed

We must not forget the

he said

tative said.

propel the utilisation of aid.

Concerned official sources

The industrial production

cial sector, they said.

economists view.

On the other hand, the

Earlier, it reduced the dis-

margin requirement.

take an upturn.

NICOSIA, Jan 29: Saddam Hussein has formed a special

2 killed as police open fire in Algiers

people were killed when police opened fire here today to disperse hundreds of Muslim demonstrators, according to the national news agency APS and the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), reports

It was the first time people had been killed during a string of such clashes that have erupted stnce the army took power two weeks ago after the FIS won a first round of parliamentary elections.

APS said an elderly woman was killed and seven were

The FIS later said a 12year-old also died from a bullet wound in the head.

AP report adds: Stonethrowing youths clashed with police Wednesday in a Muslim fundamentalist stronghold. Police reported 27 arrests. and witnesses said officers and

civilians were injured. State radio said skirmishes between police and youths continued for several hours in the Bachdjarah district in suburban Algiers.

Police refused to give any information on casualties. But reporters at the scene said the gunfire took the form of warnings shots, and the injured people did not appear to have been struck by bullets.

Witnesses said the fighting erupted as police prepared to

arrest two imams who support the Salvation Front. It was not clear if the arrests were carried out, but security forces

"Big reinforcements of riot police and civil police have arrived in the area and are keeping watch on the main road, the radio said. It said groups of youths were throwing stones

From Page 1 Col 8 fire to vehicles in the New Market, Dhaka College and

Fire brigade sources said that one of their units' extinguished the fire set to a private car (Dhaka metro Ka-03-2978) at about 8.30 pm near the

Dhanmondi police confirmed the agitation but could not give any detail. They said that their officers and forces went to the spot but did not return till 10.30 last night.

After the arrest, Ashru was taken to Mohammadpur Police Station by the SB and then handed over to the Detective Branch (DB), police said.

day (Thursday).

Row over remark

From Page 1 Col 7 of Bangladeshi women to

Rising on a point of order, make a statement by shouting being refused the floor.

The Speaker immediately urged the Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim to restrain Huq. adding "Otherwise, I will throw him out".

the Chair as "shocking and unfortunate". Nasim requested the Speaker to withdraw his remarks. The Speaker, while defending his remarks, referred to rules 14 through 18 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament. However, he assured the Opposition such remarks would not come from him if members restrained

any unpleasant situation on any remarks made by the Chair, but I will throw him out is not a pleasant remark," pointed out Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad. while defending Nasim's con-

little inciting and provocative", he reminded that his own microphone was twice cut-off today when he tried to draw the Chair's attention to press reports on the dropping of a Supreme Court Judge.

AL wanted to extend cooperation to make Parliament an effective forum, but added "But you cannot expect our cooperation by making such state-

The AL members sprang to their feet when Fazlur Rahman Patal stood to welcome the Speaker's comment, pointing out that "such remarks should have come from the Chair much earlier to bring order in

bers walked out followed by the JP members. The State Minister for Communications went on to add that as the custodian of the House the Speaker should control it according to the prescribed rules.

BNP member Col. Akbar Hossain said that the use of such language of warning was within the rights of the Chair. but added, "Being a member, I because the Chair normally uses such words in an extreme

Mentioning rules 15 up to 18 of the Rules of Procedure outlining the Speaker's powers. Suranjit Sengupta said. "The comment 'I will throw him out is not permitted by any section," while defending Shamsul Huq as a senior member, elected for the fourth time and pointing out his sense of humour and typical style of speaking loudly.

sealed off the neighbourhood.

and chanting anti-police slo-

BCL leader

Science Laboratory areas.

Dhaka College.

Detective Branch of police said that it was questioning Ashru who will be produced in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court (CMMC) to-

rejected by the Chair, on a press report on the smuggling Pakistan for prostitution.

Shamsul Huq attempted to at the top of his voice after

Terming the comment from

from unpleasant behaviour.

The AL members, apparently hurt and enraged, were not satisfied with the Speaker's statement to defuse the situation and insisted that the Chair withdraw the re-

marks. "We do not want to create

Terming the remark as "a

Samad Azad noted that the ments."

the House".

At this point the AL mem-

also become a bit embarrassed, situation."

Sengupta urged the Speaker to adjourn the House to bring about an amicable settlement of the 'unfortunate'

situation. LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar, taking the floor next, while defending the Speaker's remarks noted, "It is true that, at times, we do enjoy his style of presentations but today his gesture went beyond the point of enjoyment".

He called for tolerance from

both the Treasury and the

Opposition benches for the

sake of "nurturing the fledgling democracy." At this point the Speaker adjourned the House for Maghreb prayers. During the prolonged break a conciliatory meeting between the Opposition and Treasury

Bench members was held at the AL committee room in Parliament. Attended by members of all Opposition parties except the Jamaat, the Treasury Bench team included Chief Whip Delwar Hossain, B Choudhury.

Explaining the reason for their walkout, JP leader Monirul Hug told newsmen that they had come out of the House to uphold the 'dignity and privilege of Parliament

Col. Akbar and Shahidul Huq

members. After the House resumed, the Deputy Leader of the House, while noting that during his absence from the House some 'unfortunate' incidents occurred earlier, urged the Opposition members to return and sought their cooperation to make Parliament

more effective and lively. He called on the Speaker to adjourn the House for five minutes to enable those who walked out to return and join in the deliberations, mentioning that he had already held talks with the Deputy Leader of Opposition and the JP lead-

Following the brief adjournment the Opposition members returned accompanied by the Chief Whip Delwar Hossain and were greeted by the Treasury Bench members with thumping of tables.

Fazlur Rahman Patal was given the floor and in his brief statement said that he did not want to hurt anyone by his statement made earlier.

Shamsul Huq in his turn said that he did not mean to show any form of disrespect to the Chair by his earlier actions on the floor and pledged to uphold the dignity of the

House. Shaikh Razzaque Ali told the House, while noting that it was his responsibility to conduct the House as per the Rules of Procedure, that he did not want to hurt or belittle anybody but meant that the comment would serve only as

He added that if there were any unparliamentary statements made earlier, they would be expunged from the

proceedings of the House. The Speaker then went on with the remaining proceedings of the House for the day.

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Chhatra League (S-A) brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding repeal of the Indemnity Bill.

- Star photo

Fake weavers eat up Taka 96 crore

By Staff Correspondent

The government is investigating the distribution of Taka 96 crore among fake weavers during the past autocratic

Action will be taken soon against those members of the directorate of textile who will be found involved with the

State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan told this in the Jatiya Sangsad in a statement following a call-attention notice by Moulana Matiur Rahman Nizami of the Jamaate-Islami on the issue on Wednesday. The State Minister, however, said that the list of the fake weavers was now missing from the Handloom Board. Besides, he added, the authorised banks which distributed the loans against the pass books issued by the Directorate of Textiles had also failed to provide any information relating to money scandal, but they have the list

of the weavers' names. Terming the decision as wrong, Mannan said as a result the loans were issued to the false weavers who were in fact based in urban areas. Above all, he said, most of the pass books were fake and the loan money was misappropriated. The government could

not realise this money later, he

In view of a demand by Nizami, the State Minister said that government had no objection to a judicial enquiry into BSS adds: The government

had decided to provide loans to the genuine weavers in the rural areas through the Grameen Bank and the Foundation for Rural Assistance. This was stated by State

Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan Wednesday in reply to a a call-attention notice by Moulana Matiur Rahman Nizami, leader of Jamaat-e-Islami Parliamentary Party. Mannan told the Jatiya

Sangsad that steps had been

taken to provide Taka 5000

each as new loan to poor weavers. The Textiles Minister said all certificate cases against the weavers had been directed to be withheld. A survey was being conducted to know the

actual number of weavers. He said a massive programme had been taken to distribute yarn on fair price, dyeing of yarn, purchase of woven cloth on cash payment. dyeing-printing and marketing through 30 basic centres and

facilities centres throughout the country

Abdul Mannan said the previous government had exempted interest on loans up to Taka 11000 and penalty interest on Taka 11001 to 22,000 in 1988. But, he said, this did not bring any good result.

He, however, said so far Taka 51 crore had been realised as original money and interest. Taka 185 crore still remained unrealised, he said.

The State Minister said the former government had also instituted certificate cases against the defaulter weavers.

Mannan said the loan money would not have been misappropriated by the fake weavers if the loans were distributed through bank branches in the villages after proper investigation through Tant Board.

.The State Minister said the government had already announced a comprehensive textiles policy for making the

country self-reliant in textiles. He, however, said the weavers were facing stiff competition from the modernised textile mills.

5 remuneration bills placed

The special committee's enhance remuneration and privileges of the President the Prime Minister, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, the minister and the members of parliament was placed before the Jativa Sangsad last night by State Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Aminul

The special committee recommended the bills with certain amendments after necessary evaluation and scrutiny The committee had several meetings with Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister in the chair.

The bills are: The President's (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill. 1991, the Prime Minister's (Remuneration and Privileges)(Amendment) Bill, 1991, the Speaker and Deputy Spea ker's (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill. 1991, the Ministers, State Ministers and Deputy Ministers (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill , 1991, and the Members of Parliament (Remuneration and Allowances

JS passes 2 more bills

Parliament Wednesday night passed two more bills -The Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill and the Water Resources Planning Bill, reports UNB.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Gennady Burbulis' press office said. An earlier meeting called by the Russian government for last Friday was cancelled, reports AFP.

report on five pending bills to measures are being taken. The Bangladesh Bank in the first week of November has cut the cash deposit ratio of the commercial banks from eight per Huq, reports BSS. cent to seven per cent and withdrawn the minimum 10

) (Amendment) Bill, 1991.

per cent higher in July-December of fiscal 1991-92 than the corresponding period of the last fiscal year. This along with continuing foreign remittances piled up the FER, sources said. The amount of remittance totalled 380 million dollar during July to December. They further reported that increased smuggling trend in the first half of the fiscal half of fiscal year also attributed to low use of foreign

Economists view that if the present trend in low import continues, the export will also be affected in the long run and as a result, the non-traditional sector would be worst hit.

However, the monthwise statistics of LCs opened in the first five months of fiscal 1991-92 shows that the amount of LCs is on a steep rise. The figure was 212 million dollar in July, 270 million dollar in August, 213 million dollar in September, 268 milion dollar in October and 275 million dollar in November. Sources said if this trend continues, the economy will take climb up. However, economists think that the economy will be adjusted at a lower level.

Ajker Kagaj journalists decry dismissal of Editor

A group of journalists and workers of the daily Ajker Kagaj Wednesday decried the dismissal of the editor of the paper and threatened they would go to the court to secure his reinstatement, reports

Addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club Wednesday afternoon, they protested the termination of the editor Tuesday night by the chairman of the editorial board kazi Shahed Ahmed.

Scores injured From Page 1 Col 4

clash between supporters of two chairman candidates at Chandidasgachhi in Sadar upaztla yesterday. The clash ensued when

processionists of two UP chairman candidates of Shialkhol Union Parishad Goher Ali and Maher Ali Khan were crossing each other. The clash lasted for half an

hour and both sides were seen using lethal weapons. Among the injured, two were admitted into Bhadraghat Health Complex. Our Correspondent adds:

According to unofficial results

of UP polls under Kazipur upazila the new chairmen are: Ismail Hossain of Kazipur union, Talukdar Zahangir Alam of Maizbari union. Hazi Tozammel Haq of Gandhail union, Lutfor Rahman Talukder of Suvagachha union, Abdul Hamid of Nischintapur union, Mozammel Haq of Natuarpara union. Rafigul Islam Tara of Chalitadanga union, Shamsul Haq of Khasrajbari union. Shorab Hossain of Sonamukhi union and Mohiruddin of Chargirish union.

Our Munshiganj Correspondent says: The Presiding Officer of Dhipur union centre under Tongibari upazila was assaulted during voting hours Wednesday.

tre under the same upazila, police fired four rounds of blank shots to quell the unruly supporters of a chairman candidate who allegedly tried to snatch ballot boxes.

unions of 22 upazilas under 20 districts today, the eighth day of the staggered UP polls that began on January 22 and will continue till February 6.

ECNEC okays 6 projects involving Tk 203.5 crore

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) Wednesday approved six projects involving Institute of Marine Taka 203 crore 48 lakh with a foreign exchange component of Taka 26 crore 12 lakh, re-

ports BSS. The approval was given at an ECNEC meeting held at the Secretariat cabinet room with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair, an official handout said.

The projects are integrated development of rural women and children through cooperatives under the Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives and for establishment of fish landing, preservation and distribution facilities at Manoharkhali-Chittagong under the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock

Division. Two projects under the Agriculture Division are for strengthening the programme of plant protection and programme for alleviation of poverty through integrated

area development approach. The rest of the two projects are one under the Ministry of Industries to implement investment programme for establishing small and cottage industries and the other under the Ministry of Labour and Manpower to strengthen Bangladesh

Technology. The projects, on completion, is expected to yield substantial results in socio-economic development of the country, the handout further

Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul-Haque, Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, Industries Minister Shamsul Islam, Post and Telecommunication Minister M Keramat Ali, Commerce Minister M K Anwar, Planning Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan, Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Education Minister Zamiruddin Sircar, Environment and Forest and Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al-Noman, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, Governor of Bangladesh Bank, members of the Planning Commission and Secretaries of the concerned ministries were present in the



Bangladesh Kabita Sammelon Parishad held a rally in the

city on the occasion of its conference yesterday. __ Star photo Myanmar Ambassador

From Page 1 Col 5 porters that a partial list of Rohingya refugees had already been drawn up and it would be handed over to Yangon "very

shortly". The first list contains some 3,000 names of refugees willing to return, but he refused to speculate on the total number of Rohingyas who have crossed into Bangladesh since the middle of last year from Myanmar's troubled northwestern state of Rakhaine

(formerly Arakan). "We are not giving any figures about the total number of refugees. The figure of 63,000 quoted by newspapers is strictly an unofficial one and it is not our figure", he said.

The Myanmar Ambassador said that his country had already agreed in principle, during Mustafizur Rahman's visit to Yangon last November, to take the refugees back, with only the mechanism of repatriation and list of authentic refugees remaining to be worked out.

Soe Myint, however, did not

see any need for an interna-

tional guarantee on safety and

human rights for the returnees, as demanded by refugee groups such as the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO).

"The refugees are all our nationals. They are Muslims, Buddhists, Christians, but they are all Myanman and we don't divide them along ethnic lines such as Rohingyas or anything else. I don't think international guarantees are necessary for their well-being". Myint told the Star.

Mahmud Ali said that the government had no plan to request outside help to deal with the refugee influx nor with the process of repatriation as yet. He said that the possibility of involving the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) with the repatriation process may be thought over later, if the situation demanded it. The UNHCR supervised the repatriation of some 200,000 Rohingyas in 1979 under a Dhaka-Yangon bilateral agreement.

The current unease between Bangladesh and Myanmar surfaced in the middle of last year, when thousands of Muslim as well as Buddhist refugees from Rakhaine began crossing into the districts of Banderban and Cox's Bazar. The unease blew into a cri-

sis following a Myanman attack

on a BDR camp in Banderban

Dec 21 which left two

Bangladeshis dead and 22 in-A rapid troop buildup on the Myanmar side of the border and a security alert in south-eastern Bangladesh escalated tension before the situation was contained through the holding of two flag meetings

before Tuesday's third. "Although these flag meeting have not been able to solve the issues, they have contributed greatly to the growth. of dialogue between the two sides at the grassroots level and the reduction of tension along the border", a Foreign Ministry official said.

Soe Myint meanwhile said that there was no reason for Bangladesh and Myanmar to be hostile to each other since "We have lived peacefully as neighbours for centuries."

"Our relations are good. The

Dec 21 incident was the one and only incident between our two countries, and it is likely to be the last", Myint said, "We have no intention to fight each other. We are not only brothers, we are like twins.

Ambassador Myint however expressed reservations about the activities of the RSO and the Arakan Rohingya Islamic Front (ARIF), saying that these organisations did not represent anyone and they were us ing the name "Rohingya" merely to make a case against Myanmar.

"These groups are talking

about armed struggle and taking over Arakan in two days or something like that. We have expressed our concern, but as a friendly neighbour, we cannot tell Bangladesh what to do. Bangladesh will deal with it in its own way, just as we would deal with a similar problem in Myanmar," Soe Myint said. At the Foreign Ministry, of-

ficials were tight-lipped about the RSO and ARIF issues, except to hint that the government had no intention of treating them as representatives of the Rohingya people.

Seven killed From Page 1 Col 7

with books fell into a road-side ditch near the DC's office injuring three people Wednes-The injured are one official

and two peons of the DC's of-

fice. They were admitted to

the Sadar hospital. Their con-

dition is said to be critical. hospital sources said. The accident occurred when the vehicle attempting to take a swift turn lost control. It smashed the railing of the nearby Post Office bridge

and fell into the ditch. The driver and helper of

the truck fled from the scene immediately after the incident. A case has been filed with the local police.

Ashit Kumar Saha, a lec- turer of Tongibari B T College was injured when a group of people pelted stones at the polling centre. No one was arrested and voting continued In Arial Baligaon union cen-

Police arrested three persons. Voting was not postponed Election will be held in 166