

DPRK signs nuclear safeguard treaty

SEOUL, Jan 30: North Korea bowed to international pressure and signed a nuclear safeguard treaty Thursday, paving the way for inspections of its secretive nuclear facilities. South Korea's Foreign Ministry said, reports AP.

Yoo, a North Korean watcher, pointed out loopholes in inspections by the international watchdogs. "The IAEA does not have the right to select nuclear sites for inspections at its own discretion," he said.

North Korea accepted the inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency after more than six years of stalling.

Hong Kun Pyo, a senior official in North Korea's nuclear development programme signed the accord at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna, Yonhap said.

Despite the signing, South Koreans expressed concerns Thursday that the Communist regime may still have time to complete an atomic bomb before inspections begin. 15-kg "An actual inspection of the north's nuclear facilities will not take place until June, giving enough time to Pyongyang to complete its nuclear weapons development," said Yoo Song-yol, a director at the Foreign Ministry's research institute.

Intelligence reports indicate the north is nearing capability to develop nuclear weapons, although the north denies it has such a programme.

Towels

From Page 1 Col 8

sources in Dhaka.

The Department of Commerce observed that the rate quoted by the Bangladesh companies are either less than the price in the home market or a third market or less than the cost of production. The Department in its January 28 announcement estimated that the difference between the dumped price and the fair-value market price ranged from 2.72 per cent to 42.31 per cent.

After the observation by the Department of Commerce, the US International Trade Commission (USITC) will determine within 45 days whether the dumping injures the US industry. If the report of the USITC is positive, the US may impose anti-dumping duties on Bangladesh.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia handing over certificates to the new graduates of the Defence Services Command and Staff College at Mirpur yesterday. —PID photo

'Provocative word' and autocracy

By Staff Correspondent

A remark from the Chair on use of "provocative word" in the House caused much anger to the Treasury Bench members. Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni urged the members not to use any provocative word in the House after the Treasury Bench termed the past regime as autocratic. This infuriated the Jatiya Party (JP) members. Panni, however, withdrew his remark following a short-lived storm in the Treasury Bench.

During the question hour on the private members' day on Thursday, Information Minister Nazmul Huda while answering a question started saying "during the autocratic regime in 1987...". Soon after, the JP members stood on their feet and drew the attention of the Chair for repeatedly calling their regime autocratic. Despite the Deputy Speaker's ruling of "don't use any provocative word for conducting the House smoothly," the Information Minister continued repeating the word "auto-cra-cy" with emphasis.

Iranian MPs in city

A three member Iranian parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Speaker Asadullah Boyat arrived in city Thursday on a three day visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.



Members of the Dhaka Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, met ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Acting Foreign Secretary and other senior officials of the Ministry on Thursday. They discussed role of Bangladesh missions abroad in promoting country's exports.

Winter

From Page 1 Col 8

though nights will be cold enough to use light wrappers. In Bangladesh, winter gets a mixed greeting. It's a darling season for those who can afford warm clothes and vegetables fresh from the gardens.

But the chilly weather becomes oppressive for the millions of poor Bangladeshis who can afford neither warm clothes nor warm houses that can protect them from icy winds.

No doubt the affluent people will be careful for the dying winter. The poor are already chattering its retreat.

Though not unusual the winter this year, like in the past, has been oppressive for the homeless and the have-nots, who make up more than 80 percent of the nation's 11 crore people.

Icy winds sweeping across the country killed more than 200 people, most of them living in mud-and-straw houses. The situation was the worst for those forced to sleep on concrete city pavements.

The temperature never reached the freezing point, but the 6.5 degrees Celsius, the lowest minimum recorded this year, was enough to kill many people.

Insisting that a clear picture of the February weather will emerge only after the long-range prediction is done, weather watchers still predict rains for the month that may temporarily drive away the pre-spring breeze.

SAARC spirit

From Page 1 Col 7

Begum Zia also handed over certificates to the successful graduates.

The Commandant of the college, Major General Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman, also spoke on the occasion. He gave a resume of the courses and the tradition of the college.

The ceremony was attended, among others, by the members of cabinet, chiefs of three services, diplomats and high civil and military officials.

The Prime Minister said that Bangladesh had always played important roles, both in regional and extra regional fora. To establish ourselves with pride in the community of nations, we have to endeavor our relentlessly to attain national autonomy, she said.

She called for adopting strict measures to make the best use of the country's meagre resources in this regard.

Begum Zia said the nation expected that the young officers would fight shoulder to shoulder with the people to overcome the challenges of hunger, disease, natural calamities, population explosion and illiteracy.

Referring to the emergence of Bangladesh, the Prime Minister said, "Our nation was born through an armed struggle. We recall with pride the contributions made by our

valiant soldiers, sailors and airmen during our War of Independence."

She said the role of the armed forces in the counter-disaster management and various nation building activities had been very laudable. "We note with pride your role in the UN peace-keeping operations and during the Gulf War," she added.

The Prime Minister commended the role of the armed forces in the process of country's democratization saying they have all earned the respect and confidence of the people.

She said what had been achieved together was just the beginning, adding "there is a long way to go before we can fulfil our cherished goal." She urged the officers to continue to play their due role in fulfilling "what is so earnestly desired by the millions."

The Prime Minister said she was pleased to see that the Staff College, which was inaugurated by late President Ziaur Rahman in 1977, had successfully upheld his visions.

She expressed the hope that institutes like the Staff College could contribute greatly in forging closer rapport between the peoples and the armed forces of different countries.

Begum Zia thanked the British government for providing help to the Staff College.

Commentary

From Page 1 Col 7

sponsor of the peace talks. What has New Delhi got in return for offering full diplomatic ties to Tel Aviv? This will be the subject of speculations.

For one thing, some western news agencies say, both India and Israel worry about the rising pan-Islamic sentiments in the Middle East and of the efforts of the Muslim countries to acquire nuclear weapons. It is also suggested that with both the countries promoting active military and intelligence programmes to monitor the Islamic world, the move may bring "pressure" on Pakistan.

If only half of these projections, offered by western news services, prove true the diplomatic ties would pave the way for military and intelligence co-operation between the two countries. For instance, one wonders, will the Indian intelligence system accept commando training from Israeli experts, say, in dealing with dissident forces in Kashmir and Punjab? Will there also be co-operation between the two in finding out more about Pakistan's plan in the nuclear field?

Whatever New Delhi may gain from this process, in the field of intelligence, it may well lose much in its economic and political ties with the Arab countries which offer India considerable trade and employment possibilities. If there is some suspicion that Israel may use Indians for intelligence purposes in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, as part of a new deal between New Delhi and Tel Aviv, it is the average Indian employee in that region, be he a doctor, an engineer or a technician, who will be under a shadow. Indeed, he has been placed in an unenviable position as a result of an ill thought-out move made by New Delhi, a move that, we believe, can be either put off or modified even at this stage.

Malek to become city JP chief

By Asiuzzaman

Jatiya Party leader and former mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Col. (Rtd) MA Malek would assume the post of president of the Dhaka city unit of Jatiya Party, party sources said on Thursday.

The convenor of the city unit Abdus Salam would be made the general secretary of the unit, the sources said. The biennial election of the unit scheduled to be held on February 3 at the Diploma Engineers Institute at Kakrail.

After a series of meetings, the central leaders of the party decided to nominate them as the city unit president and secretary respectively.

Malek, who served as a minister and DCC mayor under deposed president HM Ershad, is now facing several corruption charges.

Radio, TV

From Page 1 Col 5

that they have no scope for giving own explanation in regard to a news.

Huda said the proposed autonomy and determination of working systems of these organisations and feasibility were being studied.

Replying to a question from Mosharrif Hossain (AL), he also said that radio and TV programmes must be proposed on the basis of state principles and policies of the government.

The Midnight 1

Russia-Britain declaration

LONDON, Jan 30: Russia and Britain signed a 15-point declaration of friendship today pledging military and economic cooperation which they said ended 40 years of cold war. Visiting President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister John Major agreed to work together "for the reduction of forces and armaments", reports Reuter.

Blasts kill 6 in Lanka

COLOMBO, Jan 30: Powerful bombs rigged on push bikers went off in Muslim townships in eastern Sri Lanka today, killing six people as Tamil rebels stepped up attacks in the region, officials said. The blasts shattered a fragile peace in two coastal Muslim towns, about 30 kilometers (18 miles) apart, where shops closed and people stayed indoors fearing more attacks, local police said, reports AFP.

Ershad plea dismissed

From Page 1 Col 7

Special Court trying Ershad on charges of corruption was to be delivered January 27 but in view of his petition in the Appellate Division the date was shifted to February 3 (Monday).

Counsel of the petitioner, Moudud Ahmed, submitted in the Appellate Division the arguments that if the money suit was decreed and if the delivery of judgement of the trial on corruption case was not stayed, the accused would be prejudiced.

Attorney General Aminul Haq said that the accused had already adduced his defence evidence and the criminal court would assess the evidence independently. Therefore, the accused would not be prejudiced in any way, he said.

Moudud Ahmed, a former Vice-President in the Ershad government, filed on January 22 a provisional petition for leave to appeal before the Appellate Division against the verdict of High Court Division.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on January 26 stayed further proceedings of the trial of Ershad before the Special Tribunal till yesterday (Thursday).

A two-Judge High Court

UP

From Page 1 Col 4

attack by some unruly people in a polling centre under the union.

They reportedly snatched away ballot-paper books from the centre.

Meanwhile, unofficial results of nine unions of Matlab upazila of the district have been declared.

The newly elected chairmen are: Md Abdul Quddus Munshi — Islamabad union, Shamsul Haq — Mohanpur union, Gazi Tofael Hossain — Fazikandi union, Master Mukhlesur Rahman — Chengar Char union, Nurul Haq Master — Jahirabad union, Md Razi Uddin — Ekhlaspur union, Md Zainul Abedin — Durgapur union, Mosharrif Hossain — Baghanbari union and Strajul Haq — Sadullahpur union.

City AL leader stabbed to death

By Staff Correspondent

A local Awami League leader was stabbed to death at Khilgaon Talota area in the city on Thursday afternoon.

Shamsul Alam, 28, the murdered man was the publication secretary of 59 ward of the Awami League.

Witnesses said Shamsul Alam was called out of his residence 275/B Khilgaon Talota, at 6 pm by several miscreants who continued stabbing him.

Yeltsin

From Page 1 Col 6

they have too few weapons to reduce. They also argue that it will take more than a decade for the US and Soviet pledges to be fulfilled.

With the United States making unprecedented nuclear arms cuts, Britain and France will come under more pressure to pare their own small but powerful nuclear arsenals, analysts say.

Western Europe's only nuclear powers, however, will likely resist the drive for reductions by arguing that the weapons are still needed for deterrence in an uncertain world.

China on Thursday dismissed Yeltsin's call for it to eliminate nuclear weapons, saying Beijing will join disarmament efforts only after the major powers have scaled down to its level.

Border issues

From Page 1 Col 4

Mustafizur Rahman consented and stood up to deliver his prepared statement. But several Opposition members stood up at the same time and tried to draw the attention of the Speaker before the FM could speak.

When Tofael Ahmed was given the floor, he said that the Opposition members sought an adjournment motion to discuss the issue and if that was rejected by the Chair they wanted a general discussion to be held.

Pointing out that once the FM made his statement there would be no scope for the members to ask any questions on the issue, he requested the FM to participate in the general discussion so that Parliament members could participate and help the government in reaching a decision on the issue.

Taking the floor next, the Deputy Leader of the House Bdrudozza Choudhury reminded it that the Foreign Minister had earlier made a lengthy statement on the situation.

He urged the Chair to allow the FM to make the statement and after consultations decide on a date for a general discussion.

However, Rashed Khan Menon, pointing out that an adjournment motion on the Myanmar issue was moved in the House on many occasions in this session, insisted on adjourning the House to discuss the situation.

Indemnity body

From Page 1 Col 5

"I request you to adjourn (the House) as we want to ensure the government for its failure" to deal with the situation, he added. Slatting the government for not allowing the House to discuss the issue, Shahjahan Siraj said "Even if he (the FM) has problems in saying something, we don't. He also urged the Speaker to adjourn the House and said "People of the country want to clear the confusion on the 'ja-sue'."

Saying that the members can discuss many things the government cannot discuss, the JP leader Moudud Ahmed called on the FM to come back for a general discussion another day.

Taking the floor next, Jamaat Parliamentary Party leader Mattur Rahman Nizami pointed out that even after the first statement by the Foreign Minister although banner headlines on the issue were coming out everyday it was "unfortunate" that it could not be discussed in the House.

He said that there was no need for another statement on the issue from the Foreign Minister, adding "he can make a statement after the discussions are held".

Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim, while noting that the problem with Myanmar was an old one, noted that there was a "conspiracy" behind the problem. He said all representative parties in Parliament could help in finding a solution to the problem.

Taking the floor the Foreign Minister agreed to participate in a discussion on the issue in the House, but requested for a

closed door meeting.

"I am not against holding a discussion on the issue as I have nothing to fear," he said, adding "But we want to do it in a closed-door session". He suggested that a one-hour discussion take place next Monday.

The Foreign Minister's comments met with cheers accompanied by loud thumping of tables by all members of the House.

However, AL member Abul Ahsan Choudhury stood up and enquired why an open discussion on the issue could not take place in the existing democratic environment. "We want to distinguish ourselves from the undemocratic system in Myanmar," he noted, adding, "We won't say anything that will embarrass the government".

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Winter

From Page 1 Col 8

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Nutrition

From Page 1 Col 8

The final report will provide regional input for the Global Plan of Action to be adopted at the Rome conference.

A five-member Bangladesh delegation led by Agriculture Secretary K M Rabbani is attending the meeting.

In the suggested plan of action, Bangladesh said that the national body should be formed comprising of ministers, officials, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), representatives from the private sector and academicians. Bangladesh also suggested formulation of national nutrition policy and guidelines for its implementation.

As regards sectoral plans and programmes for nutrition, Bangladesh said that these should be formulated by respective ministries with adequate resource back-up and be coordinated in inter-ministerial meetings to ensure inter-sectoral linkage.

Bangladesh also urged for incorporating nutritional considerations in all development programmes as far as possible. Stressing on nutritional awareness of the people Bangladesh said that this should get top priority.

Cooperation with NGOs and voluntary social organizations to develop programmes towards caring of vulnerable groups like women, children, orphans, old people and others was also suggested.

Newspaper

From Page 1 Col 5

In reply to a question on the policy of distribution of advertisement among the newspapers, Huda said in view of so many papers coming out everyday, the government plans to bring out a change in the existing advertisement policy.

"A new advertisement policy is under consideration of the government", he said. "Better, let's make newspapers dependent on readers and not on advertisements", he said and pointed out that more than 1,000 newspapers have so far got the declaration.

BSS adds: The national dailies which received the highest government advertisement in 1991 were Dainik Ittefaq, Inquilab, Dainik Bangla, Bangladesh Times, Banglar Bani, Sangbad and Sangram, Information Minister Nazmul Huda told Parliament yesterday.

Replying to a question from Rahmat Ali (Awami League) the Minister said 78 newspapers received government advertisement in the same year.

He said Ittefaq received total 72,616 column inch, Dainik Bangla 85,690, Inquilab 69,167, Bangladesh Times 69,976 and Banglar Bani 52,171, Sangbad 46,367 and Sangram 41,365.

There are now 119 dailies, 444 weeklies, 100 fortnightly and 205 monthlies in the country. Information Minister Nazmul Huda told Parliament replying to a question from Abul Hasnat Abdullah of Awami League.

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হজ্জ গমনেচ্ছুদের জন্য
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