# Dhaka, Beijing to use convertible currency

Bangladesh and China yesterday signed a fresh trade agreement in Beijing for three years terms rearranging trade in convertible currency, a message received here from Beijing said, reports BSS.

The new trade agreement comes into effect from January. Under the new agreement trade will now be carried out only in convertible currency, however, counter trade (barter) between private business houses and corporations of the two countries will be allowed, the message said.

The new agreement also provides for continuation of most favoured nation status to each other.

Commerce Minister MK Anwar, who is now in China and Chinese Minister for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade (MOFERT) Li Langing signed the agreement on behalf of their respective countries. The new agreement will work as an "impetus" to held the trade between the two countries grow in a more balanced manner, the message pointed out.

Anwar spent a busy day yesterday holding separate discussions with Li Langing and his Chinese counterpart Hu Ping. During a lengthy meeting with MOFERT Li Langing, Anwar pleaded for Tariff reduction so that Bangladeshi exportables like

#### Face opponents From Page 1 Col 7

Begum Zia called for extensive membership drives to develop the party more exten-

In her hour-long speech the BNP chairperson gave future directions to the party members saying do not involve in politics to realise individual interest, rather work for the party. "You have to serve the nation to work in the interest of the party," she added.

The Prime Minister said you must remember that politics is not a short-term phenomenon but it has long-term consequences. "Politics should not be aimed at capturing power, rather it should be practised for the welfare of the

Begum Zia said the welfare of the people would not be attained if BNP failed to work effectively.

Some 117 members spoke during the two-day Executive Committee meeting. About 400 members attended the meet-

Standing Committee members of BNP including Sccretary General and LGRD and Cooperative Minister Salam Talukdar, Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Communication Minister Oli Ahmed, Irrigation and Agriculture Minister Majed-ul Huq, Chief Whip Khondoker Delwar Hossain and RA Ghani spoke on the occasion.

From Page 1 Col 5

student of Social Welfare

Department, Gazi Mohammad

Hasan, Shaheen, a Masters fi-

nal year students of Economics

Department, Belayet Hossain,

Bidhan Chandra Biswas, stu-

dents of Public Administration

were injured and later taken to

the Dhaka Medical College

Hospital, campus sources said.

Masters Final Year class of the

Economics Department was

scheduled to be held in room

number 3 in the LT building at

incourse examination of the

department of Finance and

Banking was also scheduled in

the same room and at the

dents of Finance were in Room

3 when the Economics stu-

dents came there for their

Sources said that the stu-

The students of Economics

requested the Finance student

to leave the classroom, sources

said adding that the students

of both the departments ex-

changed hot words at the

time in the presence of their

that the two teachers of the

concerned departments got

involved in the arguments first.

returned to their respective

departments to discuss the

problem with their Chairman.

from the Commerce building

area came to the Department

of Economics in the Arts build-

ing, used abusive language and

ransacked some classroom in

from the Arts building then

went to the Commerce build-

ing named NIPA Bhaban and

clashed with the students of

that faculty. Panic spread

among the general students,

Another group of students

the building, witnesses said.

The students and teachers

Later, a group of students

However, other sources said

Meanwhile, the sixth term

9 am.

same time.

teachers.

scheduled class.

According to witnesses, a

raw jute and jute goods, tea, urea and leather get easy entry into the Chinese market. Bangladesh Commerce Minister also asked the Chinese Minister to send trade mission to Bangladesh to boost Bangladesh exports to China.

Anwar requested the Chinese authorities to set up joint venture projects specially in urea, textiles leather and machine tools.

The Chinese Minister for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade assured the Bangladesh Minister of his government's sympathetic consideration of the requests. He also showed keen interest in setting up medium size urea fertilizer factory under joint ventures in Bangladesh.

The two ministers also discussed the possibility of signing two more agreements: (I) Protection of each others investments and(II) Avoidance of double taxation for further facilitating Chinese participation joint ventures in Bangladesh.

In his meeting with Hu Ping, the Commerce Minister of China, MK Anwar evinced keen interest in the ways and techniques followed in China to maintain adequate supply and price stability of essential items in the context of the present process of the free economy China pursuing.

#### Nepali communists launch anti-govt protests Dec 25

KATHMANDU, Dec 21: Nepal's four communist parties said in a joint statement today they will launch countrywide protest rallies beginning December 25 to force the Prime Minister's resignation, reports AFP.

At a press conference, the communist leaders issued a statement alleging that Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala had lied and misled the public and parliament over the Tanakpur Hydroelectric Project with India.

#### Hindu Parishad demands probe into violence

Bangladesh Hindu Parishad yesterday demanded setting up a judicial enquiry commission to probe the communal violence in the country following demolition of Babri Mosque in India, reports UNB.

The Parishad also demanded reconstruction of tem religious strife.

It also appealed to all political parties, students and aid organisations to stand by the affected people of the minority communities.

shells to disperse the students.

University authorities yester-

day formed a four-member

committee to investigate the

Department of Economics and

the Faculty of Commerce held

a meeting with the Vice-

The teachers of the

Meanwhile, the Dhaka

#### ples, shops and houses of the minorities affected by recent

students clash

incident.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visiting the gallery after inaugurating the 10th National - PID photo Art Exhibition at Shilpakala Academy in city yesterday.

## Art gallery

From Page 1 Col 7 their works. Mahmudul Hug of the Institute of Fine Arts got the first prize which carries a cash of Taka 30,000, a certificate and a crest.

The recipients of three other prizes of honour are Mansurul Karim of Chittagong University, A Sattar the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University and A K M Qayyum, Chittagong University.

Each prize carries a cash of Taka 10,000 a certificate and a

A total of 247 works of 207 artists are on display at the exhibition.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, parliament members, diplomats and cross section of people attended the function.

The Prime Minister paid tributes to the contributions of the artists litterateurs during the War of Independence and democratic movement. She said expected progress in various fields was possible provided the elements of the national culture were nurtured in the right direction.

Begum Zia said the government would take steps for the preservation of works of Shilpacharya Joynul Abedin.

Later, she went to the gallery where the works were on display.

# ULFA threat: 21 French experts flee Assam

GAUHATI, Dec 21: A group meters) to the west. of French oil experts have fled the northeastern Assam state following threats from separatist guerillas to leave the oilrich region, a government offi cial said Monday, reports AP.

Twenty-one engineers have fled from the state since December 7 after receiving a 'Quit India" notice from Assamese rebels fighting for independence or greater autonomy for the state, Home Secretary Tapan Lal Barua said.

The engineers are from Compaigne Generale de Geophysics, a Paris-based firm hired by the Indian government to conduct seismic stud ies to pinpoint oil and gas reserves in the region.

The threats were issued by the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), a secretive group of ethnic rebels fighting a five-year-long war against Indian security troops.

The outlawed rebels, who enjoy some support from ethnic Assamese, say the federal government robs the wealth of the state, which is rich in oil, tea and timber. The state's oil fields are controlled by the federal government from New Delhi, 775 miles (1,250 kilo-

The rebels initially tried to extort 50 million rupees (dlrs 1.8 million) from the French engineers who are working on a 138-million rupees (dlrs 5 million) oil exploration project in the town of Duliajan.

But when the firm did not pay up, the outlawed rebel group asked the engineers to leave the state in a letter written to the company's office, said Barua, the state's top bureaucrat.

The engineers stopped working immediately after receiving the letter on November 16 they resumed work briefly in end-November following assurances of adequate security from the state government.

So far, 21 of the 23 engineers have left, Barua said Two engineers have stayed behind to look after the sophisticated machinery that they brought along.

Assam is the largest of a cluster of seven northeastern states, five of which are facing violent insurgences. More than 200 people have been killed and nearly 1,600 kidnapped in Assam in the past year, Chief Minister Hiteswar Saikia told the state legislature Monday.

Employees of the Roads and Highways Department demonstrating in city yesterday to realise Star photo

#### Chancellor Prof Emajuddin their demands. Ahmed in this regard. The meeting suggested that the investigation report be submitted in a very short time

and also decided to punish the persons involved in the vioon bail lence, a DU press release said yesterday. The DU authorities also requested all concerned not to hold any procession or rally from December 22 to

December 24 near the arts and commerce building premises. The emergency meeting was also attended by the Proctor and Deans of the dif-

#### ferent faculties. Saifur

From Page 1 Col 5

indicating favourable

The Finance Minister thanked the Bank for resuming the Bank's assistance to railway sector and urged the bank to take up programme in road development.

The ADB team appreciated the progress of the financial, agriculture and industrial sector reform programmes.

He also expressed the Bank's willingness to provide technical assistance for feasibility study of future plan of action on the west bank of the Jamuna river after construction of the Jamuna multipurpose bridge.

The delegation led by Director of ADB's Programme Department (West) Maritada Morita also discussed with the Minister matters of mutual interest and the Bank's future lending programme to Bangladesh.

witnesses added. Then police rushed to the spot and started firing tear gas

# Comilla AL leader freed

From Our Correspondent COMILLA, Dec 21: Local Awami League (AL) leader and former chairman of local municipality, A K M Bahauddin Bahar was released on bail from Comilla Jail.

The bail was granted by the High Court Division of the Supreme Court. He was arrested on December 16 following a clash between the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

# Benazir

From Page 1 Col 4

The meeting was seen as important amid speculation that the PDA might boycott Tuesday's presidential address by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and its deputies might resign en masse to force him to dissolve the assemblies and order new elections.

AFP adds : Asif Ali Zardari, the jailed husband of Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, will be allowed to attend a joint session of parliament, National Assembly Speaker Gohar Ayub Khan said

The official Associated Press of Pakistan quoted the Speaker of the Lower attend the session on Tuesday and the government and also given a "favourable response."

Israeli militia fires warning shots

## Deportees try to march into 'security zone'

MARJ AL-ZOHOUR, Dec 21: Israeli-backed militiamen Monday fire warning shots as more than 400 Palestinian deportees - goaded by Lebanese troops - approached Israelicontrolled territory in southern Lebanon in an attempt to walk into the zone, reports AP.

Earlier, a Beirut report said, the government said it had ordered the army to return Palestinians to Israel's selfstyled 'security zone'.

Israel deported the 415 Palestinians Thursday, alleging they were connected with Muslim fundamentalist groups responsible for inciting violenee. Six Israeli troopers had been killed in 10 days.

Lebanon refused to take the deportees, and the Palestinian delegation to Middle East peace talks with Israel suspended their participation in protest.

In Beirut, a Lebanese military spokesman said at least two 120mm mortar rounds were "fired from within the security zone and exploded in the area separating the marching deportees from the occupied strip. We don't have any reports on casualties."

Reporters in the zone saw three mortar rounds fired. The spokesman said the

deportees marched on their

own. They were not physically pushed by the Lebanese army. They moved after the return

order was relayed to them." In line with regulations, he spoke on condition of ano-The Lebanese army had ordered the refugees out of their makeshift camp at 10 am

(0800 GMT). They then walked slowly toward the zone, wearing green woolen hats and raincoats. Some clutched Korans to their chests and murmured verses

from the holy book. The army also barred any further humanitarian aid to the Palestinian deportees. Halaby ordered the departure of a bulldozer that had been sent by the United Nations to help build the camp.

Related Story on Page 5

#### Obituary Hamed Safiul Islam, a re-

tired additional secretary died at 11:30 pm Monday at the Combined Military Hospital. He was 59.

Hamed Safiul Islam was suffering from hepatitis and stomach cancer. He left behind his wife, four

children and a host of relatives and friends.

#### 'Rao must have temple foundation removed before SAARC summit'

By Staff Correspondent

The National Democratic Unity (NDU) has said it will resist entry of Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao into Bangladesh unless his government removes the foundation of Ram Temple latd by fundamentalist. Hindus at the demoltshed Babri Mosque stte.

"Rao should come to this country during SAARC summit after removal of the temple foundation from the mosque site, otherwise NDU will mar ch to the airport with black flags to protest his arrival, Salauddin Kader Chowdhury MP, Convenor of the newly for med party told a public meeting near Purana Paltan Crossing Monday

The NDU chief condemned both the government and the opposition for "playing foul" with the Babri Mosque incident and said the government' reacted by censoring CNN programme while the opposition leader said only three domes of the mosque were damaged.

It was the first ever meeting of the party formed after the split in National Democratic Party (NDP) nearly two months ago. Most of the several hundred persons who attended the meeting were young. Scores of stick-wielding volunteers of Jubo Shakti were engaged to maintain or der at the meeting.

Two of the freedom fighter joint conveners of NDU Khandaker Abdul Baten and Golam Mostafa and former secretary General of Muktijoddha Sangsad Mesbahuddin Shabu also addressed the rally among others.

The NDU chief chaired the meeting said there was no participation of people in the democratic process being practised in our country.

"llow long the system-will work without while the leaders are engaged in the movement on Indemnity (Repeal) Bill and trial of Golam Azam is an open question", he said

He criticised what he said the government's foreign policy appeasing and added that the authorities had failed to lodge formal protest with Delhi by summoning the Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka.

## Rival workers' clash leaves 35 hurt in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Dec 21: At least 25 persons were injured, three of them seriously, when two rival groups of workers of Karnaphuli Cotton Mills at Anwara, clashed today, reports

Chittagong Medical College Hospital sources said that 12 of the injured workers had been admitted to the hospital, where condition of the three was stated to be critical. Rest of the injured workers were given first aid, the seriously injured could not be identified immediately. The clash occurred over a

dispute relating to a demand of releasing of one of their arrested leaders.

#### Rao defeats From Page 1 Col 3

centrist National Front's 47 members abstained from vot-

Rao said he would take firm action against those responsible for the destruction of the 16th century mosque. "The vandals cannot be al-

lowed to take advantage of the vandalism committed by them," he said. The left front had accused

Rao of not doing enough to protect the mosque after it came under attack by frenzied militants, among a crowd of 200,000 who used pickaxes and bare hands to demolish it.

Rao denied the charges and said federal paramilitary forces could not have saved the structure because there was the possibility of the mosque being bombed by the militants.

"They could have done it with the help of the BJP government, if that was its desire, with a bomb the size of a tennisball, from 200 yards (metres)," Rao said, adding that it was time for recrimina-

"There is no need today to go into history now. We have to make new history." Rao said it was for the first

secular parties had come together against communalism." Earlier, BJP leader Atal Behart Vajpayee broke his protest fast and re-entered parliament, ending the latest

round of the battle between

time in Indian history that "all

the party and the government. "We wanted to establish our democratic rights and protest peacefully against the government's policies," Vajpayee said on his arrival. Vajpayee started his fast af-

ter being arrested and briefly detained on Sunday as the BJP was trying to hold a meeting.

# The Midnight File

Malaysian rulers talk constitutional amendment

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 21: The rulers of eight Malaystan states met informally Monday to discuss the government's proposal to amend the constitution to revoke the rulers' immunity from prosecution for any wrongdoings. The sultans of Johore, Kedah, Pahang, Trengganu, Perlis and Negri Sembilan and the crown princes of Perak and Sciangor states attended the meeting, the national news agency Bernama reported, reports AP.

#### Observers find irregularities in Serbia's presidential polls

BELGRADE (Yugoslavia), Dec 21: International observers said Monday that there were irregularities in Scrbia's presidential voting and preliminary figures indicated that a runoff would be necessary. With no official results available by Monday afternoon, exit polls showed a close race, between incumbent Slobodan Milosevic in a dead heat with his main challenger, Yugoslav President Milan Panie, reports AP.

#### Sub-Inspector's pistol recovered: five arrested

snatched pistol and 12 bullets from inside a drum at Khilgaon Community Centre Monday afternoon.

Sub-Inspector Noor Hossain of Mirpur Police Station and snatched his pistol with 16 bullets at Khilgaon while he was passing the area Saturday.

rested five persons from the area on Sunday and remanded them in the Sabujbagh Police Station for two days yesterday.

Ali Hossain, Khairul, Kazi Monirul and Mohammad Wazed were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court Monday and the magistrate granted police two-day remand for each.

### 8 hurt as rival JCD groups clash in Pabna

PABNA, Dec 21: At least eight students were injured as two groups of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists clashed here today over selection of Chairman candidate for comports UNB.

# Fahd

In September, the Saudi Council of Grand Ulema - the highest religious authority in the Kingdom - denied that its leader, Sheikh Abdel Aziz Ibn Baz, was involved in an appeal for reform addressed to King Fahd by Koranic teachers and

On March 1, King Fahd announced the creation of a 60member consultative council of appointces — promised during the Gulf crisis - but only its

At the end of the Gulf war in February 1991 diplomats said religious leaders had protested the presence of "infidels" on Saudi territory, in reference to the multinational forces that ousted Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

## Russian FM

From Page 1 Col 8 international issues of common

Resumption of bilateral trade, particularly export of Bangladeshi garments, tea, toiletries and medicinal products will be discussed, officials said

The two countries have already agreed to resume trade that remained suspended since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

to cover the situation in the Balkans, particularly the arned aggression by the Serbs on Bosnta-Herzegovina. During his stay here.

The talks are also expected

Fridrikhovich is due to call on Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman and Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah.

#### Rohingyas From Page 1 Col 7 Meanwhile, police force has

been reinforced at the refugee camp. Additional Superintendent of Police visited the troubled camp. Tension gripped the entire area. The refugees opposing the repatriation under a Dhaka-

international body after return home in the Myanmar province of Arakan. Some 2.65 lakh Rohingya Muslims had crossed over to

Myanmar pact demand guaran-

tees for safety by concerned

#### Bangladesh to escape military crackdown. Garments

From Page 1 Col 7 ments as the new law awaits

Several leading US companies are learnt to have been working on contingency plans to obtain supplies from other sources, fearing that Bangladesh may be a vietim of

the proposed law. "Levies", a giant US company, was about to expand their procurement from Bangladesh, but in view of the latest situation, it is reportedly reconsidering the decision. Similar is the case with Wal-

Mart, the largest US retailer. After passage of the proposed law, the US government may undertake periodic review to identify foreign industries using child labour and may close the US market to those

fascinating CULTURAL PROGRAMME noted singers Abida Sultana and Rafiqui Alam and DINNER at the Banquet Hall of Hotel Abakash on 24th December 1992 Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Cultural function only Price p person solding Please Conf. For B 607085-9, 881548 317836, 325155-9

BANGLADESH PARJATAN CORPORATION

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By Staff Correspondent

Police recovered the A group of muggers beat up

Sabujbagh police also ar-

The arrested Abdul Maleg,

ing Pourashava election, re-

From Page 1 Col 7

students.

president has been chosen.

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