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- Inside Today -

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Article

India's 'Operation Push-Back': Inept Handling of a Sensitive Issue

by Muchkund Dubey Page 4

International



Ghali warns Yugoslav President Cosic of international military intervention in Bosnia Page 5

Business

UNDP to give Tk 12.48 crore for export promotion

Foreign investment in Pakistan doubles in one year Pages 6, 7

Prospectus

Industrial Development Leasing Company of Bangladesh Limited Pages 8, 9, 10

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Coming to the Aid of the Less Fortunate Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

People of Barisal thank Khaleda

A joint meeting of eleven socio-cultural organisations of greater Barisal district yesterday hailed Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on the eve of her official inauguration of a new division in Barisal on January 1. They hoped that the government would also implement other demands of the people of Barisal in phases, reports UNB.

Train derails near Patgram

LALMONIRHAT, Dec 29: Bogie of a running passenger train derailed near Patgram on Lalmonirhat-Burimari section this (Tuesday) afternoon. Officials here said some passengers were injured in the incident. But they could not immediately give any figure, reports UNB.

Chinese envoy hosts reception

Chinese Ambassador Chen Songlu and his wife held a reception yesterday evening at the Chinese Embassy to say good byc on completion of his tenure in Bangladesh. The reception was attended, among others, by Speaker Shaikh Razzaque Ali, Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz, Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, ministers, parliament members, diplomats, editors and the elite of the city, reports

61 more held on

various charges Police arrested 61 people from different parts of the city yesterday on various charges, a DMP press release said. Of the arrested, six were wanted criminals, one under Anti-terrorism Act, two accused of robbery, five for stealing and two for burglary, reports UNB.

Ties begin to worsen

Pakistan asks India to cut consulate staff

ISLAMABAD, Dec 29 Pakistan ordered India today to cut staff at its consulate in the southern port of Karachi in a move likely to worsen already poor relations, reports Reuter.

The Indian Deputy High Commissioner was called to the Foreign Ministry and asked to reduce the number of staff at the Karachi Consulate General to 20, including four diplomats, the official APP news agency said.

All extra staff must leave by January 31, 1993, the Foreign Ministry said. A total of 62 people of whom eight are diplomats, now work at the Consulate General.

In comparison, Pakistan

School ground yesterday.

all the people of the area to

take part in the peace process,

initiated by the government to

attain the desired develop-

ment of the region, reports

we have to sit and discuss the

problems of the region and

effectively", the Prime

Minister told a public rally at

the local high school ground

Begum Zia said the prob-

lems of the region had to be

solved within the constitu-

tional framework. Resorting to

violence, anarchy and destruc-

work together for solving them

"Sinking all the differences.

Zia today gave a clarion call to the area.

employs two diplomats and one non-diplomatic official at its Consulate General in Bombay, APP said.

The announcement was made a day after Pakistan protested to India against what it called highly objectionable remarks' made by a spokesman last week about Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, officials said.

Indian High Commissioner (ambassador) S K Lambah was called to the Pakistan Foreign Ministry and told of Islamabad's shock and disappointment at remarks on Friday by a New Delhi Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Khagrachhari High

CHT issue has to be solved within

constitutional framework: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda in removing the problems of the people to help the com-

is not important whether any-

one is from hills or plains. All

of us are people of Bangladesh

peace, stability and harmony in

society are the pre-requisites

for development, the Prime

Minister called upon the peo-

ple to help the present gov-

ernment in its efforts to bring

prosperity and progress in the

the government had consti-

tuted a parliamentary commit-

tee to find out solutions to the

Collor quits during trial

BRASILIA, Dec 29: Facing

near-certain removal from of

fice, impeached President Fe-

rnando Collor de Mello ab-

ruptly resigned Tuesday as his

corruption trial was starting in

of profiting from a huge influ-

ence-peddling scheme, had

been suspended since Sept 29

proceedings a "kangaroo court"

and vowed through the eve of

the trial to never quit. There

was no immediate explanation

for his sudden turnaround,

since his removal has been a

foregone conclusion for weeks.

Collor of his immunity. He

The resignation strips

Collor, 43, who was accused

He had often called the

the Senate, reports AP.

on corruption charges.

problems of the hill tracts.

The Prime Minister said

and we are Bangladeshis."

KHAGRACHHARI, Dec 29: tive activities would not help. The Prime Minister urged

The Prime Minister said "It

Reminding the people that

Pakistan said the Indian spokesman used in temperate language while referring to a speech by Ishaq Khan to parliament last week that criticised India over the razing of an ancient mosque by Hindu revivalists earlier this month.

countries, which have fought three wars since their independence from Britain in 1947, are tense because of a three-year-old revolt in the Indian-ruled part of Kashmir. Relations deteriorated this

Relations between the two

month after Hindu revivalists demolished the mosque in northern India and the two countries expelled each others diplomats on spying charges.

mittee function effectively

welfare of the masses.

taining law and order.

grammes.

years in jail.

Tuesday.

Begum Zia said the ele-

ments, who had misled the

people on the path of de-

struction, did not want the

to help the law enforcing

agencies in the areas in main-

her government believed in

the balanced development of

the country and with this aim

in view, it had initiated nu-

merous development pro-

dressed by Communications

See Page 12 Col 7

faces prosecution for corrup-

tion and criminal association.

crimes which carry up to eight

Moura Rocha read a handwrit-

ten note from Collor announc-

ing the resignation. Collor was

not at the Senate but said he

would speak to reporters later

sign my mandate as President

Benevides suspended the trial

and called a joint session of

Congress. At that session,

Benevides declared the presi-

dency vacant after a vote of ac-

clamation and asked acting

See Page 12 Col 8

of the republic," Rocha read.

"By this instrument, I re-

Senate president Mauro

Chief desence lawyer Jose

The meeting was also ad-

She also urged the people

The Prime Minister said

Dhaka-Yangon 12th round of talks today

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 29: The twelfth meeting between Bangladesh and Myanmar officials on the Rohingya refugees supervision issue will be held at 11 am tomorrow at the Chittagong Circuit House.

Chittagong Divisional Commissioner and Refugee Repatriation Coordinator Al-Hai Mohammad Omar Farook will lead the 11-member Bangladesh team at the meeting.

Director General of Myanmar Manpower and Immigration Department U Maung Aung will head the 11-member Myanmar team.

Officials said Bangladesh is likely to hand over a fresh list of 15,000 Rohingya refugees for repatriation.

Both the countries might put forward their fresh plans and programmes to strengthen Sec Page 12 Col 7

No alternative to Muslim national identity: Jamaat

TONGI, Dec 29: Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abbas Ali Khan yesterday asked the party workers and the people at large to forge national unity for foiling designs against the country's independence and sovereignty, reports UNB. "Try to promote a Muslim

national identity. This is the only way to frustrate the designs of the expansionist forces and build up a happy, prosperous and truly independent Bangladesh," he said. Khan, the acting Ameer of

Janiaat was speaking at the opening function of a three-day Rakan (member) conference at Jamia Islamia here, particiand leaders of the party from across the country.

Criticising all the post-independence governments, he said selfishness, narrow partisan spirit and creating rift in national unity have driven the country into a crisis.

The political leadership of the people of Bangladesh, during the last 21 years, has increased many times the sufferings of the people, the economic stagnation and political backwardness, he observed.

The Jamaat leader stressed the need for an "Islamic social order" to ensure people's welfare, peace and security. Islamic values, Islamic consciousness and character can only help guarantee independence and sovereignty, he said.

Party Secretary General Moulana Mattur Rahman Nizami, Shamsur Rahman, Prof Yusuf, Makbul Ahmed, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, Quamruzzaman and Abdul Kader Mollah were present at the inaugural session of the conference, held-every third See Page 12 Col 4

'Peer' Sadruddin held in Feni, sent to Dhaka Central Jail

By Staff Correspondent Police arrested the 'socalled' Peer Sadruddin Ahmed

Chisty and sent him to the Dhaka Central Jail Tuesday. A special team of police on a tip arrested the said peer from a 'Urs' pandle at Baroigabi village in Feni at around 3:30

to Dhaka under Keraniganj police escort. Two people were killed and over 100 injured when mob clashed with police last Saturday over the demand of

am Tuesday and later sent him

eviction of the 'Khanka' (a See Page 12 Col 6

British Home Minister says

Dhaka transit point for drug trafficking

Britain will seek Bangladesh's cooperation in combatting drug trafficking, British Home Minister Kenneth Clarke said in Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB.

"Dhaka, we feel in Britain, is growing as a strong transit point for drug trafficking, but we want to restrict this," Clarke told newsmen on his arrival here on a four-day visit. Home Minister Abdul Matin

Chowdhury greeted Clarke at the airport yesterday afterneon. British High Commissioner Sir Colin II Imray was also present.

The British Minister said that he would also seek Dhaka's cooperation in resisting terrorism. "Bangladesh, I accept, has done good in curbing terrorism", Clarke observed.

lle also lauded the strict

anti-drug legislation and measures introduced in Bangla-

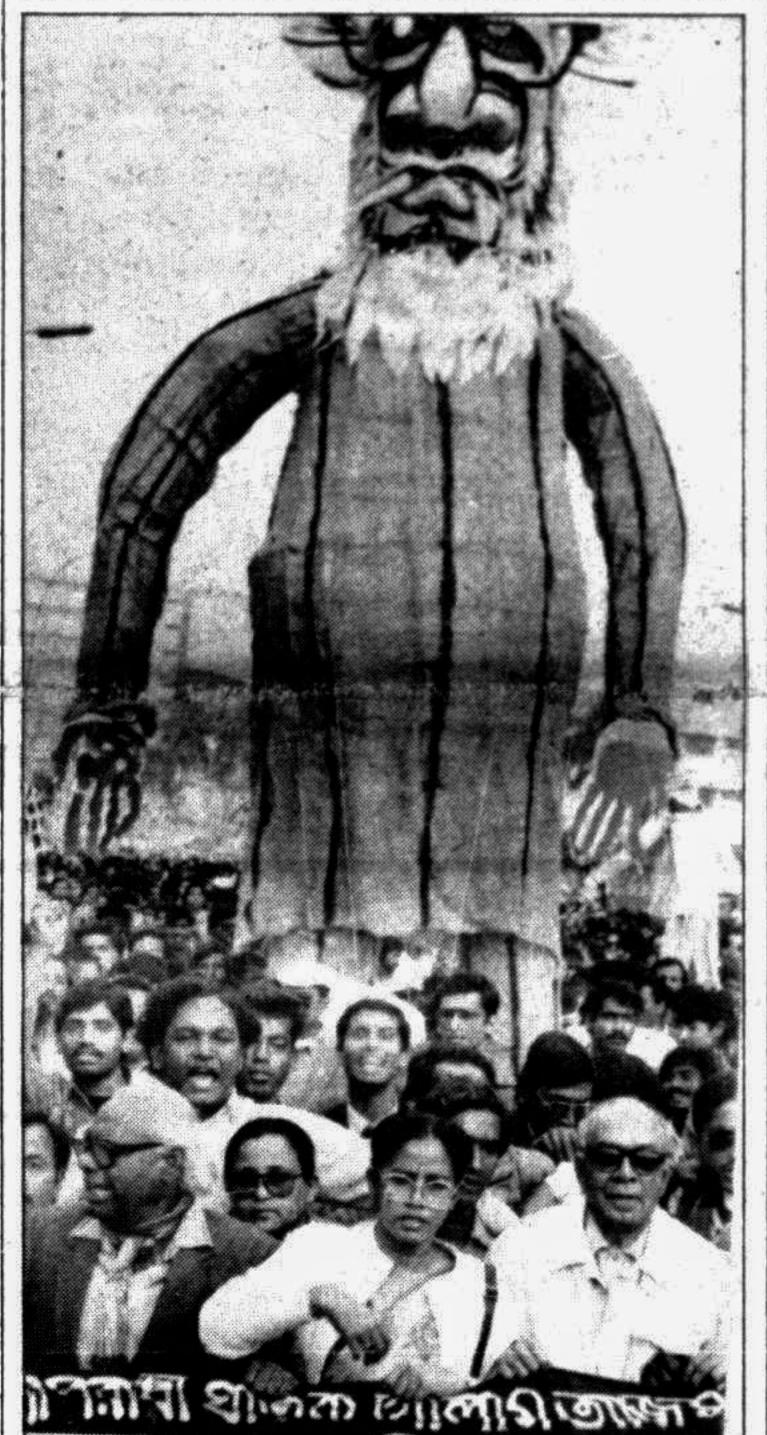
Clarke, who arrived here on his first visit, described Britain's relations with Bangladesh as "excellent."

During his stay here, Clarke said that he would discuss with his Bangladesh counterpart bilateral matters, including immigration and political cooper-Clarke said that he would

take the opportunity to visit the immigration section of the British High Commission here to see its efficiency and fairness in performing its job.

"We want a good and efficient working system in visa section in the High Commission", he said. Responding to a question,

See Page 12 Col 1



-Star photo yesterday.

A procession with an effigy of Golam Azam in the city

Nirmul body observes Hatred Day

By Staff Correspondent Bangladesh.

More than a thousand demonstrators converged in the capital Tuesday setting ablaze a huge effigy of controversial Jamaat chief Golam Azam and demanding his trial for 'war

They spat on the 25-foot high effigy and threw shoes and sandals at it before torching it near the National Press

Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Ntrmul Committee organised the demonstration as part of its "National Day of Hatred" which marked one year of Golam Azam's being elected Ameer (chief) of the Jamaat-e-Islami

The day was observed in some other parts of the country, committee sources said. Azam is now in jail under the Foreigners' Act for becom-

ing chief of Jamaat in spite of being a foreigner. Earlier, the Committee held a rally in front of its Topkhana office and reiterated its de-

mand for implementation of the people's court verdict. The people's court March

26 convicted Azam on 12 counts and delivered its verdict that Azam deserved death for the erimes he committed See Page 12 Col 4

US-Russian negotiators reach nuclear arms accord President Yeltsin," he said.

GENEVA, Dec 29 : US Secretary of State Lawrence S. Eagleburger on Tuesday announced agreement with Russia on a Start II treaty to sharply reduce nuclear missiles maintained by the two countries, reports AP.

Collor de Mello. -AFP photo

Under the treaty, hundreds of the world's deadliest nuclear weapons - long-range, land-based missiles with multiple warheads — would be banned and stockpiles of US and Russian strategic warheads would be pared to about one-

third current levels. it would be President Bush's third major arms control agreement. In 1990, he signed an East-West agreement to cut troops and tanks in Europe. Last year, he signed a treaty with Russia to cut strategic nuclear weapons by about one-third.

Eagleburger made the announcement following a 90minute meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei V presidents."

Eagleburger said Bush and Soviet President Boris Yeltsin will review the agreement and hopefully "we'll have news for you in the next few day's" about plans to sign it.

In Moscow, the independent news agency Interfax, quoting unidentified "well-informed sources," said the treaty would be signed at summit in Geneva or Paris.

In Washington, early reaction and to the world," Hamilton, speaking on Fox

President Bush as he leaves the presidency." Eagleburger left open the

possibility of further negotiations to fine tune the agree-

"It's up to the presidents to look at the documents and see if we've made sufficient progress to sign an agreement," he said. "If there are changes they would want to suggest, obviously, we'd have to come

had given reporters "an accurate description" of the situation. "So please now, wait for news from President Bush and

Neither Eagleburger nor Kozyrev provided details on how the last technical problems were resolved.

Leading up to the agreement, Eagleburger and Kozyrev had a working dinner until midnight while experts on the two sides discussed the remaining issues and brought periodic reports to them.

Kozyrev and Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, and then they had lunch together while experts from the two

sides held a working session. Grachev's appearance at the negotiating table for the first time had seemed to indicate

Moscow was ready to make a

Kozyrev, in particular, had expressed optimism all along. Asked hours before it was announced whether he expected an agreement, Kozyrev said: "I am ready to bet a bottle of whiskey. We will do such

work here to make it possible

for our presidents to have the right decision after the negotiations here." The foreign minister quickly amended his remark

10 feared killed in Pabna as boats capsize

PABNA, Dec 29: At least 10 people were feared dead and 12 others injured today as two engine boats collided and capsized in the Padma, 3 km south of Shujanagar thana, reports UNB.

Police and survivors said the two boats with about 50 passengers aboard, one heading towards Pangsha from Shujanagar Ghat and another coming from opposite direction, collided and overturned in the midstream of the river due to dense fog at about 7 am.

Of the injured, Ramzan Ali (32). Saidur Rahman (12). Aleya Khatun(25) and Hatem Ali (40) of Shujanagar and Mojibar (15) of Pabna were admitted to Shujanagar health complex.

Welfare trust for Shaheed families demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Projonmo Ekattor, an organisation of the children of the Liberation War martyrs, has demanded a parliamentary committee on setting up a trust for the welfare of the shaheed families. Speaking at a press confer-

ence at the Jatiya Press Club Tuesday, leaders of the Projonmo Ekattor suggested that the parliamentary body be formed to assess the economic condition of the families of the martyrs and rehabilitate them on a priority basis.

"A process has begun in the country to humiliate the families of lakhs of martyrs," the children of the Liberation War martyrs alleged.

The families of martyred journalists Strajuddin Hossain, shaheed Dr Abul Kalam Azad, shaheed Altaf Mahmud and shaheed Mafizul Huq had already been evicted from the houses earlier allotted to them by the government, they said and a move was on to evict the family of shaheed Zahir Raihan.

Projonmo Ekattor leaders accused the ruling party of breaching its pledge to uphold the spirit of the 1971 War of Independence and by-passing the popular demand to punish Golam Azam.

However, they appreciated government steps including gallantry awards to the freedom fighters, postal stamp on the martyred intellectuals. special gallery on the shaheed at the National Museum and construction of a memorial at Rayer Bazar.

President of the Projonmo Ekattor Saidur Rahman spoke at the press conference while other leaders including General Secretary Touhid Reza Noor, Shovan Haider Chowdhury, Babul Chandra Dey, Asif Munir and Nujhat Chowdhury Shampa were present.

Hasina thanks people Awami League President

and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina thanked the people for observing the "National Hatred Day" throughout the country Tucsday, reports UNB.

The programme was sponsored by Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee as part of its campaign to press for the trial of the detained Jamaat leader Golam Azam for his crimes during the 1971 Liberation

In a statement, Hasina said that by observing the "hatred day" spontaneously, people once again demonstrated their verdict against "war criminal" Golam Azam and politics of fundamentalist forces.

Zeenat may be inducted into JP presidium By Asiuzzaman

The Jatiya Party presidium

holds a crucial meeting today (Wednesday) to discuss a number of blistering issues including selection of a new acting secretary general and a new committee for its woman front, party insiders said Tuesday. The presidium may discuss

lady Zeenat Mosharraf in the presidium according to the order of jailed Party Chairman H M Ershad, the source said. The source added that

the inclusion of a 'powerful'

Sec Page 12 Col 3

tion was positive. Congress Lee Kozyrev. "We have made very Hamilton, incoming chairman good progress," Eagleburger of the House Foreign Affairs Eagleburger met at the said as he prepared to fly back Russian mission for more than Committee, called the agreeback together again." to Washington. "We now have a ment " a great gift to the nathree hours Monday with Kozyrev said Eagleburger text we can put to the two

Morning News, said "it certainly gives a good sendoff for

to say: "positive decision."