

Politics of destruction

From Page 1 Col 7
Begum Zia said the party, which was once in power, was engaged in misguiding the people for creating disunity and chaos in order to disrupt the development process and democracy.

She urged the people not to pay heed to them, but collectively participate in the development activities for self-reliance.

She said united effort was essential for the utilisation of the natural resources to change the fate of the masses. Referring to the past autocratic government, she said it had plundered national wealth and did nothing for development.

The Prime Minister said the aim of the government was equal development of all areas. She said various development programmes had already been undertaken in different sectors including agriculture, education, transport, health and energy.

She urged the people to come forward for setting up small and medium scale industries throughout the country to solve unemployment problem. She called upon the people to help stop smuggling.

She said if smuggling could

not be stopped, local industries would not grow. She said the government was also reopening the mills which had been closed down by the past gov.

Responding to some of the local demands, she said the government would consider the setting up of a cement factory, expansion of power supply to Sunamganj-Tahirpur-Badaghat, improvement of Sunamganj-Tahirpur-Takerhat Road and nationalisation of schools and colleges on the basis of the policy of the government.

She said money had already been allocated for the Dharmapasha Madhyananagar Road.

Begum Zia said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had formed "haor development board" for the development of haor areas. The board was abolished by the Ershad government, she said.

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman said the present government believe in the development of villages and would take steps for exploitation of local resources including limestone.

Communist Party's Nazir Hossain MP urged the opposition parties to shun politics of negation and pursued production-oriented politics. He said the politics of street would not deliver the goods in the changed context of global scenario. He urged the opposition not to follow the politics of non-issues.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Tahirpur in Sunamganj yesterday. —PID photo

Iraq protests US violation of its airspace to UN

HAGHDAD, Jan 2: Iraq has lodged a protest to the United Nations against the continued violation of its airspace by US planes over Southern and Northern Iraq following the downing of an Iraqi jet, reports Xinhua.

The protest came after the US aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk arrived in the Gulf to take part in the operation.

In a memorandum to UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali Friday, Iraq called the US move an act of provocation.

The allied war planes, based in Turkey and Saudi Arabia, have carried out an estimated 420 sorties over Northern and Southern Iraq, on December 22-28, the memorandum said.

This was the first time that Iraq lodged a protest to the UN against the US after an American warplane shot down an Iraqi jet fighter in the so-called no-fly zone over Southern Iraq on December 27.

The zone was set up by the US-led allied forces early last year, allegedly to shield the Shi'ites there from government attacks. A similar safe haven was established in Northern Iraq to protect the Kurds there.

As the allied warplanes continued their sorties, the US aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk, with about 75 jet fighters on board, arrived in the Gulf from Somalia to strengthen the operation to enforce the no-fly zone which lies below the 32nd parallel.

The latest developments drew strong reaction from Iraq. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz denounced the shooting incident as an aggressive act, saying that the imposition of the no-fly zone goes beyond the UN resolutions.

He stressed that Iraq does not recognize the ban imposed on its flights and urged Arab

states and the world community to condemn the aggressive act and to press the Western powers to stop violating Iraqi airspace.

Meanwhile, US President George Bush has warned that more Iraqi planes would be shot down if they violated the no-fly zone.

Bush said that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has made another 'big mistake by trying to test the US resolve to enforce the zone.

US President-Elect Bill Clinton said he supported the military action.

Sending planes into the UN's no-fly zone, Iraq is testing the international resolve, he said.

Reports said more Iraqi warplanes have flown across the 32nd parallel following the shooting incident, but they returned immediately before being intercepted.

Rabbani sworn in

KABUL, Jan 2: Burhanuddin Rabbani was sworn in as Afghan President Saturday at an official ceremony in the capital attended by some 1,000 electoral council, or Shooraa representatives, reports AFP.

"I will be the servant of the people... there will be no wall between me and you, Rabbani said in a 90-minute televised address at the beginning of the inauguration ceremony.

Rabbani was sworn in by the Shooraa chairman, Chief Justice Maulavi Fazli.

After recounting the 14-year history of the Jihad (holy war) against the communists, and paying tribute to the Mujahideen who defeated them, Rabbani called for reconciliation with factional leaders opposed to the Shooraa.

In particular, Rabbani referred to long-time rival Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-i-Islami faction.

"I would like to ask Hekmatyar to forget the past and start a new phase of relations," the President said.

"I am fully confident that most Hezb-i-Islami members and prominent commanders condemn fraternal assassinations and I ask all you brothers to mediate in order to stop these kinds of clashes, he added.

Hekmatyar was responsible for a severe drubbing of Kabul in August when his men unleashed a storm of rockets in support of a failed offensive to capture the capital.

At least six long-range missiles were fired into Kabul within an hour of Rabbani's inauguration.

Hekmatyar's congratulations, one cynical Afghan remarked.



Students of Dhaka Medical College leaving hostels yesterday after the college was closed sine die following a BCL-JCD clash. —Star photo

JCD, BCL clash

From Page 1 Col 7
sacked and damaged at least 25 rooms mostly belonging to the JCD supporters.

The college union office and the rooms of the VP and the GS were damaged during the clashes.

VP Mohammad Saifullah (JCD) and GS Mohammad Ibrahim (JCD) were not in their room during the clashes.

Police and JCD activists alleged that the BCL workers had attacked the hostel with the help of some outsider who fled after the clashes.

Panic-stricken students ran helter-skelter for safety during the violence. Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. Police recovered one cocktail and nine bullets from the scene.

One campus source said that on Wednesday two students of rival groups argued over the stealing of vest allegedly by a guest at Room No 303 allotted to one Sugam reportedly a Chhatra Union activist.

Khmer Rouge denies shelling UN positions

PHNOM PENH, (Cambodia), Jan 2: Khmer Rouge guerrillas Saturday accused UN forces of "bluntly and shamelessly" siding with the Phnom Penh government and denied their forces shelled a UN position north of here two days ago, reports AP.

Also Saturday, UN officials said peacekeepers have not been able to fully enforce a trade ban against the Khmer Rouge that went into effect New Year's Day.

The guerrillas have refused to allow UN troops into areas they control to man checkpoints that would enforce the ban on the export of whole logs that was ordered by Cambodia's Supreme National Council.

The Khmer Rouge statement strongly denounced the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, saying it sides with the Vietnamese-installed Cambodian government.

Freedom Party call to take up Babri Mosque issue in JS

Freedom Party yesterday called upon the parliament members to take up the Babri Mosque issue for discussion in the House for adopting constructive decision in this regard, reports UNB.

The call was made at a meeting of the central executive committee of the party with its co-chairman Colonel (ret'd) Abdur Rashid in the chair.

Fog snaps

From Page 1 Col 7
and a minister's car.

Five other ferries — Keramat Ali, Shah Mokdum, Enayetpuri, Khan Jahani Ali and Shah Ali — held back till this noon at Aricha ghat with nearly 1,000 passengers, 88 trucks, a night coach and 11 cars.

Another three ferries — Kapoti, Prabal and Taplo — bound for Daulatdia, also remained anchored at Aricha ghat with 1,000 passengers, 11 cars, 39 trucks and 4 night coaches aboard.

Another vessel, Shah Paran, with some 1,000 passengers, 18 trucks and 5 coaches halted at Aricha.

At Daulatdia, about 500 travellers from the northwestern districts were stranded as six night coaches and 5 trucks could not cross the Padma.

Besides, nearly 6,000 travellers of day coaches also halted at the three ghats. About 5,000 Dhaka-bound launch passengers were stranded at Aricha and Daulatdia terminals.

Cargo transportation from Narayanganj was also paralysed while bus services on the Dhaka-Aricha highway also remained suspended from 1 am to 10 am.

Moi warns of crackdown on opposition

NAIROBI, Jan 2: Kenya's political crisis deepened after President Daniel Arap Moi indicated that he would crack down on opposition parties if they carried out their threat to reject the results of this week's elections, reports Reuters.

"I have restrained myself despite abuse for the last 12 months. This will now cease," Moi told Reuters television in an interview on Friday.

Three opposition parties, Ford-Kenya, FORD-Asli and the Democratic Party (DP) of Kenya, earlier raised the political temperature by saying they would not accept the results of the first multi-party polls in 26 years.

The three parties collectively polled more votes than Moi in the presidential election and took just under half the 188 seats in parliament, but claim they were cheated of outright victory by rampant ballot-rigging.

Moi, who has been in power since 1978, vehemently denied the allegation. He described opposition leaders as "liars" and accused them of driving the country towards civil war.

"If they wanted a multi-party system, they should have been the first to accept this result," he added. Fifteen of his ministers lost their parliamentary seats.

Final official results were due to be announced early next week. Latest returns late on Friday gave Moi 1.8 million votes to a combined total of 2.9 million for the leaders of the three main opposition parties.

Kenya's opposition fell apart largely along tribal lines after overwhelming domestic and international pressure forced Moi, 68, in December 1991 to abandon one-party rule.

Moi warns of crackdown on opposition

NAIROBI, Jan 2: Kenya's political crisis deepened after President Daniel Arap Moi indicated that he would crack down on opposition parties if they carried out their threat to reject the results of this week's elections, reports Reuters.

"I have restrained myself despite abuse for the last 12 months. This will now cease," Moi told Reuters television in an interview on Friday.

Three opposition parties, Ford-Kenya, FORD-Asli and the Democratic Party (DP) of Kenya, earlier raised the political temperature by saying they would not accept the results of the first multi-party polls in 26 years.

The three parties collectively polled more votes than Moi in the presidential election and took just under half the 188 seats in parliament, but claim they were cheated of outright victory by rampant ballot-rigging.

Moi, who has been in power since 1978, vehemently denied the allegation. He described opposition leaders as "liars" and accused them of driving the country towards civil war.

"If they wanted a multi-party system, they should have been the first to accept this result," he added. Fifteen of his ministers lost their parliamentary seats.

Final official results were due to be announced early next week. Latest returns late on Friday gave Moi 1.8 million votes to a combined total of 2.9 million for the leaders of the three main opposition parties.

Kenya's opposition fell apart largely along tribal lines after overwhelming domestic and international pressure forced Moi, 68, in December 1991 to abandon one-party rule.

The Midnight File

Ghali will travel to Mogadishu today

CAIRO, Jan 2: UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said here today that he will travel tomorrow to Mogadishu and visit other Somali towns where a US-led international force is deployed to protect famine relief supplies. He made the announcement during a stopover in Cairo today on his way to Addis Ababa to attend a reconciliation conference on Monday of the warring Somali factions, reports AFP.

Bush meets Mitterrand today

PARIS, Jan 2: President Bush will meet Sunday with President Francois Mitterrand to discuss Somalia and the former Yugoslav republics. The meeting also will give Mitterrand a chance to say "au revoir" to Bush, with whom the French leader "always had good relations and friendship," said Mitterrand spokesman Jean Mustelli, reports AP.

Germany to use radar to stop entry of refugees

FRANKFURT, Jan 2: Germany plans to use radar and infrared electronics to stop illegal entry of refugees, the government said Saturday. German officials estimate that a half-million people sought asylum in 1992. More than 2,100 attacks were reported against foreigners in 1992. Extreme rightists killed 17 people, including Germans and foreigners, reports AP.

197 drug licences

From Page 1 Col 8
turing standard and code of ethics should stay.

Organised by Society for Pharmaceutical Chemists the seminar was also addressed by the President of Bangladesh Aushad Shilpa Samity, Salman F Rahman, acting chief of World Health Organisation (WHO) in Bangladesh Prof Myothew, WHO consultant Dr SK Roy, Vice-Presidents of the society, Samaresh Sore and Atae-Moula and Quality Control Manager of BEXIMCO Pharmaceuticals Dr M Anisur Rahman.

Dr Khan said the government also had a mind to screen all liquid pharmaceutical preparations and other sensitive products. Suggesting proper storage of pharmaceutical raw materials to uphold their potency he said those stored in bank godowns were not kept as per required conditions of temperature, humidity and other physical parameters.

President of Bangladesh Aushad Shilpa Samity Salman F Rahman in his speech demanded review of the drug manufacturing licences on an urgent basis and said "now is the time to have the courage to act."

He said after through review those failing to meet the required standard should be allowed to improve and failing to fulfil that within a given time their licences should be cancelled. He offered cooperation of his samity in reviewing the licences.

Rahman pointed out that out of the Taka 750 crore drug market in the country drugs worth Taka 700 crore were produced locally. He said about 50 major companies produced drugs worth Taka 650 crore while about 150 companies were producing drugs worth Taka 50 crore only.

Prof Myothew said no drug could be called exclusively safe due to many different factors.

Dr SK Roy said he tested 142 different samples of Paracetamol syrup here with varied degrees of colours which were not necessary. Colours were camouflage of many things, he added.

Samaresh Sore said no excipient was safe if used in an unlimited way and without any thorough examination.

Atae-Moula said the pharmaceutical chemists should vow to produce quality drugs and said random use of preservatives was dangerous.

Dr Anisur Rahman said 'safe use' of excipients and additives requires careful consideration of many factors which include physical, chemical and biological properties.

US planning

From Page 1 Col 4
Muslim-led government, Bosnian Croats and Bosnian Serbs since the start of the conflict nine months ago.

The talks were due to resume in the afternoon.

They are widely regarded as the last chance for a peaceful settlement before an increasingly anxious international community resorts to military intervention. The UN Security Council is considering calling for the use of force to make sure Bosnian Serb fighters don't fly over Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Slobodan Milosevic—Serbia's President and the man most blamed for fomenting the war—was absent Saturday.

"It's a good start... for the sort of constructive dialogue we have to know we have," said European Community envoy Lord Owen.

START-II

From Page 1 Col 7
Russian parliament will do is not so certain.

Ukraine, which became the world's third largest nuclear power when the Soviet Union collapsed, could pose an even bigger problem as it has yet to ratify the START-I treaty signed by Moscow and Washington and then extended to the three other nuclear powers of the former Soviet Union—Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

And, as the ACA's Lee Feinstein put it, "if there is no START-I there is no START-II."

Ukraine says the aid Washington has offered for missile dismantling under START-I is insufficient and wants western pledges to guarantee its security amid tension with neighbouring Russia.

US troops may start leaving Somalia by month end

MOGADISHU, Jan 2: Some US troops now in Somalia could start leaving by the end of the month, a senior American military officer said on Friday, reports Reuters.

Marine Colonel Mike Hagee said US military chiefs had also approved a recommendation by Task Force Commander Lieutenant General Robert Johnston to cut the anticipated contribution of about 28,000 American troops by 4,000.

"We could start a small redeployment at the end of the month," Hagee, of the US-led Task Forces operations directorate, told reporters. "The first troops to pull out will probably come from combat units."

US President George Bush ordered American forces into Somalia last month to protect relief for victims of a devastating famine brought on by two years of clan warfare that followed the overthrow of dictator Mohammed Siad Barre in 1991.

Chatting with troops during a new year visit to Somalia on Friday, Bush said US forces would leave the horn of African country "sooner rather than later."

He said the United States had not made an open-ended commitment to stay in Somalia but could put no date on when the American-led Task Force would hand over to a proposed United Nations peacekeeping force.

Janata Tower Case hearing tomorrow

The next hearing of Janata Tower case will be held tomorrow in the special court on Nazimuddin Road in the city, court sources said yesterday, reports UNB.

Deposed President HM Ershad and Begum Rawshan Ershad are facing the corruption case in connection with construction of the Janata Publishers building at Kawran Bazar.

7 dacoits held with hijacked trawler

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 2: Seven dacoits were arrested with a hijacked trawler from the river Shitalakhya early yesterday, police sources said.

A group of 25 police on a tip-off launched the operation arresting seven of the gang who were preparing to attack the dredger colony on the bank of the river. One dacoit managed to flee.

The dacoits were handed over to Shiddiganj police.

JS winter session

From Page 1 Col 7
day, sources in the parties said.

While talking to this correspondent the Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim said that they had decided to boycott the presidential speech to register a protest against President's promulgation of 'undemocratic' ordinances including the Anti-terrorism Ordinance and his assent to what he termed the undemocratic laws passed in Parliament by brute majority of the ruling party.

Nasim also alleged that election of Abdur Rahman Biswas to the post of President of the country was 'undemocratic.'

The JP MPs would stage a sit-in in a corridor of Parliament building this morning to protest the President's undemocratic behaviour, JP leader Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury told newsmen last evening.

Meanwhile, the Business Advisory Committee of Parliament met yesterday morning to decide the tentative length of the eighth session.

According to meeting sources, the House would be adjourned today to resume on January 17 while the eight session would be prorogued in mid-February.

Barrister Salam Talukder, Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Farida Rahman and Khandaker Delwar Hossain of the ruling BNP, Abdus Samad Azad and Mohammad Nasim of the AL, Monirul Hoque Chowdhury of the JP, Matur Rahman Nazami of the Jamaat and Shams-ud-doha of the CPB were present at the Advisory Committee meeting while Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali presided.

According to meeting sources, the Opposition leader in the Committee wanted to have the House resumed January 6 while the BNP members proposed January 17 on the ground that they would be busy organising the SAARC summit scheduled for 13 and 14 this month.