Israelis round up 22 Hamas activists

JERUSALEM, Jan 6: Israelt security officials said Wednesday they had arrested 22 alleged members of a Muslim fundamentalist hit squad blamed for the shooting to death of an Israelt soldter

Two of the 415 Palestinians deported to Lebanon as alleged Muslim extremists also were involved in the squad which operated in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron, Defense Ministry spokesman Oded Ben-Ami told a news confer-

The investigation started five weeks ago and has not been completed, Ben-Amt said.

The arrest announcement appeared timed to counter world criticism of the deportations. It came a day after UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghalt hinted at possible sanctions against Israel and a day before a UN envoy was to arrive to try to resolve the standoff over the deportees.

The UN Security Council condemned the deportations as a violation of international law. Israel claims the expulsions were necessary to battle the radical Muslim groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad which have been blamed for killing seven Israeli soldiers and a secret agent since Oct

Ben-Ami said Wednesday that the 22 arrested Pales tiniaris belonged to the Hebron branch of the Izzidin el Qassem brigade, the military wing of Hamas. He said several

Hanging still form of execution in many states

LONDON, Jan 6: Hanging still awaits condemned crimi nals in many countries, including Albania, Iran, Iraq and Egypt as well as the United States, reports AP.

On Oct 9, India hanged two Sikhs who were convicted of killing a retired general who commanded the army's 1984 storming of the Sikhs' holiest shrine.

Although India's Supreme Court ruled in 1980 that capital punishment should apply only in the "rarest of rare cases," about 15 people have been hanged since then.

Turkey also uses hanging as its only method of execution. but no one has been executed there in the last decade. Bangladesh hanged two

convicts last year. Albania in June held a pub-

lie hanging of two brothers for multiple murder in the southwestern town of Fier. Their bodies were left dangling all day in the city's central square as a warning to others. Zimbabwe has hanged about

30 murderers since independence from Britain in 1980. At least 15 prisoners are now on death row

Egypt and Tanzania still use hanging.

Iran uses hanging, often in public, as its most common form of execution.

Iraq hangs condemned prisoners. In 1990 it executed London-based journalist Farzad Bazoft by that method.

10 hurt in clash during hartal in Mymensingh

From Our Correspondent MYMENSINGH, Jan 6: At least 10 persons were injured, three of them seriously, when a procession was attacked at Charpara Crossing during a half- day hartal observed in the town today.

The Mymensingh Jute Mills Workers and Employees Union called the hartal to press home its threepoint charter of demands including reopening of the MJM. According to witnesses, the

pro-hartal procession came under attack after a section of the processionists ransacked some restaurants and medicine shops at the area. Sattar and Malu Mia, the MJM workers and a passerby Alauddin were admitted to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH).

The agitated MJM workers later damaged two trucks and two minibuses at the Jute Godown crossing in the town, The MJM workers also held a rally at Ganginarpar after the

were off the road, business establishments were closed and

there was no transaction in banks during the hartal hours. Inter-district trains Jamuna, Teesta and Padma

were stranded at Mymensingh railway station until 1 pm due to the hartal.

members of the group were still at large. The group is named for an Arab revolutionary killed by the British in the

Ben-Ami said the detainees were involved in three attacks on Israeli soldiers - an Oct. 21 shooting at an army car that wounded two soldiers; an Oct 25 shooting at a post in which reserve soldier Shmuel Gersh was killed; and an early November grenade attack on an army vehicle in which the grenades failed to go off.

Members of the squad also were believed involved in the Dec 12 shooting attack on an army jeep in which a soldier was killed but that investigation has not been completed, Ben-Ami said.

Ben-Ami said all 22 would be put on trial, and ruled out any possibility they could be deported.

The Hebron squad's operations were bankrolled by Hamas in the Gaza Strip, and several Islamic preachers in the Hebron area provided logistical support, he said.

Ben-Ami said the deportations and last month's arrests of more than 1,500 Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists have thrown the two groups into

Officials said the killers of the five other Israeli troopers and an agent of Israel's Shin Bet internal security service were still at large. The Shin Bet agent was slain last Sunday.

Take steps against Hindu militants, Iran to India

NICOSIA, Jan 6: Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati urged India on Tuesday to take tough steps against Hindu militants who destroyed a mosque and to allow Muslims to rebuild it, re-

He also urged the Organisation of Islamic Conference to demand that Muslims be treated with fairness in India. Velayati's statements were

carried by the Islamic Republic News Agency, which is monitored in Cyprus. The agency said that

Velayati sent a message to his Indian counterpart, R L Bhatia, calling for legal steps against those who dismantled the

BNP has imposed black law to harass opponents: Inu

JSD leaders yesterday flayed the BNP government for what they said betraying people's democratic aspiration and enacting black law to hook its opponents, reports UNB.

The democratically elected government has imposed "black law" like the Anti-terrorism Act instead of repealing the Special Powers Act to harass the opponents, said

Hasanul Hug Inu. He was speaking at a function arranged by his party's students wing, Chhatra League (B-K), in observance of the 45th anniversary of its founding at Arts Faculty premises of Dhaka University.

"It is possible to harass opponents with black laws but it's not possible to stopno black law can halt the democracy loving people," he said.

Presided over by Chhatra League President Ruhul Quddus Babu, the function was also addressed by Kazi Aref Ahmed, Shirin Akhter, Dr Mustaq Hossain, Engineer Muniruddin Ahmed, Nazmul Huq Prodhan and student leaders Moklesur Rahman, Abdullah Hil Qayum, Roknuzzaman Rokon and Khandaker Saidur Rahim.

Inu said those who can not call the anti-liberation elements Rajakers and black law as black cannot be real friends of the people.

We have lost everything but our map and national anthem," Kazi Aref said and likened the prevailing situation of the country with that of 1971.

In a tone of self-criticism, he blamed political leaders for failure to lead the people towards right direction after the fall of autocrat Ershad.

The Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leaders accused the government of letting down people's aspiration as well as students' 10-point demand.

Student leaders said they All kinds of vehicular traffic would not leave the street until fulfilment of their 10-points charter of demand and repeal of all black laws.

Earlier, leaders and activists of Chhatra League brought out a procession on the campus, chanting antigovernment and anti-terrorism slogans.

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School ground in Biani Bazar, Sylhet yesterday. Story on Page 1 - PID photo

Contraband worth Taka 15 lakh seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent Customs officials seized contraband items worth about Taka 15 lakh from some passengers of two flights at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) in Dhaka Wednesday.

The officials seized the items from a number of passengers of a Bangladesh Biman flight (BG 032) which arrived in Dhaka from Karachi, Pakistan, and of an Emirate flight (EK 610) which arrived from Dubai via Karachi, customs sources said.

The items seized from 9 am to 9 pm yesterday included warm clothes, motorparts and other clothes.

'Swarup' 1st issue of 2nd yr banded

The government yesterday has put ban on sale, distribution and preservation of the first issue of second year publication of the "Swarup", said a handout here today. The government has taken the decision for public interest as the newspaper, being published from 40/1 Swaratgupta Road, Narinda, Dhaka, recently put into circulation different obscene photographs and articles in the said issue, it added, reports UNB.

Yeltsin visits India Jan 27

MOSCOW, Jan 6: President Boris Yeltsin will pay an official visit to India January 27 to 29 for talks with Indian leaders, including Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, his press office announced today, reports AFP.

During his stay, Yeltsin was to sign a friendship and cooperation treaty as well as several other accords

Suu Kyi donates award money for prostitutes

BANGKOK, Jan 6. Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, the detained leader of Myanmar's democracy movement, has donated money from her awards to help Myanmar prostitutes in Thailand, a Thai official said Wednesday, reports AP.

Saisuree Chutikul, an adviser on women and children's issues in the Prime Minister's office, said Suu Kyf's husband Michael Aris, had sent her a check for 10,000 pounds (dlrs 15,200) last October. Saisuree had not publicized

it until now because she wanted to clear the donation with Thailand's new govern-

Aris, in a statement provided with the check, said:

"Aung San Suu Kyi, recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, who is now in the fourth year of her detention in Myanmar, ... wishes to make a financial contribution toward the vocational training and medical care of Myanmar girls and women who have been rescued from brothels along the Thai Myanmar border.' He said the donation came

from the Myanmar Trust for Health and Education of Mrs Suu Kyi, comprising money from her 1991 Nobel Prize and other awards.

Statistical year '92 published

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics has published Pocket Statistical Year Book '92, an official release said today. The 13th issue of this yearly publication, which contains a brief picture of the socio-economic condition of the country, is expected to be greatly helpful to the general readers, reports

"A similar grant from the trust is also being made ... to assist an educational project for the benefit of Myanmar who have been displaced into Thailand," Aris' letter said.

"It is understood that she wishes to make these contributions for the relief of the suffering of her own people and also as a gesture of gratitude and support for the people of Thailand in their humanitarian endeavours.

White Paper on Ayodhya soon

NEW DELHI, Jan 6: The Centre has finalised the White Paper on Ayodhya" about the situation there before December 6 and after, official sources said, reports PII.

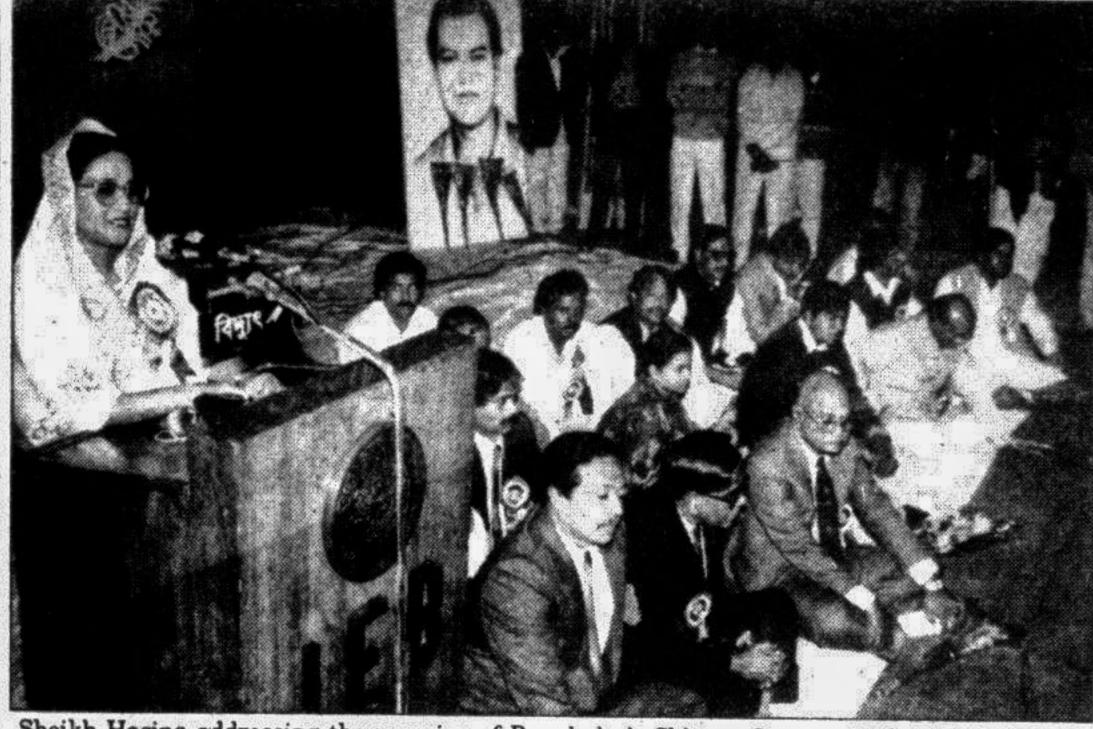
The 'White Paper' in about 125 pages would be made public very shortly, the sources added.

Reuter adds: The Indian government set up two tribunals on Tuesday to hear petitions field by religious groups banned after the destruction of Babri Mosque triggered widespread communal violence, the chief official spokeman said.

The spokesman said the tribunals, set up under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, would hear any appeal field by the banned organisations.

The government banned five religious fundamentalist groups, three of them Hindu and the other two Muslim, on December 10 to try to quell communal bloodshed.

The spokesman said the banned groups were given 30 days' notice to file their petitions before the tribunals, each headed by a Delhi High Court judge. The tribunals are expected to complete work within six months.



Sheikh Hasina addressing the re-union of Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) in observance of the 45th founding anniversary of the organisation at the Institution of Engineers. yesterday. - Star photo

Halishahar From Page 1 Col 8

doctors will render round-toclock medical service there from tomorrow, the Mayor informed. He claimed that the people who fled the Halishahar area fearing further trouble have started returning home from today.

However, about 200 BDR personnel and several hundreds of police still have been guarding the violence-torn area. Officials said the forces would be withdrawn as soon as complete normalcy returned.

BSS adds: Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda this evening visited Bandartila and its adjoining areas to see the condition of the affected people there.

While visiting the burnt houses and talking to the affected people, the minister expressed his profound sympathy to them and also expressed his grief for the untoward incident on Saturday last.

Huda assured the people of providing adequate relief materials and compensation to

the affected people.

Hasina: govt pushing tory of Chhatra League, she From Page 1 Col 7 middle-income groups. urged the students to face terrorism on the campuses politi-

Moreover, the Opposition leader said, unemployment, retrenchment of workers and lawlessness further aggravated the misery of the people. There has been no devel-

opment in the condition of the common people excepting the ministers, government party MPs and leaders in last two years, Hasina alleged. She said although the auto-

cratic government of Ershad was ousted by the people, the BNP government is faithfully following the same policies and programmes which had been introduced by Ershad. On the continued violence

on the campuses, Hasina alleged that the government had been instigating terrorism in colleges and universities to establish its control over the students' unions and halis. She also criticised the BNP

of the student community.

She was critical of the post-1975 regimes of Zia-Ershad-Begum Zia asking what they had done for the country and the economic well-being of the people. She said Bangladesh had become a nation of beggars because of the misrule in the last 17 years.

cally. "Root out violence, re-

store peace and build your-

selves as worthy citizens to

shoulder the future responsi-

against Bangabandhu Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman and the

Awami League, Hasina said her

father faced criticism by cer-

tain vested quarters possibly

because he had led the coun-

try's War of Liberation in 1971.

Responding to criticism

bilities of the nation."

The Awami League leader asked the members of the Chhatra League to continue the government for not implestruggle for completing the menting the 10-point demand unfinished task of slain leader Bangabandhu who dreamt of a Recalling the glorious hisself-reliant nation.

Prospect of trade with France bright: Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday (Wednesday) said there is wide scope of strengthening economic and trade ties between Bangladesh and France, reports UNB.

High quality tea and leather goods are among the items which can be exported to France, Begum Zia told the newly appointed French Ambassador Jean Michel Lacombe who made his first call on the Prime Minister at her office in the afternoon. Begum Zia recalled with

gratitude the generosity of France at times of crises in Bangladesh, particularly after the devastating floods in 1988 and the cyclone in 1991.

She also thanked France for substantially increasing the commitment of development aid to Bangladesh. The Prime Minister men-

tioned different development programmes of her government, including privatisation policy, economic reforms, poverty alleviation, women uplift, education and tree plan-Begum Zia said decision of

the Rio Summit should be followed up for conservation of the global environment. France can play an important role in this regard, she added. The Prime Minister thro-

ugh the ambassador conveyed her good wishes and new year's greetings to President Mitterand of France and the French Prime Minister.

The ambassador hoped that the existing friendly and cor dial relation between the two countries will deepen further.

Mujib's killers committed sin deadlier than Mir Zafar's The killers of Bangabandhur

Sheikh Mijibur Rahman committed a sin deadlier than that of Mir Zafar, said a noted columnist, Abdul Gaffar Chwodhury, reports UNB. Gaffar Chowdhury, who

came home after 17 years of stay in London, was addressing a reunion marking the 45th anniversary of founding of Bangladesh Chhatra League at the Engineers Institution inthe afternoon. He termed the asassination

of Mujib the assassinationof independence of Bangladesh and the values of Liberation War. "But history repeats itself-

first in tragedy and secondly in farce-" commented the powerful writer pointing to the fate of late President Ziaur Rahman and deposed President Ershad Chowdhury said post075

and military democracy" in Bangladesh, breeding a good number of owners of black money and illegal arms "Mujib's Bangladesh has turned into a nation of beg-

regimes introudced "colonial

gars," he said indicating at the condition of crimppled national economy. The veteran litterateur journalist requested the student community to be constructive and said real freedom

lies in the ideals of Bangladesh. Bangladesh can yet be saved from ruination if the ideals of Bangabandhu are implemented, he said in conclusion of his breif goodwill speech at

the function. A press release of Awami League said Gaffar Chowdhury yesterday made a courtesy call on Sheikh Hasina at 29 Minto Road.

He also visited Bangabandhu Bhaban at Dhanmondi 32 and placed wreaths at the protrait of the slain leader. He witthe spot where Bangabandhu was shot to death of August 15, 1975.

BCU confce begins today

The 22nd central conference of pro-CPB Bangladesh Chhatra Union begins today, reports UNB.

Eminent artist SM Sultan will inaugurate the two-day conference at the TSC auditorium of Dhaka University at 11 Dr Muzaffar Ahmed will be

the chief guest while Advocate AK Badrul Huq Bachchu will be the special guest at the inaugural function. A total of 982 representa-

national Union of Students.

tives from 72 organising districts of the organisation are expected to join the confer-Different international student forums, including Inter-

World Federation of Democratic Youth, International Association of Agricultural Students, International Union of Socialist Union, Korean Students Committee, National Union of Iraqi Students, Youth Association Cambodia, Sri Lankan National Union of Students and Norwegian Union of Students have sent messages wishing the conference

The Midnight File

Panic will become 'roving ambassador of peace'

BELGRADE, Jan 6: Milan Panic, who failed in a bid to win the Serbian presidency from hard-line leader Slobodan Milosevic, will become "roving ambassador of peace," the Tanjug news agency reported Wednesday. The ousted Yugoslav premier, currently on a private visit to the United States, was reported as accepting the job offered to him by allied Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic. Tanjug offered no details on the job, reports AP.

Mongolia launches anti-AIDS campaign

BEIJING, Jan 6: Mongolta has launched a nationwide campaign to fight AIDS after the remote Asian nation discovered its first case of the virus, a media report said. The Dec 29 Mongol Messenger, an English-language weekly seen in Betting on Wednesday, said Mongolia became the 165th nation in which the AIDS virus has appeared. A young homosexual who had an "intimate relationship" with a foreigner tested positive in August, and the news "shook the entire country," it said, reports AP.

Iraqi army ready

From Page 1 Col 7 with quest for a religious-based Muslim government.

The New York Times reported Wednesday that the United States is urging France, Britain and Saudi Arabia to join in an ultimatum to Iraq that it faces new allied military action unless the missiles are removed.

The newspaper, quoting unnamed diplomatic officials. said the allies may present the demand as early as Wednesday to the Iraqi Mission to the United Nations. Iraqi air bases could be targets of allied attacks if the missiles are not

Pakistan dismisses India's refusal to cut consular staff

ISLAMABAD, Jan 6: Pakistan today dismissed India's refusal to cut back on the size of its Consulate General in Karachi, saying that Islamabad's order that the mission be reduced was backed by the Vienna Convention, reports AFP. A Foreign Ministry spoke-

sman said that according to the 1961 convention on diplomatic behaviour, Pakistan, as the receiving state, had a right to determine the size of a diplomatic mission. A diplomatic code of conduct signed between the two

governments recently also provided for balance in representation, he said. Islamabad wants the Indian government to reduce the number of people at the consulate from 62 to 20, saying

allowed to have only four members. The spokesman emphasized that the reduced size "would not impair" the Kashmir consulate's ability to process visa

that its mission in Bombay is

applications. The Indian government has said the demand was unacceptable as well as "illogical" because of the heavy consular workload in Karachi.

The two countries which have fought three wars since independence in 1947 from Britain, expelled several diplomats last year on charges of espionage and objectionable activities.

DUTA polls

From Page 1 Col 8 some printing errors in the ballot paper.

Later at a meeting of the incumbent DUTA working body. the polls were rescheduled for today. The teachers from the

three panels - White, Blue and

Pink — are vying for the 15 member DUTA executive committee. The White panel has nominated Dr KM Mohsin, Professor of the Department of History and Dr Badrul Alam,

Department of Physics as President and General Secretary respectively. From the Blue panel Dr ATM Zahurul Huq, Professor of the Department of Economics and Dr SM Mahfuzur Rahman, Associate Professor of the Department of Finance and Banking are contesting the

posts of President and General

Associate Professor of the

Secretary respectively. The Pink panel has nominated Professor AFM Khodadad Khan, Chairman of the Department of Mathematics for the President post, Syed Abul Kalam Azad, Associate Professor of the Department of Marketing is contesting the post of General Secretary under the same panel.

Some 850 teachers are expected to cast their votes in today's polls.

Rudolf Nureyev dead PARIS, Jan 6: Rudolf Nur-

eyev, one of the greatest ballet dancers of the century, has died aged 54 after a long illness, French radio reported today, reports Reuter.

withdrawn, the newspaper reported Some US pilots have reported they have been targeted, but the incidents have not been confirmed, one military officer at the Pentagon

told The Associated Press. "We

have expressed our concerns"

to the Iraqis, the officer said. The Iraqis were warned that if the radar was turned on, it could be blasted away by US attack jets, said a second Pentagon sources. Both officials spoke on condition of

The warning was extended

by the US military officers who

periodically meet with Iraqi

counterparts in northern Iraq to discuss security concerns. President-elect Clinton's spokesman offered support for Bush's stand.

"I think Saddam Hussein should take no comfort in the fact that Bill Clinton is heading towards the presidency," spokesman George Stephanopoulos said in Little Rock, Ark.

He said Saddam "must abide by all UN resolutions. He must abide by the no-fly zone. And Bill Clinton supports President Bush in his efforts to enforce them, and he will continue to support them as president."

Related Story on page 5

Somali factions agree to hold reconciliation conference

ADDIS ABABA, Jan 6: Somali factions agreed in principle Wednesday to hold a national reconciliation conference in their war-shattered capital in April, reports AP. The rivals, meeting under

United Nations auspices, also

discussed a possible cease-fire in Somalia, where warfare, banditry and drought have killed at least 350,000 people. The breakthrough came on the third day of meeting that had been marked by insults

and shouting between the 14 invited groups. The original conference was only supposed to be two days. UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali warned the factions Tuesday that international forces struggling to

feed their starving people might give up and leave if an agreement was not reached. Boutros-Ghali left early Wednesday for Ethiopia's breakaway northern republic Eritrea and then flew on to his

native Egypt On Wednesday, the group supporting Somalia's most powerful warlord, Gen. Mohammed Farah Aidid, said the factions should reconvene here in one month, said conference

Sick industries From Page 1 Col 8

not appeal The press conference was addressedby Alaudding Ahmed, convener of IASIRC, Sarkar, Abdus Sattar, secretary general of BSIA, Mirza Abu mansoor, Tajul Islam, Manjur Ahmed, Abdul Hai, Habibur Rahman, Abdur Rashid Lebu, Md Faruk, Mir Ashraful Islam and others.

The association leaders called a grand rally on January 10 in which all entrepreneurs of sick industries would participate. They said the rally would be followed by handing over of a memorandum to the Ministry of Industries, andthe Prime Minister, the Speaker and the members of the Parliament.

The leaders told the press that so far most of the actions by the authorities especially by Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS) went against the rehabilitation of the sick industries adding "the government is destroying the industries according to suggestions from the World Bank to make Bangladesh a defenceless market of the West."

The country has 1556 sick industries at present The leaders said, and the entrepreneurs had invested about

Tk 4,000 crores.