The Midnight File

Asghar Khan to run

for presidency

Asghar Khan, an ally of Opposition Leader Benazir Bhutto, has

been nominated by his political party to run for the

presidency this year, it was reported today. A successor to

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan is to be elected in November a

month before he completes his five-year term, by an electoral

college made up of members of parliament and of the four

Calcutta newsmen continue

boycott of WB govt functions

Calcutta here continued their boycott of all West Bengal

government functions for the fourth day today to press for

protection of their rights and reversal of the government

decision shifting the press corner at the Writers Building (the

Tamils blow up their ship

CALCUTTA, Jan 16: Journalists and press photographers of

provincial assemblies, reports AFP.

state secretariat), reports PII.

ISLAMABAD, Jan 16: Former Pakistani Air Force Chief

19 DU teachers face termination

By Masud Arif

Services of 19 teachers of the Dhaka University, illegally over staying abroad on expiry their study leave, will be terminated if they do not join their respective duties within two months of issuing the letters handed out by the DU authorities recently.

The University authorities have mailed this notice to the defaulting teachers last month, Syndicate sources said.

The decision was taken in a meeting of the DU Syndicate on November 30th last.

The university authorities had formed a five-member committee headed by the Dean of the Arts Faculty last year to investigate into the unauthorised stay of those teachers.

Meanwhile, at least 60 teachers, enlisted as permanent university teachers are now out of the country and some of them were staying abroad since 1975, sources

The 19 DU teachers to whom the letters have been issued are: Dr Rawnak Jahan, Professor of the Department of Political Science, Fazle Kabir, Assistant Professor of the Department of Library Science, Dr Mahbubur Rahman, Assistant Professor of the Department of Psychology, Md Nurul Hossain, Assistant Professor of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Dr Imtiaz Hasan Habib. Associate Professor of the Department of English, Abdul Gafur, Assistant Professor of the Department of Mathematics, Joy Kumar Sarogi, Assistant Professor of the Department of Physics, Dr Abdul Anam and Md Sarwar

From Page 1 Col 8

Alam Tara from the govern-

ment side and Abdus Samad

Azad, Tofael Ahmed and

Suranjit Sengupta were among

others who prepared the draft

that the draft resolution con-

demned the demolition of the

16th century mosque in

Ayodhya and demanded its re-

construction as declared by

Indian Prime Minister

molition of Babri Mosque by

Hindu zealots hurt the senti-

ments of the people belonging

break of communal violence in

different parts of the country

Babri Mosque on December 6.

gested that the minorities af-

following the demolition of the

The draft resolution sug-

It also condemned the out-

The resolution said the de-

Competent sources said

resolution.

Narasimha Rao.

to all religious faiths.

Lecturer of the Department of Physics. Monoranjan Sirker, Associate Professor of the Department of Physics, Abu Zafar Chowdhury, Assistant Professor of the Department of Management, Dewan Md Rezaul Karim, Assistant Professor of the Department of Management, Md Shaffullah, Assistant Professor of the Department of Accounting, Anwar Hossain, Assistant Professor of the Department of Finance, Dr H M Sadeque, Assistant Professor of the Department of Finance. Dr Yusuf Talukder, Associate Professor of the Department of Finance, A K Mansur Ahmed, Secretary, Institute of Business Administration, Md Abdul Mannan, Assistant Professor of the Department of Statistics, Abdus Shahid, Assistant Professor of the Department

and Culture. The system for formation of a tribunal by the Syndicate to terminate the services of a DU teacher being complicated and time consuming the authorities have formed the committee to take immediate action against those teacher within a short time, sources said.

Accounting and Md Al-Faruk,

Assistant Professor of the

Department of Islamic History

Sometimes teaching and research activities were hampered for the teachers' being away, some DU teachers felt.

The present strength of teachers in the university is about 925 against some 1165 sanctioned posts.

About 256 of the teachers stay away from the university classes on various leaves daily on an average.

be rehabilitated, damaged

temples reconstructed and le-

Washington should give increased priority to India, say top-level US experts US policy-makers should Mosque by Hindu fundamental

The Daily Star

approach India with the un-

derstanding that it is the

strongest military and eco-

nomic power in South Asia.

and that "its power is likely to

grow," said Goheen at a

The end of the Cold War of-

January 13 press conference.

fers significant opportunities

for improved Indo-US rela-

tions, and Washington should

capitalize on those - not only

because of India's growing in-

fluence, but also because of

silient, functioning, secular

democracy". Gohcen said

adding that the United States

has a vested interest in sup-

porting and promoting pre-

cisely that kind of government.

porters that Washington

should seek a summit with

New Delhi this year, and

should insist that India be in-

cluded in any reform of the

United Nations Security

Council. "If the council is en-

larged, India, should be a

prime candidate for perma-

nent membership," states the

report. Given Indian's impor-

tance in terms of geography

and population, the United

States "should treat its candi-

dacy on a par with that of

Japan, Germany, Brazil and

Harrison stressed that the

Selig Harrison told re-

"There is in India a re-

values shared by both.

WASHINGTON, Jan 16: A group of high-level experts is urging the United States to give increased priority to India as the world's largest democracy and "as a potential part ner" in efforts to resolve global disputes, reports USIS.

Washington should also move away from its current emphasis on nuclear nonproliferation, and towards a policy designed to maintain nuclear restraint in the subcontinent, according to a new report released on January 14 by the Carnegie Endowment Study Group on US-Indian re-

Describing efforts to seek a rollback of India's nuclear programme as "unrealistic," the report states that "it is not too late to achieve a freeze in the production of missile material for weapons purposes and in the development and deployment of nuclear weapons by both India and Pakistan."

The report, co-authored by senior Carnegie Endowment associates Selig Harrison and Geoffrey Kemp, was signed by 34 members of the study group. They include Senator Daniel Patrick Movnihan. former ambassador to India; Henry Rowan, former Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs; Stephen Solarz, former Chairman of the House Asian and Pacific Affairs subcommittee; and Robert Oakley, former

group had taken into account India's severe ethnic and reliambassador to Pakistan. gious tensions, which were re-The group's meeting were cently highlighted by Hinduco-chaired by former ambas-Muslim riots following the desadors to India Harry Barnes struction of the Ayodhya and Robert Goheen.

Nigeria.

The study deplores Indian human right violations in Kashmir, Punjab and other states, where "draconian security laws" are used against critics from human rights groups or the media. It strongly urges New Delhi to give "high-level attention" to curbing human rights abuses.

Despite such difficulties. the group agreed that India will remain fundamentally stable and will continue to move ahead with its programme of economic reform. Harrison said. Their report recommends that Washington support Indian development through expanded contributions to multilateral institu-

The study describes India's business environment as "restrictive," and in need of liberalized polices in the areas of import licensing and duties. India should make the rupee "fully convertible and raise the present 51 per cent limit on foreign equity ownership in joint ventures." The report urges India to make "further compromises" with the United States on disputes over intellectual property rights.

Regarding Indo-Pakistani, relations, the United States should maintain a "detached posture" as it disengages from its Cold War relationship with Pakistan, Harrison said. Washington needs to preserve its ties to Islamabad, but it "need not and should not choose sides between India and Pakistan," the report em-

phasizes. Pending a rapprochement between the countries, the United States should refuse to make concessional military sales to either.

The report urges Washington to cancel its 'anachronistic" 1959 mutual security agreement with Pakistan, and make clear that it has no residual commitment to assist Pakistan in the event of an Indo-Pakistani war."

Georffrey Kemp noted that increased US-Indian cooperation in the military arena may be "desirable and likely" Current policies in support of joint exercises and reciprocal visits mirror US cooperation with other Asian countries, and have vastly reduced indo-US tensions

"Neither side sees the other's military power in the region as threatening," Kemp

He warned against excessive US opposition to India's Agni and Prithvi Missile Programmes, which are "far advanced" and enjoy widespread domestic support. "The primary focus of US efforts, therefore, should be to persuade India not to transfer its missile technology to others," states the report.

He also stressed that the group's opposition to US nonproliferation policy toward india was based on a number of factors, including the nature of the New Delhi government. "We need to distinguish between the behaviour of truly democratic states" such as India and Israel, and dictatorships such as Iraq, Kemp said.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 7 Ershad movement have been lost", she said recalling the obective of the opposition movement for long nine years.

"It's now clear that democ racy is not safe in the hands of BNP, born through the process of killing and military coup. What the people can expect from a party which itself does not understand the actual meaning of democracy", Hasina told her cheering party workers and supporters.

Presided over by Shah Hadiuzzaman MP, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Roushan Ali MP, Rafiqul Islam MP, Khan Tipu Sultan MP and Sharif Abdur

Criticising the enactment of anti-terrorism law, she said Begum Zia, an heir of Ziaur Rahman, is also enacting black laws one after another to repress her political opponents"

Earlier, President of Jessore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdur Razzak Khan, Jatiya Party leader Qamruzzaman, trade union leader Golam Mostafa, former Communist League , leader Abdur Rashid and more than a hundred political workers from different parties met with Hasina at the local Circuit House and formally joined the Awami League.

Another report says: Hasina in a statement strongly protested the killing of Purba Gujra Union Parishad Chairman Akhter Hossain Raju in Rauzan

Raju, a member of Chittagong North district Awami league, was shot dead at the Union Parishad office on Friday.

Plea to allow BCI to operate as scheduled bank

By Staff Correspondent Bangladesh Commerce and Investment (BCI) Officers and Employees Council at a press conference Saturday urged the Prime Minister and Finance Minister to allow the company to operate as a scheduled bank.

The Council also decided to hold an officers' conference on January 21 to chalk out action programme to press the government to fulfil its demand.

The press conference addressed by Fazlul Quader Convenor of the Council said that the 700 officers and employees of the BCI and over three lakh depositors were suffering from acute uncertainty because of the closure of the company.

He said the borrowers, who took loan from the company were not paying their dues as all branches of the BCI were closed down. If the closure continue the depositors would be affected severely, he added.

said the people of Kashmir, Referring to the proposal submitted to the government by the newly formed Board of Directors of the company that incorporated the appeal for permitting BCl to operate as a scheduled bank, Fazlul Quader said the government should consider the proposal for the interest of the officers, em-

ployees and the depositors. The press conference was attended among others by Selim Hassan, Idris Ali, Golam Nabi, Golam Mostafa, Ariful Hug and Noorunnabi.

NEW DELHI, Jan 16: At least nine Tamil Tiger rebels were apprehended Saturday after they set fire to their explosiveladen ship and jumped into the sea off the southeastern coast of India, news reports said. Two Indian ships intercepted the rebel vessel 12 nautical miles (18 kilometers) off the southern state of Tamtl Nadu on Friday, news agencies quoted a Defence Ministry spokesman as saying, reports AP.

Rao cabinet resigns

From Page 1 Col 4 AR Antulay, former Maharashtra Chief Minister. The north east region might get better representation in the government.

Names of RK Dhavan and Capt Satish Sharma are also mentioned as possible aspi-

The expansion and also reshuffle is likely to be the first major one since Rao assumed office 18 months ago and is aimed at revamping the functioning of the government.

AFP adds: India's main Hindu revivalist political party has set a February 25 deadline for Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao to concede to its demands for early polls and for a Hindu temple on the site of the fallen Babri Mosque,

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Murli Manohar Joshi said his party would take 'direct action" if the government failed to heed the ultimatum.

The Statesman and other newspapers today quoted Joshi as saying Friday that the BJP, the largest opposition party in parliament, wanted the legislature's dissolution by February 25 to be followed by early elections.

He said Rao, whose Congress (I) party has more than three years of its five-year term in office left to run, should also concede to Hindu

revivalist demands for a temple on the site of the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya town. Joshi, known to be a

fiercely hardline Hindu politician, also urged a lifting of the ban imposed on three non-political Hindu militant groups following the December 6 demolition of the 16th century mosque.

Joshi did not reveal details of the BJP's planned "direct action" - a phrase use in 1946 by the Muslim League in demanding Pakistan's creation from the Subcontinent - but said it would be within constitutional bounds.

He said the party would mobilise more than one million supporters for a rally here on February 25 to press its demands. It would be preceded by whirlwind tours of the country by BJP leaders.

AP from Bombay adds: The government has decided to ask a high court judge to inquire into the riots that erupted in Bombay last week and claimed more than 500 lives, the states

chief minister said Saturday. For the first time in 10 days of Hindu-Muslim rioting, streets of this metropolis were crowded with buses, cars and

Banks, offices and schools reopened in the city, and suburban trains were more crowded than when the riots began Jan. 6 and exploded two days later.

Jamaat: No difference

From Page 1 Col 8 Muslims across the world.

Jamaat Ameer ATM Azharul Islam, the rally was also addressed, among others, by Party Secretary General Matiur Rahman Nizami, Prof Mujibur Rahman, Jashimuddin Sarkar and Saiful Alam Khan Milon.

The Jamaat leaders condemned further extension yesterday of the detention of Golam Azam for another 120 days and warned of launching a greater movement against the government if their leader was not freed immediately.

The speakers said the government was speaking of rule of law, democracy, human rights and elimination of terrorism but, in fact, doing the opposite.

It is patronising and providing shelter to anti-social elements and killers, they alleged and said terrorists and armed hoodlums were moving at large despite the passage of anti-terrorism law.

Golam Azam was arrested without any specific case, Matiur Rahman Nizami said, adding he was arrested as part of a conspiracy of imperialism to eliminate Muslims from the

BNP has leased Radio and TV to the "Indian agents in Bangladesh", Nizami alleged and said both the media were being used against the people and to divide the nation.

Bid to torch DMC hostel room

By DMCH Correspondent

A group of unidentified men tried to set fire to a room of Dr Fazle Rabbi hall of Dhaka Medical College at Bakshi Bazar here early Saturday.

Shaheen and Jalal, both second year students of the college were sleeping when a burning torch was thrown into the room No 225. But they escaped unhurt.

Some residents of the neighbouring rooms said that they rushed out as Shaheen and Jalal shouted for help. They brought the fire under

control before it could spread. Both Shaheen and Jalal said that they woke up when a burning torch was thrown into the room through a window adjacent to the corridor at

around 5 am yesterday.

"If BNP continues its repression on Muslims in the Presided over by city country ... we'll be compelled to brand BNP as enemy of Islam," he said and called upon the government to take stand in favour of Islamic forces.

The Jamaat Secretary General, also leader of the party's parliamentary group, alleged BNP's student wing, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal. Awami League-backed Chhatra League and Workers Party supported Chhatra Moitry combinedly killed a Shibir activist in Rajshahi with the backing of police.

Jamaat will organise protest rallies across the country on January 20 to protest the extension of detention order on Golam Azam, who was detained in March last year in the wake of massive campaign by the Ghatak-Dalal Nirmul Committee for his trial on charge of war crime in 1971.

Drug case Prosecution fails to produce witness

By Staff Correspondent The Prosecution Saturday

failed to produce witnesses before the Second Additional Sessions Judge Court in connection with the sensational drug-case. On a prayer of the Public

Prosecutor (PP) Abdur Razzaq, the judge Mohammad Ansaruddin Sikder refixed the date of examination and crossexamination of the witnesses on January 27 and 28.

Five persons, four of them foreign nationals, were charged with attempted trafficking of 3.27 kg heroin to Zurich, Switzerland, from Bangladesh on February 25 last

Of the five accused, Eliadah

girl, Robert Blankson, a South African and Ochendu Goddy a Nigerian, who were arrested meantime, were produced before the Court yesterday. Two other accused, another

McCord a teenaged American

Nigerian Okey Godwin and a Bangladeshi Abdul Qayum were still at large. All the five accused persons

were put on trial in the Court of the Second Additional Sessions Judge on January 4.

fected by communal violence vices, says a press release. Foreign policy

Unanimous JS resolution

From Page 1 Col 4 also united when and if the country's sovereignty is questioned or its interests threat-

Unfortunately, national leaders like Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina would never take the platform or the floor at the parliament to reaffirm their shared commitment. Instead, the two and their ardent followers do not miss any opportunity of hammering on their differences on the execution of the accepted objectives, often going to the extent of questioning one another's motives and bonafides. In the end, often carried away by their own rhetoric, they send out wrong, unintended signals to a confused nation and to forces outside which are a little too eager to discover some new cracks within the country.

Of course, no one would suggest that the ruling party and the opposition should not have their differences, even serious ones, on the implementation of the country's foreign policy in any specific field. Indeed, the opposition parties are perfectly within their democratic right to express their disagreements with the government's posi-

However, it is important and imperative at a moment of crisis - to put these differences in the right context, within the framework of a broad-based consensus or, as it happens in many countries, a bi-partisan foreign policy. Here, a case in point is the understanding between President George Bush and President-elect Bill Clinton on the US air attacks against Iraq.

True, we cannot develop such an understanding between the government and the opposition overnight. However, it is also true that opposition

leader Sheikh Hasina would view a move by the government with suspicion if she is kept in the dark about it. To be more specific, she ought to know from none other than either the Prime Minister or the Foreign Minister as to what transpired when the Special Envoy of India, R.L. Bhatia called on Begum Zia last week. When the AL chairperson does not get an authoritative version of such a meeting or is not the first person, outside the cabinet, to see a copy of the letter from Prime Minister Narasimha Rao to his counterpart in Bangladesh, she will get her own report probably an incomplete or a distorted one - from a secondary source or, worse still, a

foreign diplomat. Here, our plea is simple and direct: Instead of leaving the opposition leader in the dark about steps taken on any foreign policy issue, the government should keep her in the picture through regular briefings on one-to-one basis. This is the surest way of carning her confidence by removing from her mind whatever doubts she may have about the government's plans and, finally, of finding out how exactly she would like a problem

to be tackled. It is hardly a question of the government making a political gain out of such an exercise. On the contrary, it is a question of according a rightful status to the Leader of the Opposition who, in a parliamentary democracy, is the head of an alternative govern-

It is also a question of the government taking a bold initiative for strengthening our national unity on any issue in foreign affairs, especially at a

time of crisis. Related article and editorial

Editor: S. M. Ali

- Page 4

Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motifheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36 Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11; Road No. 3; Dhanmondi R/A., Dhaka-1205. PABX : 500092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct) Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM : DAILY STAR DHAKA.

gal actions taken against those responsible for the acts of communal violence in the country. Earlier, the Business Advisory Committee met in Sangsad Bhaban with Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali in the chair. The meeting decided to hold a general discussion on Babri Mosque for five hours

Opposition benches. Sheraton limousine

spreading over two days. The

time will be equally divided be-

tween the Treasury and

service The Dhaka Sheraton Hotel has recently introduced its own limousine service, a new addition to its expanding ser-

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visited Bandartila and Halishahar yesterday and talked to the people affected in the January 2-3 incident.

President Badrul Anwar, the meeting was also addressed by Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Forest and Environment Minister Abdullah Al Noman, Planning Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan, City Mayor Meer Mohammad Nasiruddin and MPs Amir Khasru Mohammad Chowdhury, Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Rosy Kabir and Wahidul

Local BNP and its front organisation leaders, including Ehsanul Kabir, Advocate Abu Saleh, Golam Akbar Khandkar, MA Nazimuddin, Abul Hashem Bakr and Abu Sufian also

Sources said 1,494 houses, 252 semi-kutcha and 117 kutcha shops were damaged, affecting nearly 830 families, in the fire allegedly set by the personnel who also opened

Begum Zia went around the fire-ravage areas and talked to the injured and affected people. Burnt trees and houses stood witness to the devasta-

Halishahar and Bandartila are in one of the five constituencies from where Begum Zia was elected in the last parliamentary polls. She went from house to house and assured her government's allout cooperation in rehabilitation of the victims.

The government has so far ordered cash grant of Tk 14 lakh, 30 metric toms of rice, 300 sarees, 300 lungis and 2,000 bundles of CI sheet for the affected families.

Obituary

Al-Haj Momtajuddin Ahmed, a retired Superintendent of Police died of old age complications last night at his Shantinagar residence here. He was 84, reports BSS.

He left behind his wife, five sons, six daughters and a host of relations to mourn his death.

The namaj-e-janaza of Ahmed, who hailed from Daudkandi of Comilla, will be held at Baitul Mokarram National Mosque today after Zohr prayer and will be buried at Banani Graveyard.

Defeated forces | Hundreds hurt

From Page 1 Col 7 bine of the GCO and the JCD.

near the Latif Hall. Then the Shibirites proceeded towards the Sher-e-Bangla Hall where they beat up the Unity activists and general students. Shariful Islam, the General Secretary of the Hall students union, and many others were injured. Sharif received multiple stab injuries despite having his hands and

legs broken. Then the Shibir activists marched towards the SM and the Amir Ali Halls. They locked the hall gates and went on rampage inside beating students and damaging rooms Three seriously injured students, belonging to the JSDbacked Chhatra League, reached the University

Sir Salimullah's death anniversary observed

The 78th death anniversary of Nawab Sir Salimullah was observed yesterday in a befitting manner, reports BSS. Different socio-cultural and

political organisations have ob-

served the anniversary through separate programmes. Sir Salimullah Muslim Orphanage held a discussion on the life and activities of the late leader.

Presided over by Nawab Begum Shamsunnahar Ahsanullah MP, president of the Orphanage, the discussion was also participated, among others, by Lt Gen (retd) Mir Shawkat Ali MP, Ali Imam and Alhaj G A Khan.

The speakers at the meeting described Sir Salimullah as the pioneer of Muslim renaissance in the undivided India. They called for evaluating Sir Salimullah's activities in the present perspective.

tions set up by him. Bangladesh Muslim League observed the day through offering fateha and placing wreath at the Mazar of the one of the founders of All India Muslim League.

They also demanded to

name after him the organisa-

Medical Centre from the SM

in Chittagong

- PID photo

The students — Nitai, Abdul Mannan and Fazlur Rahman reported that many others,

stranded inside the halls as the gates were locked. As the Shibirites were on rampage, activists of the JCD and GCO flocked together from the Madar Box and the Suhrawardy Halls to launch a combined attack on the Shibir

with stab wounds remained

stronghold - Zoha Hall. Until writing of the report at 12:30 midnight, clashes continued and the injured students were left unattended inside the halls as neither police nor the university administration officials could come

for their rescue. Exert pressure on India to rebuild Babri Mosque: ML

Muslim League yesterday called upon the international community for exerting diplomatic pressure on India to rebuild the Babri Mosque in its original site in Ayodhya and immediate halt of killing of Muslims in that country, reports UNB.

President of Muslim League. Kazi Abdul Kader was speaking at a discussion to mark the 78th death anniversary of Nawab Sir Salimullah, founding President of All India Muslim

The party founded in Dhaka in 1906 fought for and won a Pakistan. Kazi Kader referred to the turbulent situation in India and

Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Mizoram were struggling for liberation from oppressing Hindu rule. He paid rich tributes to the late leader and observed that had there been no Pakistan there would have been no

Bangladesh. Earlier, leaders and workers of the party offered fatcha the mazar of Nawab Salimullah at Begum Bazar in the old city and laid wreaths there.