# Angola shoots down S African plane

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 23 The Angolan government said today it had shot down a South African transport plane flying out of Jamba, the old headquarters in the south of the rebel movement UNITA, reports Reuter.

"A South African Hercules C-130, flying from Jamba with supplies for National Union for the total Independence of Angola (UNITA) troops was hit by government forces yesterday afternoon, crashing in Cachicala-Chiloango," said a statement from the general staff of the Angolan government forces, adding that the incident occurred on Friday.

The statement was broadcast on Angolan Radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

AP from Luanda adds UNITA rebel leader Jonas Savimbi has agreed to start UN brokered peace talks with the government next week, UN officials announced as violence flared throughout wartorn Angola.

The agreement Friday came at the end of a sobering week for the government. Rebels deleated government troops in the key northern oil town of Soyo, and threatened to overrun the oil-rich Cabinda area and diamond mines in the northeast.

The rebels have targeted

From Page 1 Col 7

lowing his statement in the

meeting, the Foreign Minister

categorically denied the alle-

gations that Bangladesh had

used any form of coercion, in-

lle said a section of

cluding restriction on rations.

relugees was resorting to un-

lawful means to prevent the

repatriation of those willing to

go back. Serious socio-eco-

nomic pressures are being

created in Bangladesh by the

presence of the large number

sentatives to visit Bangladesh

to see the situation on the

Mostafiz invited the repre-

The United States and the

High

Nations

Commissioner for Refugees

had already alleged that the

Myanmar refugees were being

coerced to return, and UNIICR

then withdrew from the pro-

held separate meetings with

two Assistant Secretaries of

State who appreciated the

Bangladesh government for re-

and looking after them.

Rohingya issue.

ceiving the Myanmar Muslims

views with the two US officials

at the State Department on

wide-ranging matters of bilat-

eral interest, including the

Djerejian, Assistance Secretary

of State for Near East and

During talks, Edward

ZAGREB, Jan 23: Clashes

between Croatian forces and

Serbs in southern Croatia

which were continuing today

have left dozens of casualties

on both sides, concordant

keswoman Shannonboyd said

the clashes were continuing,

while military sources here

said there had been dozens of

dead and wounded on both

Another report from Bel-

grade says: Twenty-one Serb

militiamen died in an ambush

set by Croatian army forces in

southern Croatia, the Tanjug

news agency reported here

The clash occurred at mid

day Friday at the Mal Alan Pass

quoting Serb military sources

at Knin, the Serb stronghold in

the Krajina region of southern

a special police unit based at

Graeac, 45 kilometres (28

miles) north of the coastal

town of Zadar. Authorities

there have ordered three days

Belgrade Television for Friday's

lighting in the Zadar hinter-

land had said six Serbs died

the self-declared Serbian re-

public of Krajina, Goran

Hadzic, Friday declared a state

of war in Serb-held regions of

Croatia after Zagreb troops

aunched an attack on Serb ar-

eas, Tanjug news agency re-

An earlier toll announced by

Meanwhile, the leader of

of mourning, Tanjug said.

with 15 others wounded.

The militiamen belonged to

Croatia.

on Mount Velebit, Tanjug' said

UN protection force spo-

sources said, reports AFP.

He had free exchange of

In the afternoon, Mostafiz

of refugees, he said.

ground

to send back the refugees.

Angola's oil and diamond industries, trying to cripple the government financially. Soyo is the base for foreign oil compa nies, including US-based

In Washington, State Department officials said the rebels were holding 20 foreigners in the Soyo area, but added that efforts were under way for their release. They said none were Americans, but did not say what nations the prisoners were from.

Texaco said all its employees were evacuated earlier in the week, but a spokesman for the Belgian oil company, Petrofina S. A., said Wednesday that 18 company employees were believed held by rebels in

State Department spokes man Richard Boucher expressed alarm late Friday over the UNITA attacks in Soyo, saying they jeopardized the economy and environment.

"The United States will condemn in the strongest terms any attachs on US facilities or personnel in Cabinda or elsewhere in Angola," Boucher

A U N official in Luanda, the Angolan capital, said Savimbi agreed to send representatives to the talks next week in the Ethiopian capital of Addis

South Asian Affairs, described

the Foreign Minister's visit to

Washington as "important and

forts of Bangladesh govern-

ment to bring about compre-

hensive reforms and

democratisation of the coun-

try and assured strong support

from the new US administra-

with Warren Zimmerman,

Assistant Secretary of State for

both the Secretaries of State

assured Mostafiz that US would

extend full cooperation so that

the Bangladesh government

and the UNIICR could work

closely for repatriation of the

US Abul Ahsan and senior offi

cials of the State Department

were present during the

Mostafiz attended a reception

arranged by the National

Endowment for Democracy in

honour of the new chairman of

the National Democratic

informally US Senators.

Congressmen and influential

leaders of the Democratic

Party attending the function.

Ambassador Abul Ahsan ac-

companied the Foreign

The announcement came

after Croatian forces launched

an unexpected attack on Serb-

held areas in southwest Croatia

which were under the protec-

tion of UN peacekeeping

Friday criticized the Croatian

offensive and demanded that

Croatian forces return to their

Rao's warning

From Page 1 Col 7

previous positions.

The UN Security Council

The Foreign Minister met

Committee David Wilhelm.

Earlier on January 21,

Bangladesh Ambassador to

According to the message,

Refugee Affairs.

Rohingya refugees.

meetings.

Minister.

lorces.

Croatian clash leaves

dozens of casualties

Mostafiz had also meeting

Djerejian lauded the the ef

timely.

"The government and the Mostafiz: No coercion

tion together to ensure better future for the next genera tion," she said. Referring to the local prob-

lems, she said those will be solved in phases and announced nationalisation of Sherpur College.

Another report adds: Begum Zia today called upon the youths to involve themselves more in self-employment projects and assured all sorts of government cooperation in

\*Self-employment is far more prestigious than doing any job," she told a workers' meeting of Rajshahi Division Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, the youth forum of BNP, at the district council auditorium this after-

She asked the youth to utilise the opportunities for loans provided by the government to set up small cottage

#### SAIC governing board meets tomorrow

Governing Board of SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC) begins here to morrow at 10 am, reports

the centre will approve the SAIC budget for next fiscal year (1993-94) and frame policies and guidelines for future functioning after a review of ongoing activities and achieve

Representatives from the SAARC member states -Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal Pakistan, Shri Lanka and host Bangladesh — will attend the meeting. Karma Tashi ol Bhutan will preside, officials

Bangladesh will be represented by Executive Vice Chairman of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council M Sujayet Ullah Chowdhury.

SAIC Director A K M Abdun Nur will conduct the meeting.

SAIC is the first regional institution established in Bangladesh in recognition of the need for promotion of ef fective cooperation in the field of agriculture among the SAARC countries.

# Revivalist Hindu militants

razed the 16th century Babri Mosque located at the site on December 6 in connection with the temple campaign, triggering extensive Hindu-Muslim violence across India.

Rao said the Ayodhya controversy had seriously affected the implementation of liberalised economic reforms launched by his government.

"While at least one (overseas) investor had approached us for setting up joint projects in India every day during the last one year, now there were hardly any," he said. "We have to create a peaceful and conductve environment for foreign investors."

Three other Hindu groups, including the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP, or world Hindu council) who were the sponsors of the temple, were outlawed by Rao's government following the mosque's destruction.

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#### Take united move to alleviate poverty: PM

SHERPUR (Bogra), Jan 23. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today expressed her confidence that the country can be come self-reliant "if we can properly utilise our national resources and huge man power," reports UNB.

"We know the country is poor, but we can alleviate poverty through united effort. she told a huge rally at Sherpur College ground organ ised by thana BNP this after The Prime Minister

stressed the need for checking smuggling which hampers in dustrialisation. Smugglers are the worst enemies of the country."

Referring to the huge re serve of coal, she said its ex traction can solve the coun try's fuel problem to a large extent as well as create employment opportunities.

"Power generation by using coal will help industrialisation," she said adding that the government has taken steps to ensure power supply to the rural areas through rural electrification programmes.

"We have to increase production in all sectors," she said mentioning different steps to boost output in fields and factories.

She said women should also take opportunities of training and loans to set up small and cottage industries which will help the economic stability of their respective families.

people have to build the na

this regard.

The seventh meeting of the

The three-day meeting at

#### Perot pledges support for Clinton

FORTWORTH (Texas), Jan 23: Former US presidential candidate Ross Perot began a promised series of electronic public meetings on Friday by pledging his Citizen Watchdog group's support for new President Bill Clinton, reports

Reuter. "The President made ... 156 pledges to the American people during the campaign, and without us most of this won't happen because of the foreign interests and the special in terests in this country," Perot said during an appearance at

the meeting. The meeting was broadcast by a local television station and a national radio network.

"But if we give full support and if we're organised and if we can display that support we can move the ball," he said.

The Dallas billionaire launched a national membership drive earlier this month for United We Stand, an organisation that he said will monitor the performance of the President and Congress in controlling federal spending and reducing the deficit.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia decorating engineers with medals in Rajshahi yesterday. - PID photo

## Engineers' convention

From Page 1 Col 3 problem of unemployment. We have to ensure proper production and distribution of electricity and limit its systems loss to a bearable stage. Find out the new sources of fuel, mechanise the agricultural system, take proper measures for checking droughts and floods, evolve new technology for constructing low cost roads and houses." The engineers had the major role to play in implementing these programmes, she added.

Begum Zia hoped that the engineers would come forward with their talent and innovativeness for building a prosperous future for all.

Turning to the problems of the engineers, the Prime Minister said that her govern ment was aware of them and it was active in solving the pro-

fessional difficulties faced by the engineers. She said as the part of the conscious section of the society the engineers should also consider the resource constraints of country which is the convention under the democratic system.

The function was addressed by the Institute President Jamilur Reza Chowdhury Honorary General Secretary M A K Azad and Rajshahi Engineers' Institute President Mazharul Islam.

The Prime Minister distributed Institutes' medals and certificates among the engineers for their significant contribution in upholding the aims and objectives of the institute. She also distributed certificates among the successful students who had taken part in the courses conducted by the institute.

cesses so that no one unit

could sink because of the delay

in pumping capitals and

Chairman said now the country

had the best investment cli-

mate in her history and urged

the entrepreneurs to take full

advantages of the policy incen-

asked the bankers to carry out

the feasibility study very care-

fully and if they find a project

financially viable, they should

provide loans without any de-

Governor also assured the BSB

management of a fresh credit

line for a rapid industrialisa-

Dr S M Ashequzzaman, a

larvard graduate and MIT PhD

in Economics now leading two

industries said." I want to

change the fate of at least an-

other 1000 families in the

country by setting up another

lour industries and want BSB

Nasimuddin Ferdous

Managing Director of Biz

Maker Group, also sought the

Finance Minister's interven-

tion for prompt sanctioning of

his 100 per cent export-ori-

tion entrepreneurs took the

floor and urged the Finance

Minister to further rationalise

the various formalities and lib-

Two dozens of new genera-

assistance in this regard.

ented project.

eralise procedures.

tion in the country

The Bangladesh Bank

The Finance Secretary

The Board of Investment

working capitals.

### Saifur: BSB funds bankers to expedite the pro-

From Page 1 Col 7 Translate your innovative projects into reality for the country's healthy development'. Rahman urged the entrepreneurs terming them as the vehicle of growth.

Rahman called upon them to salvage sinking industrial units by taking joint efforts and sharing responsibilities.

Referring to his series of meetings with the chairmen, managing directors and directors of different banks and financial institutions, and a number of policy measures already undertaken by the government, the Finance Minister said the country's economy was now picking up speed and was for an accelerated growth.

True, overnight we can't come out of the staggering problems created by the most corrupt autocracy of Ershad during his nine years misrule. Rahman said and added that the government had cleansed a lot, had restored fiscal and financial discipline and it would be able to improve banking system.

He assured the en trepreneurs that the government would remove all the barriers to industrialisation.

Rahman said, "We are trying to encourage the bankers to provide more funds for a rapid industrialisation and modernisation in the country."

He also expressed his dissatisfaction at the slow pace of loan sanctioning and disbursement and asked the

Yangon declares

southern waters

off-limits to ships

BANGKOK, Jan 23: Myan-

mar authorities have declared

an area of southern territorial

waters off-limits to all ships

except those involved in seis-

mic oil exploration operations,

state-run radio Yangon re-

were currently carrying out

seismic survey in the area, the

radio said, adding that all local

and foreign fishing boats were

identified as lying between lat-

itude 15:00 and 15:50 degrees

north and longitude 94:40 to

94:50 degrees east in the Gulf.

of Martaban, the radio said in a

only to oil exploration vessels

of Kyodo-Myanmar Oil Gas

Exploration and Production

Company, a joint venture oil

UN experts

From Page 1 Col 4

United Nations, Edward

Perkins, played down the at-

tack and a similar attack

Thursday and spoke optimisti-

cally about Baghdad's newly

cooperative behavior. Iraq de-

clared a "cease-fire" Tuesday

saying it was a declaration of

good will to President Clinton,

who assumed office Wed-

"At the moment, it seems

that Baghdad is complying

with the manifestations of the

Security Council," Perkins said

hope that this will cool down

in New York. "If that's so, I

the heat, so to speak."

The US ambassador to the

The restricted area is open

dispatch monitored here.

company, the radio said.

acts of provocation.

nesday.

The restricted area was

Two foreign drilling ships

ported today, says AFP.

ordered to keep out.

#### Cold wave: 140 die in northern dists in a month

Chilly weather in northern Bangladesh has left at least 140 people dead in the past month - many of them children living in slums, a newspaper said Saturday, reports

Eighteen people died Thursday and Friday in the northern Rangpur district where temperatures dipped to five degree Celsius (41 degree Fahrenheit), the prestigious Ittefaq newspaper reported.

The rest of the 122 deaths occurred over the past one month in Rangpur and 15 other northern districts, the report said.

Rangpur, a rice-growing district 248 kilometres (155 miles) north of Dhaka, was the worst-hit area where 90 people have died of exposure since mid-December, the newspaper reported. The temperatures are con-

sidered severe for tropical Bangladesh where lack of proper housing and warm clothing compound the miseries of millions of undernourished poor people. The average minimum tem-

perature during winter is about seven degree Celsius (44.6 degree Fahrenheit)...

Auranga From Page I Col 5 accusing Auranga of the mur-

der. The judge Kazi Habibul Awal adjourned the court until February 20. Public Prosecutor Abdur Razzaq appeared for the prosecution while Advocate Strajul Haq, Advocate Mosharraf Hossein Kajal and Advocate Sazwar Rahman de

fended the accused.

#### Court trying Ershad adjourned to pay respect to memory of Mahbub Ali

The special judge's Court trying former President II M Ershad, his wife Raushan Ershad and 18 others in the Janata Tower case had its proceedings adjourned yesterday for more than an hour to pay respect to the memory of late Alhaj Syed Mahbub Ali, a renowned lawyer of the country, reports BSS.

The one-man court, presided over by Additional Session's Judge Dhaka and special Judge Ansaruddin Sikdar, observed one minute's stlence in honour of the deceased, who was the president of Dhaka Ainjibee Samity.

Syed Mahbub Ali died Thursday night of heart failure in Dhaka at BIRDEM.

Attorney General Aminul lluq drew the attention of the court about the death of Syed Mahbub Ali immediately after the tribunal began its sitting for the day around 11-15 am. Recalling his long associa-

tion with late Syed Mahbub Ali, the Attorney General briefly described both the professional excellence and human qualities of the dead. He proposed that the court be adjourned till 12-30 pm. Former President H M

Ershad, his wife Raushan Ershad and former minister M A Sattar, all accused in the Janata Tower case, stood in silence alongwith the prose cution attorneys and their defence lawyers to show respect to Syed Mahbub Ali.

Responding to Attorney General's proposal, M A Malek defence lawyer for Sattar said besides being a distinguished lawyer, Syed Mahbub Ali by his amiable disposition carned the hearts of many of his colleagues. His death was both a personal loss and an irreparable loss to the bar and profession, he added.

Judge Ansaruddin Sikder while paying his respect, said in his death the nation had lost one of its ablest sons. Late Sycd Mahbub Alf's style of submission and respects for aw were remarkable, he said.

After the court resumed following adjournment, deposi tion of Shamsul Hug Miah, P W-8 was completed. Haq who was with land acquisition section of Dhaka Collectorate as a Kanongu testified that the pa pers were used by some of the accused persons to get allotment of government lands. The prosecution has evidence that some of the accused persons through fraudulent means procured documents showing that they were the aflected persons, entitled to get allotment. The defence will cross him

tomorrow when the court re-

#### Sırajganj Nirmul body man's bail petition rejected

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 23 : Sadar thana Magistrate court today rejected the bail petition of one of the accused in Khashem murder case and granted bail to two others, reports UNB.

Khashem, a Jamaat activist, was killed during a clash with Nirmul Committee on May 13,

1992 Fifty-one people were chargesheeted on September 9 in connection with the killing. Of them, 35 were earlier enlarged on bail.

Sadar thana Magistrate court today rejected the bail pctition of Monjurul Alam Shahin, General Secretary of pro-JSD (Inu) Chhatra League and sent him to the fail hazat. The court, however, gran-

ted bail to Monjur-c-Khoda, a local leader of JSD (Inu) and Monjur Hossain Bakul, VP of Sirajganj Government College.

#### Launch service from Mawa Ghat begins Launch service from Mawa

Ghat to different parts of the country by river routes has commenced, reports BSS. The Mawa launch service

was inaugurated yesterday by Wing Commander (retd) Hamidullah, MP at a simple ceremony. IWTA Chairman Golam Kibria attended the function as the special guest. President of Bangladesh

Launch Owners' Association K M Mahmudur Rahman also attended the function. BSP polls

#### Feb 10 The Annual General Mee-

ting and election of Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad (BSP) will be held on February 10 at the PIB auditorium, reports Distribution of nomination

papers for election to the BSP Executive Committee began yesterday. Nomination papers can be collected till January 29 from 4 pm to 6 pm from BSP Election Commission office at 24 Aminbagh, Santinagar.

Besides, for further information concerned persons can contact the Election Commi ssion office during the period and time.

# The Midnight File

#### 10m may die of AIDS in 10 years

PARIS, Jan 23: The French researcher who discovered the AIDS virus predicted in an article published Saturday that nearly 10 million people infected today could be dead within 10 years. Dr Lue Montagnier, head of the Pasteur Institute team that isolated the virus in 1983, called for a global foundation on research and prevention of acquired immune deficiency syndrome, reports AP.

#### Cuba wants only sovereignty recognition from US

HAVANA Cuba), Jan 23: Cuba, signalling its position on relations with the new Clinton administration, said on Friday it wanted nothing more from the United States than to be treated as a sovereign, independent state. "We are asking for nothing... just for them to behave as they are under a legal obligation to behave... to treat us as we are, a sovereign independent state," Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon told foreign correspondents, reports Reuter.

#### **Blast in Armenian** pipeline

YEREVAN, Jan 23: Public transport came to a standstill, telephones stopped working and lights went out in the Armenian capital on Saturday because of the bombing of a gas pipeline. The pipeline was blown up before dawn Saturday by unknown persons' in neighbouring Georgia, the Armenian government said. The explosion destroyed five pillars supporting the pipeline over a river in Georgia's Morneupolsky district, populated mostly by ethnic Azerbaijanis, the government said, reports AP.

#### Hasina

From Page 1 Col 5

of workers and employees of Bangladesh Spinning and Textile Federation who met her at the official residence to express their allegiance to the Awami League leadership.

"Wrong policy, inefficiency and nepotism of the ruling party is gradually pushing the nation towards disaster," the Awami League chief said.

The opposition leader regretted that the government backed out from its commitment made in agreement with different trade unions in the face of movement. Hasina said Awami League is

committed to a policy which

will protect the interest of workers as well as boost industrial production to achieve a self-reliant economy. She welcomed the workers and employees of Spinning and Textile Federation to her

party's labour front. Their joining to Sramik League will generate hopes among the people, she added. Awami League leader Amir lossain Amu, Spinning and Textile Federation President Mohammad Shah Alam,

General Secretary A B M Bazlur Rahman, Vice-President Ahmad Hossain also spoke on the occasion.

Meanwhile, BSS adds: The law sub-committee of Bang ladesh Awami League yesterday at a meeting with its chairman and presidium member Dr Mohammad Selim in the chair decided to form a sevenmember legal aid committee at every district to assist its leaders and workers in legal

Among others, the meeting was attended by sub-committee members Barrister K S Nabi, Advocate Sahara Khatoon and Momtazuddin Mehedi.

### Sukarno's wife jailed

MEEKER, Colorado: Indonesia's former first lady Dewi Sukarno was sentenced Friday to 60 days in jail for slashing a socialite in the face at a cocktail party, reports AFP.

The wife of the late Sukarno pleaded her case before the judge in Colorado, where she attended the January 2, 1992 celebrity affair in Aspen with the grand-daughter of a former Philippine president, Maria

"I do hope the judge knows that I never, never intended to hurt Minnie Osmena," said Dewi, whose request for probation was rejected.

Dewi, 52, pleaded guilty in December to assault and disorderly conduct in a pica bargain aimed at avoiding a possible prison term of 16 years.

The widely publicized trial was moved to a ranching town in northwest Colorado because of the attention the case received in the Aspen Ski resort town where the party attended by Ivana Trump and Elle Macpherson was held.

Authorities said Dewi slashed Maria Osmena with a wine glass leaving a large glass shard in her face and a wound which required 37 stitches. Dewt said the slashing was an accident, while Osmena said it was intentional.

#### Milam calls on Matin

The ambassador of the

United States of America. William B Milam, ealled on Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, at his secretariat office yesterday. The US envoy stayed with the minister for some time and discussed matters of mutual interest, reports BSS.

## APAO congress begins today

By Staff Correspondent

The 14th congress of the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) begins in the capital today (Sunday). President Abdur Rahman

Biswas will formally inaugurate the five-day congress at 4 pm at Sorargaon Hotel. A total of 150 ophthalmologists from almost all the countries in the Asia Pacific region

will join their 200 Bangladeshi

colleagues during the congress which aims at exploring proper ways to combat blind-Speaking at a press conference on the eve of the congress, Professor M A Matin, president of the 14th congress

of APAO, termed it a turning point in the medical history of Bangladesh. The congress would help foster closer interaction between the ophthalmologists in

the region, he hoped. Prof. Matin said that 50 scientific sessions would take place and three memorial lectures be delivered during the

Four plenary sessions would discuss the issues like prevention of blindness, nutritional blindness, paediatric blindness

and corneal blindness, during the APAO congress, he said. Besides, six symposia on different problems of eye discases would also be held,

Matin said In addition, 14 video instruction courses would be conducted for the young ophthalmologists during the APAO

APAO president Prof. Sancin Mishima and vice presidents of the 14th congress of APAO Prof. M. Mustafizur Rahman and Dr Rabiul Hossain were present at the press con-

#### Govt relief for Bandartila victims

CHITTAGONG, Jan 23: The government has undertaken a massive relief and rehabilitation programmes for the affected people of Bandartila and its adjoining areas, reports

The programme envisages payment of Taka 50,000 in cash for each person, died in the incident, as compensation and adequate relief materials for the affected people.

City Mayor Mir Mohammad Nastruddin told journalists at the corporation's office here this evening that the government had allocated Taka 40 lakh in cash for second phase of relief works while Taka 14 lakh had already been distributed in the first phase. The people, who were injured in the incident and are now under treatment, will be given Taka 5,000 in cash each in addition to other medical facili-

The Mayor said that 11 persons were killed and about 1531 families were affected in January 2 and 3 incidents and there is no report of missing of

#### JS resolution

From Page 1 Col 7 Bangladesh as a model of communal harmony cannot be taken seriously."

Expressing a desire to maintain a "friendly and harmonious" relationship with Bangladesh, the statement said "the government of India would insist that our bilateral relations continue to be governed by accepted norms and principles" of relations among neighbouring countries.

The statement concluded saying: "We shall, therefore, watch and judge future actions of the government of Bangladesh, with due attention."