NEWS DIGEST

Heroin haul

BANGKOK, Jan 2: An American man was arrested at Bangkok's international airport today on charges of possessing and trafficking in heroin, an anti-narcotics official said. Gregory Shaun Cooks 33. o Austin, Texas, was arrested as he was about leave for Taiwan The official said 1.4 kilograms (3.1 pounds) of heroin were seized, reports AFP.

Major's warning

LONDON, Jan 2: Prime Minister John Major said today British troops would not re main indefinitely in Bosnia and warned they would be withdrawn if their safety was jeopardised. Asked to comment on the prospects from more than 2,000 British soldiers in the former Yugoslav republic, Major told BBC radio. "I don't think disengagement is imminent in Bosnia", reports Reuter.

Talks hailed

TEHRAN, Jan 2: Iran today welcomed new talks between Pakistan and India as a move which could bring stability to the region, the official news agency Irna reported. A Foreign Ministry spokesman told Iran that negotiations in Islamabad could "help remove the existing tension" between the two sides and lead to restoration of peace and stability in the region. "We hope that the talks would have fruitful results," he was quoted as saying. reports AFP.

Fugitive held

MOSCOW, Jan 2: Alexander Barkashov, the last ringleader of the 1993 parliamentary rebellions till being sought by police, has been arrested. Interfax News Agency said today. Right-winger Barkashov, leader of the banned Russian National Unity Movement whose members gave Nazistyle salutes, was arrested late last week and transferred to a special Interior Ministry hospital, the agency said, reports Reuter.

Biased Spaniards

MADRID, Jan 2: Young Spaniards are becoming increasingly biased toward minorities, according to a survey published Sunday. The poll, published by El Pais, said 31 per cent of respondents would expel Gypsies from the country if they had a choice. Sixty-nine per cent either said they would not or did not know The percentage showed a steep rise from the 11 per cent who answered similarly in an identical survey carried out by the same group in 1986. the paper said, reports AP.

Suez tolls up

SUEZ (Egypt), Jan 2: Egypt has raised tolls by an average 3 per cent for most vessels that pass through the Suez Canal. one of the country's main sources of foreign currency. Rates for giant tankers, however, were reduced by up to 4 per cent. The new rates went into effect Saturday, Suez Canal officials said. They said the increase was moderate, taking into consideration the world economic situation, reports

Lebanon shelled

MARJAYOUN (Lebanon) Jan 2: Israeli-backed gunners shelled parts of South Lebanon today after a roadside bomb slightly injured a militiaman of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA), security sources said. The Islamic resistance, an umbirthin group of anti-Israeli guernin forces. claimed responsibility for the bomb which exploded just inside Israel's self-declared security zone, reports Reuter.

Crackdown

ALGIERS (Algeria), Jan 2: At least 780 people rounded up without charge two years ago in a crackdown on Islamic fundamentalists are still held in Sahara desert camps, a human-rights group charged. The detainees, held at Oued Namous and Ain M'guel in this North African country's vast southern desert, are the last of some 9,000 people herded into a total of five camps in march 1992, reports AP.

'Silences' released

BOMBAY, Jan 2: 'Silences', a collection of poems by Gulzar, well-known film maker and literary personality, was released here at the stroke of midnight last night by noted actor Om Puri. The book of poems is a translation of the author's original work 'Kuch Aur Nazme' - released in the 80's - from Urdu to English by Ms Rina Singh, teacher of poetry at Toronto, Canada, reports

Bad loans stand at Tk 2600 cr

Bank lawyers urged to pursue defaulters

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday urged the panel of lawyers and legal advisors of the nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) and financial institutions to put in their best efforts for quick disposal and settlement of cases involving recovery of bad loans of the banks, reports

The Finance Minister was addressing the lawyers at a meeting held at the National Economic Council (NEC) conference room here.

Referring to the huge cumulative bad loans of over Taka 2600 crore, disbursed from the NCBs and other financial institutions, the Finance Minister said, no banking system can work with such a huge burden of bad loans.

He expressed his dissatisfaction at the fact that only Taka 150 crore had been recovered out of the total over Taka 2600 crore till October

The Finance Minister directed the bankers to go for catching the big defaulters. He regretted that the bankers were running after the small borrowers and overlooking the 'big bulls' of the society, who have swallowed most of the public money from the banks

It was revealed in the meeting that Taka 21,430 crore had been disbursed from the banks till December 31.

1993. Of the amount, Taka 6.574 crore had been classified as time-barred.

As many as 1,77,428 certificate cases were pending with different financial loan courts to recover Tk 2.618 crore bad loans, out of which only Taka 150 crore has so far been recovered against decrees obtained in 15.883

Biman flight

From Page 1 Col 6 quoting Ujjal, said the man entered the airport's highly protected area by jumping over a fence — an under-construction site - and sneaked into the aircraft before anyone else

A Biman crew noticed Uffal when a passenger found him occupying his seat.

Ujjal was immediately handed over to the airport security, but the captain of the flight refused to fly without a proper security check of the aircraft following the incident.

However, the authorities changed the aircraft for the London flight (BG-005).

Ujjal said he was from Krishnanagar village of Jessore. When he approached the aeroplane, he saw some people working nearby. He asked them which one would go to Dubai or Kuwait and the people showed him the aircraft, he added.

Police suspect the adventur ous youngman is of unsound

Mizan demands white paper on foreign aid

Jatiya Party leader Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury yesterday blamed the BNP for stagnation in the economy and demanded a white paper on the receipt and utilisation of foreign aid in the last three years, reports UNB.

Production and development have stopped, mills and industries remained closed and workers are losing jobs because of the government's wrong economic policy, he told a meeting of ex-Chairmen of the now-defunct Zila Parishads at the "Grantha Kendra" in the city.

Chowdhury described as 'futile' the government claim of a huge foreign exchange reserves and the lowest inflation rate, saying these are negative symptoms, demonstrating total stagnation in the economy.

The BNP, during its election eering, had promised to provide jobs to one crore people, he

said. "But we saw tens of thousands of workers and employees sacked by the BNP government," he added.

On the JP policy of decentralisation, he said former President Ershad had introduced the upazila system and formed the Zila Parishads with elected representatives to develop the rural economy and improve the condition of rural people.

He criticised abolition of the upazila and Zila Parishads and claimed this was hampering the development process in rural areas. The proposed Zila Parishad Bill of the BNP government is now lying in "cold storage.

Chowdhury asked the party workers to rebuild the organisation at the grassroots level and said the future national elections would be seen as a referendum for the Jatiya Party and Ershad.

Chemists

From Page 1 Col 8 Ali Bhuiyan. The procession ended in front of the National Press Club.

"Only two years ago the government tried to enhance the drug licence renewal fees to Tk 5000 and Tk 10,000 from Tk 200 and Tk 500 respectively," a leader of the samity told the rally. "But we had convinced the government to raise the fees only upto Tk 1000 and Tk 2500 and now the government has once again raised the fees by another 50 per cent.

"We immediately protested the government decision and demanded its withdrawal. But so far there has been no response. Therefore, we have to

resort to a strike," he added. A separate 48-hour nationwide strike in all drug stores on January 10 and 11, and a continuous strike starting from January 26 was also announced

There are about 22,000 licensed drug stores in the country while another 40,000 are operating without any li-

BCS (Edn)

From Page 1 Col 8 a press conference today to give the government time to accept

their demands. The decision to defer the campaign was taken after a two-day meeting of the Prokrichi councillors on Friday and Saturday in view of the government's announcement to transform and upgrade jobs of some cadres at the district level.

Talking to The Daily Star Sunday night, Prokrichi leaders indicated they would be forced to take "tough decision" on launching an all-out agitation programme on April 8 if the government failed to weigh the gravity of the situation and seriousness of the agitation by the professionals."

The press conference has been organised to dispel any confusion and also to inform the nation about the latest condition of the movement," said MA Hena, secretary general of the action council.

He called upon the government to immediately accept and implement the demands put forward by the professionals.

Daring burglary

From Page 1 Col 4 that some officials had worked at the office until 4 pm on Saturday and the incident was noticed only yesterday morning when the employees returned for their duties. It is presumed that the burglary was committed sometime dur-

break the sophisticated locks. As normal practice, the keys of the doors and the col lapsible gates are kept in the custody of the Secretariat's caretaker.

ing the night. It might have

taken the thieves hours to

Some government officials pointed out inadequate security arrangements at the Secretariat, particularly at night. Only a small contingent of 14 policemen guards the huge complex, the seat of almost all the ministries and the civil service. Half of those police-

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by Mediaworld Ltd. 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

and printed at City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-

1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11,

Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4.

Box No: 3257. Cable: DAILYSTAR DHAKA.

Advertisement: 500091 (Direct). Fax No: 88-02-863035. GPO

men guard the two main gates while others patrol the

premises in small groups. Saturday night's incident is not the first of its kind in the Secretariat, though it was undoubtedly the biggest attempted burglary. Similar incidents also occurred previously at other offices located in the same building - Number 6.

Only about two weeks ago, a fire broke out at night in a room of the Religious Affairs Ministry, located on the 15th floor. The fire destroyed some papers and other materials. It was suspected to have been an act of sabotage.

A few months ago, burglars broke open a door of the Civil Aviation Ministry, housed on the 19th floor. The miscreants also opened an almirah. However, no major loss was re-

A good amount of cash was taken away by the burglars about a year ago from the then Science and Technology Division, again at the same build-

Cases were registered with police about all these incidents, but the mysteries are yet to be unearthed.



over prize to a winner of the first 'Bangabandhu Indoor Games Competition' at the Public Library auditorium in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Hasina calls to resist BNP corruption, terrorism

MUKTAGACHHA, Jan 2: up agro-based industries to Hasina today called upon the people to unitedly resist corruption and terrorism of the government' to save the country, reports UNB.

The people have lost confidence in the ruling BNP because the 'corruption resorted to by the Prime Minister's relatives, ministers and the BNP men' had ruined the national economy, she told a public meeting here.

Hasina alleged that the government had now resorted to terrorism and repression to cling to power.

Addressing the public meeting, organised to protest a recent attack on Advocate Badar Ahmed, a local Jubo League and Ghatak-Dalal Nirmul Committee leader, the Awami League leader demanded punishment of those responsible for the attack.

Party sources alleged that the activists of the BNP-backed Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal attacked Advocate Badar Ahmed on December 19 and severed tendons of his legs. He is now under treatment at the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

She said repression and killings cannot stop the Awami League from pursuing its politics for the welfare of the commonman. "It has a long tradition of struggle against autocrats and establishing the rights of the people."

The Awami League chief said her party wants to build a poverty-free Bangladesh and free the country from the curse of illiteracy within 10 years. It is also in favour of providing subsidy to agriculture and building

From Page 1 Col 5

ests of the workers. They call

hartals and strikes without any

issue to halt production in the

wants to develop the country.

But the opposition wants to de-

stroy it. She questioned their

patriotism. "Are they friends of

the people? Do they want wel-

party, which now accuses the

BNP government of failure, was

also in power but failed com-

pletely to serve the people. "This

party also fails to play its due

ment has adopted a suitable in-

dustrial policy, opening up in-

vestment opportunities for all to

resolve the unemployment prob-

lem and ensuring development

pact of shutdowns and indisci-

pline, she said foreign investors

feel shy to invest in Bangladesh

From Page 1 Col 4

widespread human rights

has become more worrisome in

recent years because both

countries are now believed ca-

pable of building nuclear

AFP adds: Indian Foreign

Secretary Jyotindra Nath Dixit

termed the current round ex-

ploratory and said attempts

would be made to narrow the

widely differing stances over

pessimism on the eve of the

talks, but the Indian diplomat,

refusing to prejudge the out-

come, said he was neither op-

ism in dealing with issues

when relations are problem-

two countries have to be ad-

dressed with a "sense of re-

spect for each other's con-

cerns and willingness to see

how far we can progress in

"We abide by sense of real-

The problems between the

timist nor pessimist

atic," he said.

Pakistan had expressed

The longstanding dispute

Pointing out the baneful im-

Begum Zia said her govern-

She mentioned that the

fare of the commonman?"

role as the opposition."

of the country.

abuses in Kashmir.

weapons.

Kashmir.

Begum Zia said the BNP

mills and factories."

Awami League president Sheikh generate employment opportu-

Referring to the debacle in the recent FAO Executive Director election where Bangladesh got only two votes. she blamed the government for tarnishing the country's image abroad. "The BNP has no friends abroad, only masters."

Hasina, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, accused Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia of signing a bond of slavery with

She said Begum Zia, who led a 'long march' on the Farakka issue only a few years ago, did not mention anything about the Ganges water sharing during her talks with Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in Delhi last year,

Hasina called the BNP a 'betrayer' government saying it did not implement the joint declaration of the Three Alliances, nor did it fulfil its commitment' about repealing the Indemnity Ordinance and separating the judiciary from the executive. The BNP also did not honour its agreements signed in Parliament and with the workers, she added.

The meeting, at the Shaheed Smriti College ground, was presided over by former MP Shamsul Huq. It was also addressed by Awami League presidium members Abdul Mannan and Amir Hossain Amu Shamsul Huq MP, Shamsur Rahman Khan Shahjahan, Advocate Fazlur Rahman, and Jalaluddin, father of Advocate Badar Ahmed.

Earlier, Hasina visited Badar Ahmed at the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

when they see frequent shut-

downs and blockades as well as

arson and destruction of public

on our own feet. We have a rich

soil but we must also exploit

the resources from beneath the

soil," Begum Zia said, adding

that her government had under-

taken programmes to extract

more than one lakh teachers for

schools and colleges would be

appointed within a year to help

implement the government's

education programmes. She

asked the local leaders and

guardians to look after schools

boom, she said Bangladesh is a

very small country but with a

large population and urged all

to share the responsibility of

"Bangladesh is dubbed a

country of problems. But it can

Indo-Pak talks on Kashmir

bridging the differences," he

Sardar Asteff Ahmed Ali told a

news conference here Friday

that, "We have afforded India

an opportunity to prove their

good faith" in peacefully set-

he warned New Delhi that the

current round would be the

last chance to resolve the dis-

declaration on the talks stated

that "all aspects" of Kashmir

The minister forewarned

that Pakistan would refuse to

continue the dialogue if the

Indian side indulged in

ter at international forums and

seek international initiative to

talks under very, very difficult

circumstances,' the minister

said, regretting a statement

Friday by his Indian counter-

resolve 'explosive situation.'

Pakistan will raise the mat-

Pakistan had agreed to hold

issue would be discussed.

'purposeless' discussion.

Calling it a decisive session,

The November 24 joint

tling the Kashmir issue.

Pakistani Foreign Minister

controlling population by keep-

ing their family small.

added.

Referring to the population

and colleges in their localities.

The Prime Minister said

the hidden wealth.

"We are now trying to stand

property.

Bangabandhu Indoor Games: Hasina

(AL) Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for commit ted leadership to retrieve Bangladesh from backwardness, reports BSS.

the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, was addressing the prize distribution ceremony of the 'Bangabandhu Memorial Indoor Games .Competition' as the chief guest at the Public Library auditorium here .

The Bangladesh Chhatra League organised the competition for the students of the University of Dhaka on the occasion of the Victory Day 1993

Sheikh Hasina, referring to

She thanked Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for her call to the students to be with books, pens and papers in their hands in the pursuit of knowledge. "Though late, I still appreciate her call", Sheikh Hasina said

With Chhatra League presi-

distributes prizes Chief of the Awami League

Sheikh Hasina, who is also

She distributed prizes

among the winners urging them to be imbued with the spirit of the Liberation War.

the present situation of the country, was critical of command of weapons over politics.

dent Mainuddin Hasan Chowdhury in the Chair, the function was also addressed, among others, by Awami League leaders Abdul Mannan, Amir Hussain Amu, Abdul Jalil, Obaidul Kader, Abdul Mannan, eminent soccer players and AL leaders Ashrafuddin Ahmad Chunnu. Badal Roy, Abdul Gaffar, general secretary of the Chhatra League Iqbalur Rahim and sports secretary Khawja Rah-

be turned into a country of

prosperity if we all keep our

Faruq put forward various prob-

lems and urged the Prime Min-

development of the area.

ister to resolve those to ensure

Assuring that she would look

into the problems, the Prime

Minister said roads and bridges

would be constructed and edu-

cational institutions provided

with additional financial sup-

men of Senbagh thana joined

the BNP at the meeting express-

ing their allegiance to the lead-

ership of Begum Khaleda Zia The meeting over, Begum Zia

planted a 'neem' sapling and

distributed some poultry birds

and cattle among the distressed

houses in Arjuntali, a village

adjacent to the meeting venue.

and talked with the women and

part Dinesh Singh that

Kashmir was 'irrevocably' part

Kashmiri groups and

Pakistani opposition parties

staged demonstrations as Dixit

arrived, protesting the 'atro-

cities in Kashmir and non-

representation of Kashmiris at

tions about Pakistani concerns

over the killings in the Indian

held Kashmir, saying that

bandied about by either side."

ture if the talks progressed.

today.

Dixit, however, paried ques-

She also visited a number of

women of the area.

of India.

the negotiations.

Four Union Parishad Chair-

Local MP Joynal Abedin

families small.

yesterday.

about 4 am vesterday. Raise voice against hartals

Ruhul Amin, 38 died on the

running train knocked him at the Kawran Bazar rail crossing at about 7.30 am yesterday. The victim, Mohammed Monu Miah, 50, died on the spot.

was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus at Khilgaon Vishwa Road at about 8 am yesterday.

From Page 1 Col 5

rushed to the scene, but came under attack. Police rounded up several students with kirich, ram daos and Chinese axes.

students from the college came out to the ghat and attacked the workers and police. They snatched their mates from the police.

aya thana.

Sonali Bank

Tk 75 lakh

The Midnight File

Archbishop of Canterbury returns to Kenya

NAIROBI, Jan 2: The Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, flew back to Kenya today after a visit to rebel territory in southern Sudan which led to an order expelling the British ambassador from Khartoum. Carey, spiritual leader of the world's 70 million Anglicans, arrived on a charter plane and declined to talk to reporters, reports Reuter.

Paolo Benelli dead

PESARO, Jan 2: Paolo Beneili, an engineer and major figure in the Italian motorcycle industry, died Saturday after a long illness. He was 59. Benelli was the son of Tonino Benelli. a motorcycle racer in Itally's pioneer racing days and founder of the Benelli motorcycle business, reports AP.

Rohingya refugees Repatriation of 119th batch cancelled

From Abdul Monayem Khan

COX'S BAZAR, Jan 2. The mitted the return of only 56 repatriation of the 119th batch persons of 12 families on the of Rohingya refugees today has next scheduled day. Tuesday. been cancelled because the This number is remarkably Myanmar authorities did not low," the sources pointed out.

give their permission. Sources said, so far 52,917 Rohingya refugees have returned to their homeland in 118 batches.

Although the repatriation process had been steady till the last week of December, it has recently slowed down.

The 117th batch, which returned home on December 24, comprised 57 persons while another schedule of the 26th repatriation was cancelled However, on December 30, a group of 172 persons returned to Myanmar.

The cancellation of today's programmes has put a question mark over the future of the repatriation process, the sources said, adding that the Myanmar authorities had per

Tk 7 lakh looted from bus COX'S BAZAR, Jan 2: Armed

bandits intercepted and looted a bus on the Cox's Bazar-Chittagong highway at 6 pm to-Around 50 passengers were

forced to remain silent spectators as seven dacoits stopped the bus a mile from Dulhazara Hospital and commandeered it deep into a nearby forest. fered in Russian affairs.

The dacoits relieved the passengers of nearly Taka seven lakh in cash.

3 killed in city incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

At least three persons were killed and as many injured in separate incidents in the city

An auto-rickshaw driver was killed when a speeding truck knocked his vehicle at Johnson Road, Dholaikhal at

The victim, Mohammed

In another road accident, a fish monger was killed when a

Nilufar, a 14-year-old girl,

Nilufar was seriously injured and admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where she succumbed to her injuries within half an

Aricha clash

Half and hour later, more

The unruly students beat a retreat when local people held Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader and GS of the college student union Nur Mohammad Khan Biplob with a Chinese axe. He

was handed over to the police. A case was filed with Shibal-

From Page 1 Col 7

"There are facts which can be The Sonali Bank, instead of doing so, lodged a case against He also said there were no the company for recovery of its plans in the current bilateral outstanding loan and sumtalks for any Kashmiri repremoned the company owners. through newspaper advertise But sources said Pakistan at ments, on December 28 for at a meeting with party heads tending the trial, scheduled on had assured Kashmiris that the ninth of this month. The they could be involved in fuoutstanding loan of the company to the bank, as described Reuter adds from New

> The recommendations of the committee, however, in cluded rescheduling of the loan and providing working capital to the company.

The sources also hinted at a

"Previously they allowed upto

2000 persons in a batch to re-

possible conspiracy to slow down the repatriation process by a particular quarter on both the sides of the border. "Such a politically motivated conspiracy has been hatched by some NGOs," the sources further

The UNHCR, which had been active in the repatriation process since January last, has also limited its activities. Presently, there are I lakh 98 thousand 786 Rohingya

in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts So far. 12,940 babies have been born in the camps while

refugees in 17 camps located

5133 refugees have died. Zhirinovsky

From Page 1 Col 7 post-Soviet elections, has dismayed Russian reformists and western governments alike with wild calls for restoration of the Russian empire and aggressive comments about neighbouring

states. Only two years ago he threatened to drop nuclear bombs on Germany if it inter-

Welt Am Sonntag, without providing any full quotes, said the diplomatic report and a tape recording showed that Zhirinovsky threatened Germany with "World War III" and its "complete destruction." The article, released ahead of

publication on Sunday, said the

ultra-nationalist would not complete the Russian pullout from former Communist East Germany should he come to Some 60,000 Russian sol-

diers and family members are still stationed in eastern Germany. Moscow, which once had 380,000 troops stationed in East Germany as the spearhead of the WARSAW Pact, will withdraw all its soldiers by August

this year as a part of interna-

tional agreements accompanying German unification in 1990. Zhirinovsky said he would return 300,000 troops to eastern Germany to back up additional reparation claims from World War II that would make

Germany "a poor country." the article said. All buildings constructed by Soviet soldiers in East Germany would have to be returned to Russia for use by Russian industry, he was reported to have

DC-10 crash

From Page 1 Col 7 When contacted over telephone. Captain Azizullah conveyed the same feeling, saying "I was given the wrong fore-

"I was told by the Control

Tower that I was landing into a 22-knot headwind but basically it was a failwind," Azizullah said. "Because of the tailwind the aircraft overshot the runway.

He claimed that during his 19-year career, he had a 10,000 hour flying record. He commanded DC-10 aircraft for 6,000 hours.

Phone links From Page 1 Col 7

operative. The government has taken up the T&T expansion programme after repeated com-

"In fact, the channels are overburdened," the minister said. "Sometimes, the people have to wait for a long time for a single call, for example, to Tariqui Islam said the gov-

ernment was exploring the possibilities of floating bonds for the channel expansion programme. According to T&T sources, the software business is growing fast. People are setting up firms and exporting data for which an increase of channels has become very necessary.

some officials of the Sonali, Bank responsible for the sickness of an electric lamp industry - Elite Lamps - and recommended some measures for its rehabilitation.

in the summons notice, is over

Delhi: Six people were killed in renewed separatist violence in India's northern state of Kashmir, Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported

plaints from the clients that they cannot get connections