

**NEWS DIGEST**

**German envoy held**

KARLSRUHE, Germany, Jan 6 (Reuters): A German ambassador has been arrested on suspicion of spying for communist East Germany during the cold war, the federal public prosecutor said today. The prosecutor's office identified the diplomat only as Rainer M, a German ambassador in a black African state. But Bild Zeitung newspaper said the suspect was Rainer Mueller, ambassador to Gabon.

**4 nuns stabbed**

NEW DELHI, Jan 6 (AFP): Nobel laureate Mother Teresa has condemned an assault on four nuns of her order by a tribal who stabbed them for not being allowed to attend Christmas celebrations, a newspaper reported today. The assailant attacked the four nuns late Tuesday in a leprosy hospital run by Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity and stabbed four sisters of her Roman Catholic Order with a knife.

**US condition**

WASHINGTON, Jan 6 (Reuters): The United States made it clear Wednesday that President Clinton would not meet Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk until there was an agreement on dismantling Ukraine's nuclear weapons. "We feel that on the outstanding issues... they need to be resolved before there can be a meeting involving the US President at the highest level," said State Department spokesman Mike McCurry.

**DPRK N-inspections**

SEOUL, Jan 6: North Korean and UN officials met Thursday amid strong indications that a reopening of the Communist North's nuclear facilities to international inspections could be worked out soon. The meeting in Vienna came under a broad package deal in which Pyongyang would allow renewed access to all seven of its declared nuclear facilities in exchange for improved political ties with the United States.

**Bombs found**

NEW YORK, Jan 6 (Reuters): Two unexploded bombs, both with notes attached criticising "Israel's liberal policies," were found by police outside Manhattan office buildings Wednesday and disposed of, police said. The bombs, found before dawn, could have caused severe injury, said New York police spokeswoman Merri Pearsall.

**Criticism allowed**

COLOMBO, Jan 6 (AP): President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga Thursday relaxed a law that prohibited inciting hatred against his office or the government, an official statement said. The change allows street protests, public rallies or even casual comments against government policies, act that were earlier dubbed as seditious.

**Benazir must restore my position: Nusrat**

LARKANA (Pakistan), Jan 6: Nusrat Bhutto, estranged mother of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, said today the family feud could only end if her daughter restored to her the leadership of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

Benazir Bhutto was acting like a dictator, Nusrat Bhutto told Reuters at the ancestral home in the southern province of Sindh a day after police opened fire on supporters of Benazir's jailed brother, killing one person and injuring at least nine.

Asked how the increasingly bitter family feud could be eased, Nusrat said, "the only thing is that she (Benazir) can restore my position."

Simmering rivalry between Benazir, 40, and Nusrat erupted last month when Benazir ousted her mother as PPP chairperson and was elected party head in its first

**Another case against Ershad**

Former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad was yesterday charged with the misuse of power by influencing the Relief Ministry to award a contract to the second lowest bidder causing a loss of nearly Tk 33 crore to the national exchequer, reports BSS.

Ex-President Ershad pleaded not guilty when the charges were read out by the special court comprising divisional special Judge Mohammad Ali Khan.

He is accused of violating a set procedure of the government for his personal benefit and did not pay any heed to the recommendation of the technical committee on specification in the purchase of 275 vessels and 23 engines under Japanese special grant.

The corruption charge said the former president compelled the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation to collect quotations from the Japanese companies alone and accordingly only four quotations were collected.

Among them the second lowest bidder Marubeni Corporation got the offer although its price was double of the lowest bidder. This caused a loss of Taka 32,90,80,854.70 to the state, the charge said.

The judge fixed February 9 for prosecution witnesses.

**Sindh Governor in city**

Governor of the Pakistan Province of Sindh Hakim Mohammad Said arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a five-day visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Hakim Said, who is also the president of Hamdard Foundation of Pakistan, will attend the annual general meeting of the board of trustees of Hamdard Foundation, Bangladesh.

internal poll since its 1967 formation.

Nusrat, 63, said she would challenge Benazir's effective internal party coup and has accused the Prime Minister of calling the party election only as a cover for her takeover.

"She wooed the people to get votes to become a dictator," Nusrat said. "God should never allow a woman to be a dictator because her dictatorship is worse than a man's."

Nusrat charges Benazir with usurping the party leadership.

**Rule**

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and Building Research Institute (HBRI), and four others including the government of Bangladesh, as represented by the Secretary, Ministry of Land, the Deputy Commissioner, and the officer-in-charge of the Mirpur Police Station.

The land, on which 2000 residents\* of the Pora Basti resided, according to sources, belonged to the semi-government organisation HBRI. Several NGOs, including the Manabik Shahajya Sangtha, were carrying out different development programmes in the slum.

**Khaleda**

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eracy rate.

The Prime Minister also addressed a huge public meeting at Itna under Kishoreganj district.

Referring to some local demands, the Prime Minister said the Bhairab Pourashava would be turned into a class one pourashava from its existing second class status and a bridge would be constructed over the river Kodalkati.

She also said steps would be taken to save Bhairab town from the river erosion, nationalise the Hajee Asmat College, turn the 31-bed thana health complex into a 50-bed one, expand rural electrification in the thana, build a women's hostel for the Rafiqul Islam Girls' School, metal the Bhairab-Mandipur-Sadekpur Road and supply pure water for the inhabitants of the Bhairab pourashava.

Addressing a section of the opposition parties of creating hindrance on way to development, Begum Zia said their agitational programmes were devoid of any direction.

Addressing the meeting at the Itna High School the Prime Minister said efforts would be made to supply electricity in this backward and low-lying area.

Begum Zia said her government would provide assistance in increasing fish production in the haors and beels of this area.

Financial assistance would be provided to various educational institutions of Itna thana, she added.



The Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organised a meeting in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding implementation of various demands. — Star photo

**Afghan palace compound catches fire**

KABUL, Jan 6: The presidential palace compound caught fire after being hit by rebel factions Thursday, the sixth straight day of intense battles for control of the capital, reports AP.

Also, the city's five hospitals said more than 3,000 people have been treated since the fighting broke out January 1. The death toll is believed to be in the hundreds as the rival Islamic group wage some of the fiercest fighting since they overthrew a Communist government in 1992.

The presidential compound, a series of buildings that's been a frequent target in recent days, was again hit, apparently by artillery fire. Falls of black smoke rose over the city centre late Thursday afternoon.

President Burhanuddin Rabbani is believed to be on the palace grounds, but state radio and television has been off the

**Abbas, Hanif**

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11 am while the allotment of symbols in favour of 675 commissioner candidates took seven hours, from 11 in the morning.

A final list of all the candidates with their respective symbols will be hung at the Returning Officer's office this afternoon.

The candidates themselves or their authorised agents came to the RO's office to receive their symbols. Many were accompanied by enthusiastic supporters who chanted slogans after the allocations, which took place amid tight security.

"It was a festive, colourful and interesting occasion," EC official Zakaria said.

EC officials themselves had to choose the symbols for two mayoral candidates — Mohammad Sadek and Mir Akhteruddin Ahmed — as neither turned up nor could they be contacted.

The other mayoral candidates and their election symbols are: Khandakar Shahidul Islam — Spectacles; Dr MA Rab — Turban; Makbul Ahmed — Light Bulb; Mojibur Rahman Kamel — Hurricane Lantern; Mahbubur Rahman — Lock; Mir Akhteruddin Ahmed — Tubewell; Mushtaq Ahmed — Green Coconut; Mohammad Shamsad — Telephone set; Moniruzzaman Mollah — Ship; Mujibur Rahman Choudhury — Tiger; Mohammad Sadek — Bullock Cart; Shaikh Mohammad Ali — Minaret; Subhass Chandra Dewnath — Hand-fan; Afzalul Haq Sikdar — Clock; Abdul Mattin — Book; Abdul Latif Bhasani — Pigeon; Nurul Amin Sarkar — Rose; Abdul Kader — Mango; and MA Khaleq — Horse.

**Zhirinovskiy calls Clinton a coward**

SHCHELKOVO, Jan 6: Russian extremist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy called Bill Clinton a coward Thursday, and said the American president should stay home and "play his saxophone" instead of coming to Moscow, reports AP.

Clinton arrives January 12 for a three-day summit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

"What kind of American president is he?" Zhirinovskiy asked. "He's coming and he's not going to meet with me? Let him play his saxophone instead of coming here and meeting with me!"

The White House has made it clear Clinton will not meet with Zhirinovskiy, a man whose ultranationalist views have been compared to those of Hitler and Mussolini.

Clinton "shouldn't show that he is such a coward. He should meet me personally, and I will tell him everything," the 46-year-old Russian politician said. Zhirinovskiy spoke to reporters while receiving his membership card to Russia's new parliament at a brief ceremony in Shchelkovo, his constituency 25 kilometers (15 miles) east of Moscow.

His misleadingly-named Liberal Democratic Party was the top vote-getter in December 12 elections, shocking President Boris Yeltsin's supporters and alarming the West.

Thursday's remarks were another vintage performance for Zhirinovskiy, who is known for outrageous statements.

**Hasina**

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problem, the opposition leader demanded that the government realise the due share of Bangladesh of the Ganges flow.

The Ganges water is unilaterally lifted by India at the barrage over the international river at Farakka in absence of water sharing agreement between the two countries since 1988, causing serious water crisis in Bangladesh.

"People will be made to believe that the BNP has sold out the country to India, if it fails to bring at least 44,000 cusec of water which was realised by the Bangabandhu government," she told the cheering crowd.

**BNP launches**

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Abbas, MP, Chief Coordinator of the steering committee Food Minister Lt Gen (Retd) Mir Shawkat Ali was in the chair.

The meeting was also attended by Labour Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman Patal, State Minister for Textiles Maj (Retd) Abdul Mannan, Major (Retd) Kamrul Islam, Haris Chowdhury, Goyesha Chandra Roy, Salauddin Ahmed MP, Amanullah Aman MP, MA Jalil, Ehsanul Kabir and Khairul Kabir Khokon.

BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder will address Sunday's meeting but the party workers have demanded Begum Khaleda Zia's presence at the formal inauguration of the campaign.

The steering committee has divided the city of more than seven million people into eight zones and assigned eight MPs elected from Dhaka to coordinate activities in each zone, Jallil said.

Major (Retd) Kamrul Islam MP will be in charge of Uttara-Banani-Baridhara, Jamiruddin Sircar in Mohammadpur-Dhanmandi, Mir Shawkat Ali in Lalbagh, Salahuddin Ahmed, MP in Demra, Mirza Abbas himself in Shajahanpur-Subujbagh, Sadek Hossain Khoka in Sutrapur, Maj (Retd) M A Mannan in Ramna-Tejgaon, Mohammad Mohsin, MP will be in charge of Mirpur.

The meeting also decided that the central leaders would attend the public meetings in all the areas but they would not use their official positions during the meeting.

The zonal committees will ask the thana and ward committees to hold meetings and bring out processions as part of the electioneering.

The steering committee has yet to decide the concluding programme of the campaign. The main opposition Awami League has announced that it will end its campaign through a meeting at Manik Miah Avenue.

Meanwhile, the ruling party has finalised the list of 90 ward commissioner candidates who will contest the January 30 elections.

**DU VC to meet students Jan 9**

By DU Correspondent  
Vice Chancellor Professor Enajuddin Ahmed will meet the leaders of different students' organisations on January 9 (Sunday) to discuss the present Dhaka University situation.

The meeting, earlier scheduled for January 5, was postponed due to the VC's sudden indisposition.

The Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) and hall union elections are likely to be the main items of discussion at the meeting.

Meanwhile, different students' bodies are demanding immediate announcement of the date for the DUCSU elections.

The Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) yesterday demanded dissolution of what it called, the present 'ineffective' DUCSU body.

**The Midnight File**

**US cuts China's textile quota**

WASHINGTON, Jan 6: The United States is to reduce China's textile quotas by 25 to 35 per cent from the 1993 level, US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor said today. The measure will take effect January 17, but will be retroactive to January 1. The decision came after Beijing said it had yet to agree to a US proposal for further talks on their dispute over quotas for Chinese textile imports to the United States, reports AFP.

**Pakistan for Afghan ceasefire**

ISLAMABAD, Jan 6: Pakistan made a fervent appeal today to warring Afghan factions in Kabul to agree to a 24 hour temporary cease fire from Friday to evacuate diplomats and Afghans wounded in six days of fierce fighting. A foreign office spokesman here expressed the Pakistan government's "deep regret" at the escalation of fighting in Kabul. He said the aerial bombardment was posing "greater danger to civilians" living in the war-weary Afghan capital, reports AFP.

**Prokrichi ultimatum**

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the Prime Minister last April and the assurance given by three ministers during a meeting held on December 29 last.

In this connection Majed, told newsmen that the coordination council would be compelled to review its January 1 decision, which decided to defer certain agitational programmes following an understanding between the council leaders and the government on December 29, at its forthcoming council session on Jan 9.

The Prokrichi leaders, interpreting the government move of sending non-administrative officials and professionals on forced retirement, said that the democratic government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had now become a hostage of the bureaucracy.

"This bureaucracy was reluctant to hand over power to the elected representatives of the people," Majed said, adding that Hena became a victim of the bureaucracy because he stood firmly against all misdeeds committed by the bureaucrats.

Majed, criticising the bureaucracy for its alleged suppression of the report of the Justice Anwaruddin Ahmed Commission on corruption, observed that the top bureaucrats,

**ADP**

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than the Taka component.

"This has happened mainly because there had not been strict monitoring of these self-financed projects," sources said.

The government is now embarking on some socks pulling programmes to give a fillip to the implementation process. The Ministry of Finance will be holding regular review meetings with the PIUs of major projects. Emphasis will be given on the foreign aided projects, especially in the ministries of Livestock, Fisheries, Forestry, Energy, Education and Local Government.

At the same time, individual donor-wise review meetings will be arranged to identify bottlenecks. The ERD is now holding review meetings with all ministries.

Our main effort for picking up the ADP implementation rate is already on with the onset of the dry season," another source said adding "We will try to utilize as much funds as possible before the next monsoon."

popularly known as the Group of Ten (ten Secretaries), had been actively involved in large-scale corruption during the Ershad regime.

The report was prepared during the interim government of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and the present government had pledged to publish the report.

The Prokrichi leaders demanded publication of the report of Justice Anwaruddin Ahmed as well as the one prepared by the US investigative firm Fairfax on the corruption during the Ershad regime.

State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Haque was not available, till filing of this report late last night, for comments on the issue.

**3 officials retired**

The government has retired three high government officers from service, according to an official handout here last night, reports BSS.

The retired officers are: Chairman of the Land Reforms Board Mohammad Faizullah, Director General of the Bangladesh Management Development Centre Md Abu Hena and Md Maniruzzaman Chowdhury of the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation.

**BMA strike**

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"We are not agitating for any pay rise or financial benefits but to improve the health sector of the country," Gazi Abdul Haq said.

"During the last two years, the BMA held talks with the government 16 times. The Prime Minister and the Health Minister, during the talks, expressed their desire to resolve our problems but nothing has been done," he added.

The BMA handed over a copy of the charter of demands to the Health Minister last September and held rallies and brought out processions in support of its demands in November and December. It also observed a token strike in December and a token hunger strike and sit-in on December 28.

"We had not called any such strike in the last three years considering the interests of the people and the democratically-elected government."

**B Bank report confirms poor response to macro-stability**

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Bank report, released Wednesday, confirms the fear expressed by the business and banking circles over the impact of a sluggish investment rate and bureaucratic tangles on the overall growth of the economy.

As predicted by the chambers and other professional groups time and again, the micro-economic activities were not moving fast enough despite an impressive macro-level performance.

The report observes that changes in the attitude of economic operators in both public and private sectors to market-oriented and outward-looking policy changes are needed to get benefits out of the stability in the macro-economy.

The bank also stressed the need for improvement in the level of efficiency of the public and private sectors to achieve the desired goal regarding investment.

Bureaucratic tangles in decision-making and dilatory process of implementation, overcaution among the bankers in an environment of post-reforms transparency and accountability, and trading operations being relatively more profitable, less restrictive and without risks, are the major reasons identified by the central bank that contributed to the sluggishness in investment.

The reasons hindering investments also include tightening up and enforcement of discipline in repayment of loans, strengthening of legal structures relating to recovery of loans, overall law and order situation, labour unrest and the increasing competition being faced by import substitution industries in view of the liberal foreign trade policy.

The bank was also apprehensive about the future of foodgrain production since it observed that the growers had totally failed to recover their costs of production for two years in succession.

It also stressed the need for adequate supply of fertilizer, seeds and other agricultural inputs as well as adequate credit supply for them, saying that otherwise overall investment would be affected because of the lack of effective demand of the industrial products.

The successes of the economy, as noted by the central bank report, include a significantly lower inflation rate, increase in domestic resource mobilisation to finance the annual development programme, growth in the foreign currency reserve, reduction of bank rates, wide-ranging financial sector reforms, increase in export earnings, effective implementation of the value added tax and reforms in some other areas of the tax system.

The domestic resource content rose to 26 per cent as a result of all this, up from only 13 per cent during the 1990-91 fiscal. The GDP-tax ratio also went up to 9.3 per cent during this period, from 7.7 per cent of fiscal 1990-91.

According to the BB report, the growth in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has registered a little improvement by increasing to 4.3 per cent in 1992-93 from 4.2 per cent of the previous year.

Meanwhile, the growth in agriculture declined to 2.1 per cent in the last financial year, from the 2.2 per cent of the previous year. The growth in the industrial sector, however, went up to 7.7 per cent from the 7.3 per cent of the previous year.

The growth in the electricity and gas sector declined to 12.4 per cent in the 1992-93 fiscal from the 17.5 per cent of the previous year.

The report also mentions that aggregate domestic investments stood at 12.7 per cent of the GDP in 1992-93 fiscal year against 12.1 per cent in the previous year.

The deficit in the balance of trade position increased by 289 million dollars, to 1,848 million

dollar in 1992-93. The deficit in current account balance, that takes trading operations in both goods and services into account, rose by 28.9 per cent, from 605 million dollars in 1991-92 to 780 million dollars in 1992-93.

A total of 1675 million dollars were disbursed as external assistance in 1992-93 against 1611 million dollars in 1991-92.

Tk 814 crore was disbursed as agricultural loan as against Tk 749.59 crore in 1991-92.

The foreign exchange reserves of the country registered a rise by 513 million dollars. This rise included receipt of 81 million dollars from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), 30 million dollars from the IDA and 59 million dollars from Japan. The rise in remittances from Bangladesh expatriates and export earnings were 84 million dollars and 234 million dollars respectively. The import expenditure increased by 523 million dollars in 1992-93. The reserve in the Bangladesh Bank increased by Tk 2082.7 crore.



A colourful rally was brought out in the city yesterday marking the Education Week.

— Star photo

ডিশ এন্টেনার মাধ্যমে বিশ্বব্যাপী ইসলাম প্রচার

আমরা আনন্দের সাথে ঘোষণা করছি যে, ইনশাআল্লাহ আজ ৭ই জানুয়ারি ১৯৯৪ লন্ডন থেকে MUSLIM TV AHMADIYYA বাংলাদেশ বিভিন্ন ভাষায় ইসলামের প্রকৃত শিক্ষা ও আদর্শ সম্পর্কে প্রতিদিন ১২ (বার) ঘণ্টার অনুষ্ঠান প্রচার করবে। অনুষ্ঠানটি লন্ডন সময় ১-১৫মিঃ ও বাংলাদেশ সময় সন্ধ্যা ৭-১৫ মিঃ থেকে শুরু হবে।

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BSEC Bhaban  
102, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue  
Dhaka-1215

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Seventh floor - 3000 sq. ft  
Ninth floor - 6000 sq. ft

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