

Nusrat screams at judges trying Murtaza

KARACHI, Jan 29: Nusrat Bhutto, mother of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, demanded bail for her jailed son and repeatedly screamed at a judge, who walked out of his courtroom Saturday in response to the outburst, reports AP.

"I am very tired and fed up with your conduct," Nusrat Bhutto shouted at Judge Ali Ahmed Junejo, who is presiding over the trial of her son Murtaza Bhutto. "You are not properly handling the case. I will take the matter to parliament. I am getting tired of coming here."

"You are threatening me. I cannot proceed this way," replied the judge, who then postponed the case until February 6 and promptly left the courtroom.

The episode illustrated the often arbitrary nature of the court system in Pakistan, where the rich and powerful are considered capable of influencing the legal process.

Nusrat Bhutto is not involved in the case against her son, who is accused of masterminding a 1992 attack against the Pakistan Navy that left seven dead.

Nonetheless, she appeared at defence table and unleashed her lengthy tirade against the judge shortly after the proceedings began.

Murtaza Bhutto, one of 14 accused in the case, was not present for the 9 am hearing. Police finally brought him to the court around noon, well after the case was adjourned. He was promptly returned to Karachi's Landhi jail.

Also, the state prosecutor was not present. He was attending a convention in India, but had not informed the court he would be absent.

The case is considered im-

portant because Benazir, the Prime Minister, is engaged in a bitter family feud with her mother and her brother that could threaten Benazir's government.

Benazir and Murtaza Bhutto are political rivals who both see themselves as the political successor to their father, former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was ousted in a 1977 military coup and hanged two years later.

Nusrat Bhutto has sided

with her son. Both of them have their own supporters and are capable of causing considerable political problems for Benazir.

Murtaza Bhutto has been jailed since he returned to Pakistan in November from 16 years in exile. In addition to the current trial, he also faces charges that he masterminded a 1981 airline hijacking.

In both cases, he could receive the death penalty if convicted, though most observers expect a lesser sentence.

Arafat asks Major to help break deadlock over autonomy talks

JAKARTA, Jan 29: Indonesia, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Chairman, will cooperate with the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) member countries particularly Malaysia to convene an international conference on resolving the Bosnia-Herzegovina conflict. Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said today, reports Bernama.

"We will work together with OIC especially Malaysia, as an OIC member, which is the prime mover for convening the conference all this while," he told reporters here on his return from a three-day visit to Yemen.

Alatas was asked to comment on president Suharto's support Friday to a proposal to organise the international conference after Suharto held talks here with Bosnian President Dr Alija Izetbegovic on the Bosnian issue.

Izetbegovic, who is here on a two-day working visit, had told Suharto that he was prepared to attend the conference.

13

Loan repayment dues

From Page 1 Col 7

amount was 504 million dollars. In 1986-87, 707 million, in 1987-88, 478 million, in 1988-89, 622 million and in 1989-90, 723 million dollars. The amount of commodity aid during the same period was 1516 million dollars.

The grace period of these loans — ten years from the time of receiving — will end by 1996-97 and the repayment amount will suddenly rise putting the government in a difficult situation to repay the loans unless foreign exchange earnings increase.

Now, financial experts question the cost-effectiveness of these loans, the bulk of which went to the country's perennial loss making public enterprises. Twenty-nine public enterprises are set to make a loss of Tk 9250 crore this year. Last year, their losses ran as high as 13250 crore. The harmful effects of such wasteful foreign aid utilisation on the economy are likely to be more exposed in the coming years, they fear.

Against this backdrop, adequate steps are not being taken to promote the exports of the country. Last year, the country had to pay 13.7 per cent of its total foreign exchange earnings to repay the loans. The bulk of the earnings came from remittances by overseas workers and garments export.

Incidentally, none of these two sectors received any foreign aid. According to experts, the accountability and effectiveness of the loans should now be established to check wastages.

Unless a special thrust is now given on improving the

Prokrichi demands implementation of reform programme

By Staff Correspondent

The Prokrichi and BCS Central Action Committee yesterday called upon the government to implement the administrative reform programme neutrally.

Speakers at the meeting said the high-ups in the BCS Administration cadre were trying to influence the government decision on administration reform programme to serve the interest of their cadre. Such attempt would worsen the situation in the administration further, they warned.

They also demanded immediate implementation of the government order issued on January 8 this year and criticised the government for bowing to the administration cadre of officials by delaying the implementation of the order.

Aftershocks jolt LA

LOS ANGELES, Jan 29: Los Angeles woke up to strong earthquake aftershocks Saturday, and police arrested an alleged quake-relief con artist who peddled dials 500 worth of food stamps, reports AP.

Uneven coverage

By Staff Correspondent

The national steering committee for observing the city corporation elections, 1994, in a survey found that the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) had 58.30 minutes' exposure in the eight o'clock BTV Bengali news in one week starting from January 20 while the Awami League had only one minute coverage.

The survey was conducted to determine the degree of neutrality and objectivity of the BTV news.

During these nine days, the total time of the Bengali news was four hours 18 minutes.

Police pick up election-agent

By Staff Correspondent

Dhanmondi police yesterday evening picked up one Emran Hossain, election-agent of an independent commissioner candidate for Ward No-48 for interrogation.

The police did not mention any specific charge against Emran.

Pilot's contract

From Page 1 Col 5

Respondent adds. Captain Rahman was remanded in the city Detective Branch's (DB) custody yesterday for two days of interrogation.

Captain Rahman was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate early yesterday.

Captain Rahman was being interrogated last night, said a senior DB official.

Replies to a question, he said the meeting did not dis-



Nusrat Bhutto with her son. Both of them have their own supporters and are capable of causing considerable political problems for Benazir.

— AFP photo

SAARC Speakers' council adopts draft rules

The two-day first meeting of the Council of the SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians concluded here yesterday adopting the draft rules of the organisation and fixing Pakistan as the venue of its next meeting, reports BSS.

Announcing this at a press conference, Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali said chairmanship of the association would rotate like that of SAARC and the host country would bear the responsibility of publishing the journal.

He said the next meeting of the council will be held in Pakistan at a time to be determined later.

Bhutanese Speaker Dasho Pasang Dorji, Speaker of Indian Lok Sabha Shivraj Patil, Speaker of Maldives Citizen Majlis Abdulla Hameed, Nepalese Speaker Damai Nath Dhungana, Speaker of Pakistan National Assembly Syed Youssaf Raza, and Speaker of Shri Lanka M H Mohamed were present at the press conference in 1991.

Giving a background of the association, Shri Lankan Speaker M H Mohamed said in the inaugural meeting held in Colombo it was decided that "we shall have a charter and rules."

He said the charter was ratified at a meeting of the Speakers of South Asian countries held in Nepal and now the rules were ratified in Dhaka.

Replies to a question, he said the meeting did not dis-



Firemen battle a raging blaze caused by rockets fired by factions opposing Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani crashed into the bazaar opposite Kabul's famous Pul-i-Keshi Mosque yesterday.

DCC polls diary



— AFP photo

African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela waving at supporters during the launching of the ANC election manifesto which started with a train ride from Johannesburg station to Nasrec, near Soweto, in South Africa.

— AFP photo

— AFP photo