

Peace will be jeopardised if accord delayed: Arafat

GENEVA, Feb 1: PLO leader Yasser Arafat said today that the entire Middle East peace process would be under threat if agreement on an initial Israeli troop pullout from occupied territories was delayed much longer, reports Reuter.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman said he still hoped to sign the accord at a meeting in Cairo with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Sunday.

But Israeli peace negotiator Yossi Sarid told Israel radio "I don't think that in Cairo the agreement will be signed at this stage."

And earlier he told the radio: "We're speaking of weeks but I wouldn't want to say anything more precise."

After weekend talks in the Swiss ski resort of Davos, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators both said an accord was close.

Arafat, in Geneva to address the United Nations Human Rights Commission, told a news conference that Israel had asked for a period of six days to review what both sides were terming the "Davos agreement."

Asked if his own influence over Palestinians in Jericho and the Gaza Strip could withstand delays beyond that, Arafat replied: "The problem is not one of my own person."

BSRS claim termed 'confusing'

By Staff Correspondent

The BSRS Entrepreneurs' Forum, in a statement yesterday, protested the news item published in newspapers regarding rehabilitation of sick industries by the Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS).

The news item, created by the official Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), said that the BSRS has rehabilitated 79 industrial units as per the direction of the Ministry of Finance.

The forum termed the item 'confusing' and said the BSRS authorities had released such news as part of a conspiracy to destroy the industrial units eligible for rehabilitation.

The statement, issued by Alauddin Ahmed, convener of the BSRS Entrepreneurs' Forum, said in fact, the entrepreneurs of the sick industries had rejected the proposal of rehabilitation from the BSRS because of some unacceptable conditionalities. The actual number of rehabilitated industries is not more than 20, he pointed out.

Alauddin Ahmed also criticised the BSRS authorities for not holding any meeting of the tripartite committee formed by the Ministry of Finance to accelerate the process of rehabilitation and alleged that the Sangstha, instead of following the directives of the ministry, had involved itself in propagating 'false' information regarding rehabilitation.

Lalbagh killings protested in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Feb 1: City dwellers today became panicky following the killing of six people in Lalbagh, Dhaka in post-election violence Monday.

Thousands of people from all walks of life brought out a procession and went to the office of the Police Commissioner to handover a memorandum this afternoon demanding arrest of those involved in the incident.

The Khulna District Imam Parishad led the procession and gave a 24-hour ultimatum to the police administration to bring the culprits to book or face the consequence.

Principal of the Khulna Alia Madrasah Maulana Abu Saleh, Jatiya Party mayoral candidate S M A Rab, former J P whip Mia Musa Hussain and Awami League commissioner candidates of different wards and local leaders of the Jamaat-e-Islami participated in the procession.

The parishad will hold a rally at the Dak Bungalow crossing here tomorrow afternoon.

Lalbagh incident condemned

The coordination council of the Bar Associations, Bangladesh yesterday condemned the brutal armed attack on an electoral victory procession at Lalbagh Monday in which at least six persons were killed and nearly 50 others injured, reports BSS.

In a joint statement, council President Shamsul Haq Chowdhury and General Secretary AFM Mesbahuddin said that the government had no scope to ignore the responsibility of such brutal incident. They demanded punishment of the offenders responsible for the incident.

They also called upon the government to pay compensation of Taka ten lakh to each of the victims, died in the incident.

The council leaders observed that the incident might be part of deep-rooted conspiracy to disrupt democracy. They called upon all democratic people to be united to thwart such heinous designs of the vested quarters. They expressed deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved families.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurating the Ekushey Book Fair at the Bangla Academy premises yesterday. Jahanara Begum, State Minister for Cultural Affairs, is also seen.

PM: Consciousness

From Page 1 Col 3

change views to enrich our literature and culture," she pointed out.

"We want to preserve this environment for the development of the Bangla Language and national progress," Begum Zia told thousands of book lovers, publishers, intellectuals, poets and writers.

Begum Zia said her government was determined to ensure the development and preserve the distinctiveness of national culture and promote the cause of the mother tongue.

That is why we have laid emphasis on freedom in unhindered publication of books and periodicals," she said, adding: "A silent revolution has already occurred during the last few years in our printing and publication industry."

Describing the Bangla Academy as a national institution, the Prime Minister said the government has so far sanctioned Taka 3.14 crore for modernisation of the Academy press to equip it for

BTV denies allegation

Bangladesh Television BTV did not telecast any special news item in connection with the city corporation elections, a PID handout said here last night, reports BSS.

It said, a report published on January 30, purported to be based on a survey, was motivated to influence the voters and the publication of the report on the day of the elections was a heinous attempt by a certain quarter to realise its own interests.

The handout said that though Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had addressed four electoral meetings, BTV neither recorded the events nor telecast any news about those meetings.

From January 20 to January 28, the Eight O' clock news carried telecasts of development activities and public meetings, outside the four metropolitan areas, visited by the President, Prime Minister and members of the cabinet, purely on the basis of news value. News of the Election Commission and the Leader of the Opposition were also telecast on the same basis, the handout said.

"Since it is a BNB government and since most of the development news transpires through the activities of the Prime Minister and members of the cabinet, the ruling party gets a large chunk of publicity time, not as a party as such but as the government, the handout pointed out.

The handout said this is applicable not only to BTV, but to all news media.

It lamented that despite BTV's neutral role during the city corporation elections, such and adverse campaign had been carried out.

Cocktails hurled at Nasiruddin's residence

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 1: Three cocktails were hurled at the gate of Mir Md Nasiruddin's residence on the Chatterhari Road here this evening, family sources said.

But none was injured. When contacted the Kotwali police said some processionists blasted crackers but there was no casualty.

Mir Nasiruddin contested the city corporation elections here as BNP's mayoral candidate.

New Ctg mayor

From Page 1 Col 7

fire-crackers at the venue. Mohiuddin urged the government to ensure allocation of funds for the development of Chittagong, against the earning of 80 per cent revenue through this major port.

"Otherwise, I know how to realise our share," he said, throwing a challenge to the government.

Mohiuddin announced that he would make all-out efforts to fulfill his election pledges during his five-year tenure as mayor.

"All terrorism must be stopped in this city from today and I will take the responsibility to ensure peace and discipline in every locality here as I want to build a just society free from terrorism," he declared.

He said no eviction of homeless people would be allowed, here until measures could be taken for their rehabilitation.

"I will also take responsibility on behalf of the labourers for ensuring peace in the mills and factories to promote production," he added calling upon the owners for reopening the closed industries.

Mohiuddin demanded proper implementation of the wage-commission for the labourers. He also announced that a plan would be drawn by him for expansion of the city limits from 60 square miles to 100 square miles to generate more facilities and employments for the people.

Mohiuddin assured of withdrawing municipal tax-increase and pending signboard tax in addition to exemption of electricity and water bills in all mosques, temples and other religious sites in this city.

He also assured of running the City Corporation on non-partisan lines.

"I want cooperation from all to serve the purpose of the people of Chittagong and any good advice or pragmatic suggestion from any quarter will be acceptable to me", Mohiuddin said.

Mohiuddin said those who had acted against him or had threatened his supporters during the election must enjoy his forgiveness and kindness.

He advised his partymen to be modest and lenient in victory. He also advised them not to bring garlands for him or explode any fire-crackers. "But you should work for establishing peace", he added.

The rally was addressed by other party leaders including Abdus Shahid, Mosharrif Hossain, Sekandar Hyat Khan, Najibul Bashar, Ataur Rahman Kaiser and Advocate Shafiq Alam.

7 sub-committees formed to formulate health policy

The National Commission for Formulating Health Policy (NCFHP) at a meeting yesterday formed seven technical sub-committees to formulate national health policy, reports UNB.

The sub-committees will submit their reports to the NCFHP within three months, said a PID handout.

Paris, Riyadh reach 3 arms accords

PARIS, Feb 1: France and Saudi Arabia have reached three arms agreements worth about nine billion francs (1.5 million dollars), the French Defence Ministry announced today, reports AFP.

The agreements, under discussion for the past four years, are for modernisation of warships and maintenance of missiles and radar systems and should provide about nine million hours of work for French industry and shipyards over the next six years, the ministry said.

The ministry said the three contracts had required a final go-ahead from the Saudis.

Repolling in 25 centres

From Page 1 Col 4

sporadic incidents, were free, fair and neutral.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission last night announced the corrected provisional results of 709 centres out of 737 centres of the mayoral elections of the Dhaka City Corporation held on January 30.

According to the corrected results, Mohammad Hanif of the Awami League polled 4,16,153 votes while his nearest rival BNP-supported candidate Mirza Abbas secured 3,40,528 votes.

Col (ret'd) Abdul Malek of the Jatiya Party bagged 59,810 votes followed by the Jamaat-e-Islami candidate ATM Azharul Islam who secured 34,465 votes.

The list of the centres where repolling will be held are as follows: 216 - Haji Ainunnessa Hafezia Islami Madrasah; 217 - Meradia Government Primary School (male); 218 - Meradia Government Primary School (female); 387 - Jamia Mohammadia Arabia Mohammadia Housing; 388 - Barabo Government Primary

- School (Satmasjid Road); 399 - Gajmahal Government Primary School (female); 509 - Lalbagh Community Centre (male); 510 - Lalbagh Community Centre (female); 513 - Al-Haj Anwar Hossain Government Primary School (female); 514 - Al-haj Anwar Hossain Government Primary School (male); 515 - Lalbagh Government Primary School No-2 (male); 516 - Lalbagh Government Primary School No-2 (female); 524 - Azimpur Girls High School (male); 525 - Azimpur Girls High School (female); 528 - Little Angels, Azimpur; 546 - Haji Ibrahim Ali Government Primary School, Islambagh (female); 547 - Haji Ibrahim Ali Government Primary School (female); 584 - Siddique Bazar Community Centre; 585 - Siddique Bazar Community Centre; 586 - Siddique Bazar Primary School; 641 - Rokanpur Government Girls Primary School; 729 - Hazera High School, Jurain (male); 730 - Hazera High School, Jurain (female); 736 - Hazera High School (male); and 737 - Hazera High School (female).

Contentious issues

From Page 1 Col 4

Anwar Kamal said, "If there is security problem then cooperation among the member countries becomes rather difficult."

He said such issues hindered people-to-people contact which was needed for better cooperation.

Referring to his Indian counterpart's proposal for economic cooperation he said, contentious issues would always hamper such cooperation.

Anwar Kamal suggested that bilateral issues should be seriously taken up outside the SAARC forum.

He said, South Asia has tremendous potentials but the region is facing economic problems and lagging behind countries like Indonesia, Malaysia and South Korea.

"Our leaders have identified the problems and some progress has been made," the Pakistani diplomat said, adding: "But we need to find out what should be done now to expedite our development."

Indian High Commissioner Raghunath said the SAARC should work as a disciplined and business-like organisation in accordance with its charter.

About certain decisions already taken by the SAARC countries, Raghunath said: "We are moving in the right direction."

The Director-General (SAARC) of the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry, Ashfaqur Rahman said, the organisation followed a go-slow policy in the beginning but significant progress was made during the past few years.

The SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu, the Agricultural Information Centre in Dhaka, the SAARC audio-visual exchange programme (SAVE), exchange of fellowships and scholarships and the SAARC meteorological centre are some of the few notable achievements of the regional forum, he mentioned.

He said, a SAARC Chambers of Commerce and Industry is expected to be announced on February 7, which, he said, would be another achievement of the seven-nation forum, floated in Dhaka in 1985.

He also said that because of the SAARC, the information gap between the member countries has been bridged to a great extent.

The other speakers identified the poverty alleviation programme taken by the SAARC nations as a very positive steps, aimed at the welfare on the people of the region.

They also opined that although the SAARC charter bars discussion on bilateral issues in formal meetings of the forum, yet the occasion often provides scope for bilateral discussion.

Golam Azam greets mayors-elect

Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Prof Golam Azam yesterday felicitated the victorious mayors and commissioners in the city corporation elections in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi, reports UNB.

In a statement, the Jamaat chief hoped that they would be able to work for the welfare of the people by performing the onerous responsibilities entrusted on them.

In a separate statement, Golam Azam and Jamaat Secretary General Maulana Matkur Rahman Nizami condemned the Monday's incident at Lalbagh in the city that left six people killed and more than 50 injured.

Maharashtra rocked again

NEW DELHI, Feb 1: A moderate earthquake measuring 4.9 on the Richter scale shook the western Indian state of Maharashtra today, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, the central observatory said, reports AFP.

The 3.01 pm (0931 GMT) quake rocked the Maharashtra capital, Bombay and the districts of Sholapur, Sangli, Osmanabad and Satara, which houses a major dam, state officials said.

Gerry Adams arrives in US

NEW YORK, Feb 1: Gerry Adams, the leader of the IRA's political wing, arrived in New York Monday, and said the US decision to let him in after a 20-year-ban offered a unique opportunity to promote peace in Northern Ireland, reports AFP.

Thousands attend janaza

From Page 1 Col 7

Later, a mourning procession was brought out from the park which proceeded to the Baitul Mukarram mosque. A second janaza was held there.

Leaders of the Awami League and other political organisations, including Zillur Rahman, Abdul Mannan, Abdur Razzak MP, ASM Feroz, Mohammad Hanif, Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Obaidul Kader, Amir Hossain Amur, Rashed Khan Menon, Manjurul Ahsan Khan, Mujahidul Islam Selim, Hasanul Huq Inu, K M Obaidur Rahman and Muhammad Afzal attended the janaza.

After the janaza, the mourners, carrying the six coffins, went to the Azimpur graveyard where the victims were laid to eternal rest.

DCC Mayor-elect Mohammad Hanif, who led the procession to the graveyard, was escorted by his supporters for security reasons.

The Detective Branch of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police late Monday picked up three more people for their alleged involvement in the killings. They were identified as Kayes, 22, and Kalachand 50, and Akmal, 38. Earlier, police arrested six people including Aziz's father.

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday appealed to the people for holding milad mahfil in all mosques in the country after the Juma prayer on Friday for those killed in Monday's post-election violence in Lalbagh.

She also called for offering prayers in all temples and churches on February 6 for salvation of the departed souls.

In a statement, Hasina, also Leader of the Opposition in

PM faces protest at fair

By DU Correspondent

Protesting Monday's killing at Nawabganj, the pro-Awami League Chhatra League (M-I) activists demonstrated on the Dhaka University Campus after the Prime Minister arrived at the Bangla Academy to open the Book Fair yesterday morning.

Witnesses said, the police halted a procession of the students near the TSC when it tried to move towards the Bangla Academy premises.

Later, a chase and counter chase between the students and the police started when the processionists pelted stones at the police.

The demonstrators then brought out a procession on the Arts Faculty premises.

The Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya also brought out a procession to protest the killings.

The Midnight File

Ukraine postpones ratification of NPT

KIEV, Ukraine, Feb 1: Ukrainian leadership decided on Tuesday to postpone ratification of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty until the new parliament is elected, apparently fearing that nationalist lawmakers would turn it down. However, officials promised to proceed with implementing the agreement on nuclear disarmament, signed last month in Moscow by Ukraine, the United States and Russia. The agreement does not need a formal legislative approval, reports AP.

Dutch troops in Srebrenica

PARIS, Feb 1: Dutch troops have entered the Bosnian town of Srebrenica to relieve a small Canadian force in the Serb-besieged enclave, a French General said today. Deputy Chief of Staff General Philippe Mercier told reporters Dutch reconnaissance parties entered Srebrenica with the agreement of Serb forces surrounding the Muslim pocket, reports Reuter.

Voters' disenchantment

From Page 1 Col 7

stagnant economy and the perceived inability of the government to deal with difficult situations and in taking hard decisions.

A section of the business community was also alienated by the government's inability to jump-start the economy, despite its success in maintaining macro-economic stability.

Voters were also turned off by the government's failure to take hard decisions and to deal with difficult situations like agitations by industrial workers, doctors, professionals and others.

Over-confidence and inner-party squabbles, compounded by a most uncoordinated and unimaginative campaign strategy, are also being cited as the reasons for the BNP's electoral debacle in the capital and the port city. The complacency bug which had caused the AL's defeat in the last parliamentary elections, seems to have bitten the ruling party this time around.

Party infighting, specially in these two cities, are well known. The Chittagong chapter of the BNP is sharply divided in two opposing blocs - one led by Communist Minister Oli Ahmed and the other by Forests and Fisheries Minister Abdullah Al Noman, who is the president of the unit. Even the Prime Minister attempted to resolve the differences of the two squabbling factions a number of times in the past, but apparently with little success.

In Dhaka, the situation is somewhat similar. The sharp differences between the city BNP president Mir Shawkat Ali and ex-mayor Abbas surfaced during the party council meeting in August last. Again, the antagonists reluctantly agreed to bury the hatchet only after the Prime Minister intervened. In this context, one political analyst observed that it was rather imprudent on the part of the party high command to

entrust Abbas' mayoral campaign in the hands of Mir Shawkat, who is also considered to lack the political experience necessary in such a major task.

Because of squabbling, the BNP was even unable to nominate candidates of unanimous choice for the ward commissioner posts in most cases. This led to more than one party worker contesting for the same post, thus dividing the campaign workers and splitting the BNP vote.

The BNP campaign thus, was a house divided, and the commissioner candidates campaigned only for their own selves rather than drumming up support for the party's mayoral candidate.

In contrast, the AL's campaign was well-orchestrated and it managed to nominate consensus candidates in most wards.

Its ward commissioner nominees also campaigned ceaselessly for the mayoral candidate.

The Awami League also appeared to have learnt the lessons from the 1991 defeat well and placed more emphasis on persons-to-persons contact. It took the campaigning in all seriousness and, in a break from the past, went from door to door, which added a personal touch to the electioneering and helped convince the voters.

AL chief Sheikh Hasina's pre-poll, appeal to voters to elect opposition candidates for providing a check-and-balance, also seemed to have struck a sympathetic chord among the voters.

The setback notwithstanding, the ruling BNP would stand to gain credibility by taking the defeat in its stride. For, despite the stray incidents, the elections under it were held generally peacefully and unlike in the past, the outcomes of the polls were no foregone conclusion.

Commissioners

From Page 1 Col 5

Mosleuddin Ahmed, 32. Moqbul Ahmed Akand, 33. Shanewaz Shahid, 34. Mirza Khokan, 35. Sajjad Zahir, 36. Kamal Chowdhury, 37. Talukder Sarwar Hossain, 38. Mujibur Rahman, 39. Shamim Ahsan, 40. Abdul Gaffar, 41. AM Shahbuddin, 42. Nurul Islam Ratan, 43. Abul Hossain, 44. Ehsanul Huq Setu, 45. Habibur Rahman, 46. Withheld, 47. Md Sadek Khan, 48. Withheld, 49. Md Abdul Khair Babul, 50. Alamgir Patwary, 51. Abdul Latif, 52. Abu Naser Chowdhury, 53. Ariful Islam, 54. Moklesur Rahman, 55. MA Majid, 56. Chowdhury Alam, 57. Withheld, 58. Ramzan Ali, 59. Humayun Kabir, 60. Withheld, 61. Kazi Masum, 62. Withheld, 63. Golam Morshed, 64. Kamaluddin Kabul, 65. Withheld, 66. Haji Mohammad Selim, 67. Azizullah, 68. Haji Zummur, 69. Nazir Hossain, 70. Withheld, 71. Haji Hossain Nurullah, 72. Abdul Jabbar, 73. Moazzem Hossain, 74. Haji Abul Bashar, 75. Moinul Huq, 76. Md Alimullah, 77. Liaquat Ali, 78. Withheld, 79. Mohammad Shahid, 80. Abdus Shahed, 81. Liaquat Ali, 82. Shahidullah, 83. Shahidur Rahman, 84. Akbar Ali, 85. Khalequzzaman, 86. Nabihullah Nabi, 87. Kazi Moinur Islam, 88. Shahbuddin, 89. Kazi Moinuddin Monir, 90. Withheld.

Corruption cases against 8 CPA employees

CHITTAGONG, Feb 1: District Anti-corruption Bureau here yesterday filed cases with port police against eight employees of the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) for alleged misappropriation of 8729 litres of diesel worth Taka 120,119, reports BSS.

An official source said that the employees received delivery of ten thousand litres of diesel from Meghna Petroleum depot here on December 23 last and misappropriated 8729 litres the same day.

The employees against whom cases were filed are - M Fazur Rahman, M Abu Sadek, M Shamsuddin, Abdur Razzak, Abul Bashar, Shahidullah, Zakir Hussain and Abdul Mannan.

Poetry festival

From Page 1 Col 4

Festival began with a seminar at 11am.

In the third session which began at 3pm, several poets recited their poems.

More than 300 poets from the city, and different parts of the country are participating in the festival.

CORRECTION TO "AN URGENT NOTICE"

The last 2 (two) paras of "AN URGENT NOTICE" of T & T Board, published in this paper on 1 February, 1994, should read as under:

- ★ As a result all facilities including locking system will be erased.
- ★ As such all concerned valued subscribers are requested to use the locking system again soon after the resumption to have the facilities revived and to be sure about the locking system.

The mistakes are regretted

D/P (BA) 795-31/1 G-183

Editor: Mahfuz Anam
Published by Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed at City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrai, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. FAX: 500092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct). Fax No: 88-02-863035. GPO. Box No: 3257. Cable: DAILYSTAR DHAKA.