

## Integration of Gulf Arab forces faces difficulties

DUBAI, Dec 6: Gulf Arab states are gradually expanding their small joint army but an ambitious plan to standardise and eventually integrate their defences appears to be some way off, Arab military experts and diplomats said, reports Reuters.

"They are not abandoning the goal but they now have greater appreciation of the difficulties involved," said an Arab expert of plans drawn up by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

GCC leaders are to discuss at an annual summit in Bahrain later this month how much has been done so far about an earlier decision to double their joint Peninsula Shield Force, based in Saudi Arabia, to

around 17,000 men, diplomats said.

A year-old committee, headed by the UAE, will also report on long-term plans to bring naval and air force units into the joint force, join their air defences and create a common early warning system, they added.

The military experts said, however, the 14-year-old alliance was meeting similar problems to those faced by other groups of nations trying to integrate their defences.

They listed among them lack of standardisation between the six armies, the various origins of hardware deployed, different specifications and in some cases, reluctance to surrender authority in a way that may affect sovereignty.

## Mahathir blasts Western indifference to Bosnia

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 6: Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad criticised today what he termed Western hypocrisy on human rights, and said the West "withdrew and whimpered" rather than protect Bosnian Muslims, reports Reuters.

"The record of the democratic governments of the West is not very inspiring. Unless their own interests are at stake, as in Kuwait, they would not risk anything in the cause of democracy," Mahathir said in a keynote address to an international human rights conference in Kuala Lumpur.

Mahathir, a vocal critic of Western ethical standards, said Western hypocrisy was evident

in the United Nation's handling of the war in Bosnia.

"After a brave display of the prowess of Western air superiority and sophisticated warplanes, the whole NATO forces withdrew and whimpered."

"The Serbs shelled and rocketed the Bosnians. People, innocent people, even patients in hospitals, were killed and wounded. The champions of human rights, worried that their soldiers might be scratched, did nothing," he said.

Mahathir said Asian countries found it difficult to accept the West's dominance on human rights issues because of such double standards. He added that Asian nations

should be allowed to contribute towards devising new sets of human rights values.

The two-day conference, entitled "Rethinking Human Rights," was organised by the Malaysian-based Just World Trust and aims to give an Asian perspective on human rights issues.

Discussions at the conference, which feature papers from government officials, analysts and human rights representatives from 30 countries including China and Nicaragua, will centre on "the various dimensions of Western global domination and how they impact upon the human rights of the vast majority of mankind," according to a statement from

the organisers.

Malaysia has long championed adoption of a global standard of human rights which did not reflect a Western bias.

Meanwhile, the human rights group Amnesty International said in a statement late Monday it was skeptical about "all the talk about viewing human rights in the context of Asian values."

It said numerous applications to register Amnesty International (Malaysia) in Kuala Lumpur had been rejected by the Malaysian authorities.

"The continued reluctance by Malaysian authorities to allow formation of Amnesty International (Malaysia) is most perplexing."

### Bosnian Muslims ready to accept conditional truce

BUDAPEST, Dec 6: Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic told Bill Clinton that he would accept a conditional three-month ceasefire in his mainly Muslim government's war against the Bosnian Serbs, a US official said, reports AFP.

But the Serbs would immediately have to stop fighting and withdraw from the disputed Bihac pocket in north-west Bosnia, where they are on the verge of defeating the government army, Izetbegovic said.

The senior US official was speaking aboard the presidential plane as Clinton returned home after attending the first day of the summit of the conference on security and cooperation in Europe in Budapest Monday.



Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic (L) sits with US President Bill Clinton (C) and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman for a photo-opportunity before their talks at the Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe on Monday in Budapest, Hungary. — AFP photo

## US concerned at trial of Kurdish MPs in Turkey

WASHINGTON, Dec 6: The United States spoke out publicly on Monday for the first time about Kurdish members of Turkey's parliament now on trial and expressed concern they had been criminally charged by Ankara for "expressing their own thoughts," reports Reuters.

But State Department deputy spokeswoman Christine Shelly steered clear of indicating how Washington might react if the parliamentarians who face the death penalty, receive threat sentence after an expected verdict on Thursday.

"We have repeatedly expressed to the Turkish government our deep concern over the trials and their implications for democracy and freedom of expression in

Turkey," Shelly said.

It's difficult for most foreign observers to understand how MPs (members of parliament) could be stripped of their immunity and put on trial for expressing their thoughts, including in some instances, thoughts expressed before the Helsinki Commission of the US Congress and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a local think tank, she told reporters.

Asked why the Clinton administration, which has at various times stressed the importance of human rights had not made public its concerns over the case before this, Shelly said, "... this issue (of the parliamentarians) has been one that we've discussed in diplomatic channels.

The administration hoped "a quieter approach... was most likely to result in what we hoped would be another look at the issue," she said she declined to divulge Turkey's response.

The case was brought dramatically to public attention when one of the defendants Leyla Zana, wrote a piece on the parliamentarians' plight in Monday's Washington Post.

Zana said she and seven other Kurdish members of Turkey's parliament were guilty of one thing — bearing witness to the Kurdish people's immense tragedy in Turkey and warned that if Kurdish warnings are not met Islamic fundamentalism would overrun Turkey, a NATO member just like it overrun Iran.



US actress Lonnie Anderson looks up at her attorney in divorce court in Los Angeles on Monday. Anderson and US actor Burt Reynolds' divorce became final in June 1994. They are in court battling over child support issues. Reynolds testified that he is having cash flow problems — AFP photo

### Riyadh supports plan to fight Islamic militants

RIVADH, Dec 6: Saudi Arabia supports a plan to fight Islamic militant groups which has been proposed by Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia and Turkey, officials said here today, reports AFP.

The cabinet agreed here Monday it would "give its accord" to the draft if it is approved by Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers meeting Saturday and Sunday in Casablanca, Morocco, they said.

The meeting is to pave the way for 7th OIC summit scheduled for December 13 and 14 in the same city.

The plan was prepared at the initiative of Egypt, Algeria, Turkey and Tunisia, the OIC members that are hit most by Islamic militant attacks.

"The project recommends non-interference in other's affairs, respect of the sovereignty of states and good co-existence between member countries," OIC Secretary General Hamid Al Ghabid told AFP.

Egypt and Algeria charge Sudan and Iran respectively with supporting militant groups seeking to set up Islamic governments.

## BRIEFLY

**Hariri to remain in office:** Lebanese Prime Minister Rafic Hariri withdrew his resignation on Monday after crisis talks with Syrian leaders, a government minister said, AFP reports from Beirut.

Hariri's resignation, which he announced at a cabinet meeting on Thursday but had not yet formally submitted to President Elias Hrawi, had threatened Lebanon's political and economic stability.

**Top Clinton aides in Haiti:** Three senior aides to President Bill Clinton travelled to Haiti on Monday to measure progress made in preparing parliamentary elections and ensuring the safe deployment of a UN peacekeeping force, AFP reports from Washington.

Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, Deputy National Security Adviser Sandy Berger and Deputy Secretary of Defence John Deutch were also to make a brief visit to a refugee camp at the US naval base at Guantanamo, State Department spokesperson Christine Shelly said.

**N Korean minister leaves Paris:** North Korean Defence Minister O Jin U has left Paris for home after more than one month of treatment for lung cancer, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported on Tuesday, AP says from Seoul.

The 77-year-old O left Orly airport on Monday aboard a special North Korea airplane, the agency reported in a dispatch from Paris.

**Quakes jolt S California:** Three earthquakes jolted Southern California, shaking homes and buildings but causing no damage or injuries, AP reports from Los Angeles.

The first aftershock, a 3.5-magnitude quake centred about 20 miles (30 kilometres) northwest of downtown Los Angeles, hit at 7:36 pm (0336 GMT) on Monday. The strongest tremor, at 4.5 magnitude, hit 12 minutes later, California Institute of Technology, seismologist Nick Scheckel said.

**2 Tajik rebels killed:** Russian border guards killed two Tajik rebels trying to cross the border from Afghanistan, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported on Tuesday, AP says from Dushanby.

Two other rebels fled during the incident Monday night, one of many along the rugged Tajik-Afghan border. The Russians suffered no casualties.

**Tainted liquor kills 18 Angolans:** Eighteen people have died over the past week in the Angolan capital Luanda after drinking homemade liquor tainted with methanol, the Portuguese news agency Lusa said on Monday, AFP reports from Lisbon.

It quoted Angolan police as saying the moonshine was drunk at parties in poor neighbourhoods of Luanda. An undetermined number of people have been hospitalised after drinking the liquor, hospital officials were quoted as saying.

**Thai newspaper office attacked:** A group of three men fired an M-79 grenade at the office of Thailand's largest-circulation newspaper on Monday, but nobody was wounded, police said, Reuters reports from Bangkok.

The grenade hit a tree and a company limousine outside the Bangkok office of the Thai Rath newspaper, a spokesman for the newspaper said.

**Chiapas gov-elect quits party:** The governor-elect of Chiapas announced he would quit Mexico's ruling party after Indian rebels threatened the embattled state with another "bloodbath" if he is inaugurated, AP reports from Tuxtla Gutierrez.

Eduardo Robledo Rincon told reporters on Monday he was asking for a six-year leave of absence from the Institutional Revolutionary Party to correspond with his term as governor. He is scheduled to be sworn in on Thursday.

**Peruvian writer Ribeyro dies:** Peruvian writer Julio Ramon Ribeyro, who earlier this year won Latin American's prestigious Juan Rulfo Award for literature, has died. He was 65, AP reports from Lima.

Ribeyro died on Sunday, reportedly from complications from cancer. He was considered Peru's best contemporary short story writer but was also known for novels, plays and essays.

**Iran's ex-parliament bldg gutted:** A pre-dawn fire gutted most of the former parliament building in Tehran on Tuesday, Iran's official news media said, AP reports from Nicosia.

No injuries were reported but about 70 per cent of the building was destroyed, the Islamic Republic News Agency said in a dispatch monitored in Cyprus. Firefighters brought the blaze under control.

## Japan's New Frontier Party yet to choose leader

TOKYO, Dec 6: The New Frontier Party would like voters to believe it offers a fresh alternative to Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama's coalition, reports AP.

But voters aren't convinced and it's not hard to see why. The New Frontier Party, a union of nine opposition groups that will be formally launched on Saturday, has spent the past week in a frenzy of old-style backroom manoeuvring to choose a leader.

The top candidates seem to be former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu or Tsutomu Hata, another ex-prime minister. To younger party legislators, it's a lot like old-style politics, where preserving face counted most and debate on issues barely counted at all.

"I think this is ridiculous," said Shigeru Ishiba, a 37-year-old New Frontier legislator who wants legislators to vote between Kaifu and Hata. "It's important to have a debate and then have each person decide with his vote who's best for the job."

The selection of the New Frontier leader illustrates how little Japanese politics has advanced since the upheaval 18 months ago when voters toppled the Liberal Democrats from power for the first time since 1955.

After 10 months, the Liberal Democrats regained power in a coalition with Prime Minister Murayama's Socialists. Now many analysts say the 70-year-old prime minister is less than eager to re-

form Japan's economy by cutting bureaucratic red tape, for example, or encouraging more creativity in education.

"The passion for carrying out reform is disappearing," says Terumasa Nakanishi, Shizuoka Prefecture University professor of politics. "It's become apparent that it's just a kind of power struggle going on."

Polls show voters have few expectations of the New Frontier Party but also are dissatisfied with the current ruling coalition.

Reluctantly the various parties that are joining the new party have been dissolving themselves in recent weeks: On Monday the Clean Government Party ended its 30-year history but, in a sign of its re-

luctance, kept its local legislators out of the New Frontier Party.

Quite a change from the summer of 1993 when a coalition led by reform-minded Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa took office.

Younger politicians were suddenly all over the airwaves, promising "kaikaku," or reform. Kaikaku meant less government bureaucracy, open markets, a crackdown on corruption. It promised worldly leaders who could deal easily with American presidents and European prime ministers.

Within six months Hosokawa had completed two of the biggest reforms: Opening Japan's rice market and passing anti-corruption laws including tougher campaign fi-

nance rules and a new election system.

But to more conservative Japanese, kaikaku summoned up their worst nightmares of Western society: Unemployment, vicious winner-take-all economic competition, involvement in murky conflicts abroad.

Soon reform stumbled. Hosokawa was forced to quit in April in a cloud of scandal over his personal finances. His successor, Hata, lasted just two months before the Liberal Democrats came back to power in June in coalition with their old rivals, the Socialists.

What makes Japanese politics so confusing these days is that no single party really represents reform, even though no party dares to publicly oppose reform.

## Off the Record

### Ingenious way of smuggling

NEW YORK: An Old English sheepdog, shipped as cargo from Colombia, arrived at Kennedy International Airport emaciated and lethargic. The reason wasn't jetlag but rather 10 cocaine-laden condoms surgically implanted in her abdomen, reports AP.

Dr Steven Weinstein, the veterinarian who worked on the dog at the airport's kennel, said Monday, "We palpated the abdomen and there was definitely something foreign."

He said he did an X-ray and then exploratory surgery, and "Lo and behold" five pounds of the powdery narcotic was found in the canine's body.

The 4-year-old shaggy dog arrived aboard Avianca Flight 020 from Bogota, Colombia on December 1, and US Customs inspectors made a routine examination of the air freight, which included the dog.

John Erik Roa, 22, of Paterson, NJ, was arrested when he came to claim the dog at the airport the following day. He was charged with attempt to possess drugs with intent to distribute, according to the office of US Attorney Zachary Carter, which said the investigation was continuing.

Janet Rapaport, a spokeswoman for the US Customs Service, said it was the first instance at Kennedy Airport in which cocaine was smuggled into the United States by this method.

They said it appeared that the cocaine was implanted into the dog over a two-week period and that she had not been fed in a long time.

### Oilfield in queen's garden?

LONDON: Queen Elizabeth II has given her blessing to a scheme which will mean exploratory drilling for oil in her private garden, 32 metres (35 yards) from Windsor Castle, southern England, the Guardian said on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Mayor of the Royal Borough of Windsor Dennis Outwin said: "We are appalled. The citizens are outraged at the idea of an oilfield in Windsor Great Park, let alone this close to the castle."

A Buckingham Palace spokeswoman dismissed as speculation suggestions that the queen intended to use royalties from a Windsor oilfield to repair her castle which was damaged by a fire in 1992.

The treasury would have first call on the cash, said the spokeswoman.

However, the queen and the Department of the Environment, which has to be consulted about any development within three kilometers (five miles) of the castle, approved the exploration, said the paper.

The royal oil, if there is any, is calculated to be directly below the Norman castle.

Berkshire county council is expected to give planning permission on January 4, and Canuk Exploration Limited, based in Buckinghamshire, southern England, would start drilling shortly afterwards.

**বাংলাদেশ রপ্তানি প্রক্রিয়াকরণ এলাকা কর্তৃপক্ষ**  
২২২, নিউ ইন্টার্ন রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০ তারিখঃ- ৪ঠা ডিসেম্বর, ১৯৯৪ ইং

**সংশোধিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বাংলাদেশ রপ্তানি প্রক্রিয়াকরণ এলাকা কর্তৃপক্ষের অধীনে বিভিন্ন পদে লোক নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে অগম্যমী পত্র নং জন্মঃ ০৫/৮৯/৯৩-৯৪/৭৩, তারিখ ২৬-১১-৯৪ এর ভিত্তিতে পত্র নং ২৯-১১-৯৪ ইং তারিখে ডিএফপি নং-১১৪৬৫, ২৬/১১ অনুযায়ী দৈনিক বাংলা, দৈনিক ইনকিলাব ও দি ডেইলী ইর পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির ক্রমিক নং-২ এর সহকারী ব্যবস্থাপক পদের জন্য চাহিদাকৃত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা নিম্নোক্তভাবে সংশোধন করা হইলঃ-

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম	বেতন স্কেল	পূর্বে ঘোষিত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	সংশোধিত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
২।	সহকারী ব্যবস্থাপক	২৮৫০-৫১৫৫/-	অর্থনীতি, বাবসা বা লোক প্রশাসনে দ্বিতীয় বিভাগে স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী।	অর্থনীতি, বাবসা প্রশাসন, লোক প্রশাসনে, ব্যবস্থাপনা, জিনাল ও মার্কেটিং এ দ্বিতীয় স্ট্রেলার স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী।

উল্লিখিত পদের অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকিবে।

সচিব  
বাংলাদেশ রপ্তানি প্রক্রিয়াকরণ এলাকা কর্তৃপক্ষ  
২২২, নিউ ইন্টার্ন রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০

**Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited**  
(A Subsidiary Company of Petrobangla)  
P.O. Box No-8, Court Road, Brahmanbaria

"গাছ লাগান, গাছের পরিচর্যা করুন এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান" - প্রধানমন্ত্রী

1. Tender Notice No. CD/HO/3(35) Date: 29-11-94  
2. Particulars of works:

Group No	Name of the works	Estimated cost (Tk.)	Cost of schedule (Tk.)	Time allowed
a)	Bituminous carpeting at Titas Location 1, 2 & 3, Brahmanbaria.	7,41,010/-	1000/-	75 days
b)	Ballah driving and earth filling on both sides of Main Gate at Hbj. Location-5 and Rest House side at Habiganj Gas Field, Habiganj.	4,25,224/70	500/-	60 days
c)	Construction of HBB Road at Titas Location 1 & 3, Brahmanbaria.	2,31,592/-	500/-	60 days
d)	Construction of Herringbone bond Road from Main Gate of Plant area to Gate of flare stack at Feni Gas Field, Feni.	1,99,050/-	500/-	30 days
e)	Modification of existing Security post and Construction of a new Security post at Titas Location-2, Brahmanbaria.	92,950/40	250/-	75 days
f)	Construction of Operator's room at Titas Location-1, Brahmanbaria.	73,259/39	250/-	60 days
g)	Construction of Fire wall around Hbj. 6, Wellhead at Habiganj.	45,020/-	100/-	45 days
3.	Minimum requirement of participants:			
a)	For Group 'a' to 'd'			Enlisted 3rd class contractor of PWD, 'D' class of RHD, 2nd class of PHE, 2nd class of Housing & Settlement Directorate, 'B' class of Bangladesh Railway, 'C' class of Petrobangla and its subsidiary companies.
b)	For Group 'e' to 'g'			Enlisted 4th class contractor of PWD, 'D' class of RHD, 2nd class of PHE, 3rd class of Housing & Settlement Directorate, 'A' class of Bangladesh Railway, 'C' class of Petrobangla and its subsidiary companies.
4.	Earnest money			2.5% (Two point five per cent) of quoted amount.
5.	Additional earnest money			10% (Ten percent) of total quoted value, if the rate is quoted less beyond 5% (Five per cent) of the estimated cost.
6.	Availability of tender documents			Finance Department, Bangladesh Gas Fields Co. Ltd, Head Office, Court Road, Brahmanbaria and Liaison Office, 97, Purana Paltan, Bijoynagar, Dhaka - 1000.
7.	Date & time of selling tender			From 11-12-94 to 27-12-94 on all working days (Sunday to Thursday) up to 2:30 PM.
8.	Place of receiving tender			Civil Engineering Department, BGFL, Court Road, Brahmanbaria and Liaison Office, 97, Purana Paltan, Bijoynagar, Dhaka-1000.
9.	Date & time of receiving tender			Up to 11 A.M. on 28-12-94.
10.	Date and time of opening tender			28-12-94 at 11:15 A.M.
11.	Income Tax and VAT at source will be deducted from all payments to the contractor as per Government decision and its subsequent amendments.			
12.	Tender will not be sold on the day of opening. The Company reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason.			

PRS-9/037 (Civil)/94  
DFP-12057-1/12  
G-1927

for: Bangladesh Gas Fields Co. Ltd  
Senior Manager (Planning & Development)