# Ghali for streamlining peacekeeping missions

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 5 Facing increased criticism for high costs and setbacks in Bosnia and Somalia, the UN Secretary-General called Thu rsday for streamlining pea cekeeping missions and limi ting the use of force, reports

Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a closed-door speech to the Security Council. said peacekeepers must get clear man dates so the lines between maintaining peace and enforcing peace are not blurred.

"Nothing is more dangerous for a peacekeeping operation than to require it to use force when its existing composition armament, logistical support and deployment deny it the capacity to do so," an official summary of his position paper

Boutros-Ghali's statement to the council was prepared to mark the 50th anniversary of the organization.

He warned the council not to launch new missions with out securing funding and

# JSD (Rab) demands fresh polls under

caretaker govt The JSD (Rab) has reiter ated its demand for immediate

dissolution of parliament and fresh elections under an interim government, reports "The proposed interim gov

ernment will be headed by an Ombudsman to be appointed by the President." Party's sec retary general ASM Abdur Rab told a news conference at the National Press Club yesterday. In a written statement, Rab

said the BNP government had lost its constitutional right to continue in power following the en masse resignation of the Opposition MPs. In this context, the JSD

leader pointed out that the Jamaat MPs who had supported BNP in forming the government had also resigned.

The party announced programmes of workers' rally in mills and factories from January 6-7, mass procession in the capital on January 11 and mass contact from January 12-15. It will enforce a coun try-wide barricade programme on January 19

Many peacekeeping opera tions have been hobbled by a lack of funding and available soldiers The mission in Rwanda, for example, was delayed for months before troops and equipment could be found

There is continuing dam age to credibility when the council adopts decisions which cannot be carried out because the necessary troops are not forthcoming," the summary

#### EC office From Page 1 Col 7

tuted in the meeting to de termine within the next one week the manpower needed and money required to undertake the task of preparing the databased voters list. The committee will undertake pre test and sample survey in this regard.

The meeting was told that according to the latest census there are 55,025,958 eligible voters having 18 plus age in the country, and each year the number is likely to increase with the inclusion of more people attaining 18 years of

A permanent setup of the Election Commission is also justifiable for preparation of voters' list and issuance of identity cards to the new vot ers each year,

The meeting, held at the NEC Bhaban with Finance. Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair, requested the Election Commission to im mediately go ahead with the whole procedure.

The Election Commission has been authorised to do so for strengthening the Commission and indepen dently conducting future elections as per the People's Representation (Amendment) Bill 1994 recently passed by the Jatiya Sangsad.

The meeting was also at tended by Chief Election Commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf, Cabinet Secretary. Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, secretaries of Finance, Estab lishment, Education, Sta tistics, Health, ERD. Primary Education and Election Commission Secretariat and other high officials of the Election Commission.

# Parties counting points

From Page 1 Col 4 And Prime Minister Begum Zia agreed to quit along with her cabinet a month before the elections giving the President the authority to run the coun try as well as the election until the next elected prime minis-

ter takes over. Immediately after the ruling party conveyed its decision, a number of sincere opposition members, mostly from the AL, took the initiative to iron out other differences and they were almost successful in

reaching an agreement. As the Prime Minister decided to resign, the ruling party sought guarantee from the opposition parties that they (the opposition) should not resort to disruptive activities like hartal and siege during the rest of the BNP government's tenure. On the other hand, the opposition camp demanded a "neutral non-partisan advisory council" under the President during the next elections to which the ruling party did not agree. This was the point of disagreement between the BNP and the Opposition which broke the last-minute dialogue.

The ruling party, however, said later that the points of hartal and siege could be negotiated with the Opposition demand for a 10-member advisory council.

During the last episode of the resignation drama, three leading BNP members went to sign an agreement with the opposition leaders in Parliament. According to the leaders who attended the abortive meeting, when Oli Ahmed read out the proposal just before the signing ceremony, AL chief Sheikh Hasina raised questions about the other points of the agreement Mohammad Nasim of AL re portedly said that the other issues would be settle later on the basis of agreements already reached. At that point, JP's acting chief Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury said, "are we to sign a bond (Mutchleka)" to go back to Parliament.

One senior AL leader still believes that the opposition parties can consider withdrawing resignation letters and may return to Parliament for the sake of amendments to the constitution if a political consensus is reached. But on the contrary, the JP held a press conference and said there is no scope of reconsidering the resignation under the present

constitutional prevision. It is deemed to have been accepted the moment it is submitted to

The third major opposition party in the Fifth Parliament. the Jamaat, has maintained si lence following the post December 28 developments and is monitoring the situa-

the Speaker, they added.

The situation is still confus ing as the people do not know until today whether resignations of the opposition MPs were accepted or not.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali who intends to scrutinise the resignation letters before notification fell ill on December 30, which delayed the process.

Political observers noted that if the parties reached a political consensus, a solution was still possible although the situation turned very compli-

They said the country is above the Constitution and for the sake of the country they should amicably resolve the

If the resignation letters are accepted, then there are two options as per the Constitution - holding of by-elections or fresh elections by dissolving parliament

The ruling party has not discussed the matter yet since the Speaker is yet to give his decision

Opposition sources said they would not take part in any election without a caretaker government and may even resist holding of by-elections.

But political observers believe, it would be difficult on their part to Launch massive political agitations ahead of the month of Ramadan. The business community is also alarmed at the country's political stand off. In the face of still opposition from the business circles, the opposition parties had to reschedule their earlier hartal programmes. The Opposition parties possibly read the pulse of the people who dislike frequent disruption of their daily life.

Considering all these problems, most of the opposition groups were in favour of an amicable solution, according to AL sources. On the other hand, some of the opposition leaders thought that resignation threat" would help them realise the demand. But the sit-

uation turned different. The people are eagerly waiting to see the next scene of the unfolding drama.

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressed a huge public meeting at Chandina in Comilla - PID photo district yesterday

#### 2 cargo ships with 54 crew sink near Romanian port

**BUCHAREST. Jan 5: Two** cargo ships have sunk near the Romanian Black Sea port of Constanta following strong gales and their 54 crew are feared dead. Romanian port authorities and shipping agents said today.

"Two bulk-carriers, the Paris, sailing under Maltese flag and the You Xiu, registered in Hong Kong, sank nea Constanta last night. Constanta Port Captain Marian Popescu told Reuters. "All attempts to salvage the

vessels and the crews have failed due to the bad weather I'm afraid there are no survivors." Popescu added. He said the incident oc

curred after both ships had hit the breakwater surrounding the port basin shortly before midnight

#### Salman

From Page 1 Col 6

Rahman strongly denied that his efforts towards facili tating a settlement of the political crisis betraved his own political ambitions. We do not have any political ambition we are only venting our suffer-

The National Association of Small and Cottage Industries of Bangladesh (NASCIB) organ ised the reception in honour of the recently-elected FBCC! president and his executive committee Salman Rahman promised

the small entrepreneurs that the FBCC! would actively pur sue the government to set up a bank exclusively for small and cottage industries.

FBCC1 vice-president Rashiduzzaman Dudu, NASCIB president Ainul Hug Sohel and leading handicraft exporter Maleka Khan also addressed the function

#### Economy stronger: PM From Page 1 Col 7

ing the pace of development. creating employment opportunities and attracting foreign

Listing some of the development and welfare measures undertaken by her government, the Prime Minister said the BNP is the most trusted friend of the countrymen and that is why the BNP government has completed a record number of pro-people development projects and programmes in nearly four years which is unprecedented in the history of this country...

Begum Zia regretted that during the last days of the au tocratic regime there had been no money to pay even the salaries of the public servants.

But, she said, now Bangladesh is inching towards self reliance because of the restoration of fiscal and financial discipline, epoch-making pro people development programmes and establishment of democratic government

Referring to the newly launched food for education programme for the poor students, stipend programme and tuition free education for girls up to Class Ten outside the municipal areas and development of educational institutions across the country, the Prime Minister said no government had taken such massive programmes in the past for turning the population into human resources.

Mentioning that Taka 318 crore has been spent in Comilla district alone in the past three and a half years she said, similarly the entire country is being developed.

Saving that her government has been leading the country forward on the path of devel opment and prosperity, she said more could have been achieved had there been no disruptive programmes like hartals, sieges and blockades. Begum Zia said that Bangladesh has been able to at tract much foreign investment in the past three and a half

Referring to the newly launched collateral free scheme for giving credit upto Tk 25 lakh for datry and poultry farming, pisciculture, tree plan tation and other self-employment generating projects Begum Zia asked the local people to avail the credit and stand on their feet and thereby help Bangladesh become self

Emphasising the need for advancement of the women folk, the Prime Minister said in future women of Bangladesh will no longer remain back

She underscored the need for maintaining peace and stability and discarding disruptive activities for unhindered development of the country. She said the image of Bangladesh has brightened and the world community is now lauding the development of the country and the success of its democratically elected government.

Turning to some local demands, the Prime Minister assured the people that Chandina will be made a poura shava, local roads will be metalled the rural electrification network extended, educational institutions developed and the thana health complex raised to a 50-bed one.

Local MP Redwah Ahmed presided over the mammoth public meeting.

Energy Minister Dr. Khondoker Mosharraf Hossain, Housing and Public Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia. Shipping Minister M K Anwar. Manzurul Ahsan Munshi MP. ATM Alamgir MP. Rosy Kabir MP and local leaders of the BNP and its front organisations were also present.

The Bangladesh Chhatra League brought out a colourful rally in the city on the occasion of its - Star photo 47th founding anniversary yesterday.

# Efforts on to resolve impasse

From Page 1 Col 3

message from the Prime Minister containing her proposal to resign 30 days ahead of the next general elections to the AL chief, who is yet to respond to it. Opposition sources

"The government's decision as regards going for byelections or fresh general elections, if it fails to convince the Opposition MPs to withdraw their resignations, largely depends on the Speaker's decision concerning acceptance or rejection of the resignation letters," said a minister. The ruling BNP standing committee would meet early next week to decide the party position on the issue, he added.

Speaker Shalkh Razzak Ali. who returned home from hospital Wednesday, was advised a week's rest by the doctors. Therefore, scrutiny of the MPs' resignation letters by him is, unlikely to take place

The minister, unwilling to be named, told The Dafly Star

the government was exploring the possibilities of the Opposition MPs reversing their decision by studying the suggestions by constitutional Referring to fresh bids for

negotiation between the government and the Opposition, he said. "The moves are at a very early stage and there is nothing to mention about those at the moment. The senior leaders of the BNP would take up the issue if the efforts mature." However, AL leader and

former chief whip of the Opposition Mohammad Nasim. talking to this correspondent last night, denied that the ruling party leaders had contacted them after their resignation from Parliament December 28.

Regarding the move by Mayor Hanif, who is also the city AL chief, Nasim said, "The Mayor himself can speak about his initiative. The AL has not vet re-established contacts with the government since the

Opposition MPs' resignations." He also denied reports that he had talks with a minister holding a key-position in the ruling party after the en masse resignation.

in a related development. Gana Forum president Dr Kamal Hossain sent letters to Begum Zia and Sheikh Hasina Wednesday urging both leaders to sit for a dialogue to resolve the persisting crisis. Until yesterday, he had received no re-20th of this month. sponse from any side, party sources said.

Besides, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Golam Azam was learnt to have met Home Minister Abdul Matin , Choudhury Tuesday last.

Meanwhile, the major Opposition parties - the Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat — are contemplating hartals for consecutive two or three days after their current phase of agitation ends on Uanuary 19. The next programme is likely to be announced from separate railies on January 10. Opposition sources said.

### India has strong case to become UNSC member, says Hurd

CALCUTTA, Jan 5; British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said today India has a strong case to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, but did not commit his country to support New Delhi's entry, reports Reuter

"India has a strong case." Hurd said in response to a question at an international business conference while on a brief visit to Calcutta. "But there are many competitors and much argument.

Hurd supported a proposed expansion of the council. It is something I believe is right. he said. "We see all sorts of problems on which the Security Council is asked to take decisions.

India has been lobbying to become a permanent member with veto power in addition to the United States, Russia Britain, France and China.

It has sent its troops to support the UN peacekeeping forces in Somalia and Rwanda

#### Jordanian cabinet resigns

AMMAN (Jordan), Jan 5: Prime Minister Abdul-Salam Majali submitted his Cabinet's resignation Thursday after an eventful 19-month tenure that produced a peace treaty with Israel and muzzled Muslim fundamentalists at home, reports AP.

#### 20 hurt as villagers clash in Barguna

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Jan 5, At least 20 persons were injured. '8 of them seriously, in a clash be tween two groups of people in Tengra village of Charduani union under Patharghata thana of Barguna district vesterday

According to Patharghata thana police, the clash began as a group of persons, known as the Khabir group, swooped on the Jalal group when the latter was reaping paddy on a disputed land.

During the clash, at least 20 persons from both sides were injured. One Babul was admit ted to the Sher-e-Bangla Medi cal College hospital, Barisal in a critical condition. His statement was recorded by a magistrate. The seven other critically injured.

Shanu 22, Dulal 20, Sagir 18, Rafig 12, Ansar 25, Sira 20, and Yunus 18, were admitted to the Patharghata Thana Health Complex. A case was filed with Patharghata police in this connection.

#### Strong navy From Page 1 Col 5

search and survey ship, Begum Zia said.

The Prime Minister exended her sincere thanks to the newly commissioned Midshipman.

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Mohaiminul Islam received the Prime Minister on her arrival at the parade ground.

The Prime Minister reviewed the parade and took salute at the impressive march past. She also distributed awards among the outstanding midshipmen. Midshipman S F Ahmed (X)

BN was adjudged the best all round midshipman and was awarded the Osmani Gold Medal. He also won the award of the Chief of the Naval Staff securing highest marks in academic subjects while Midshipman S W Ali (X) BN won the award in professional

Later, the Prime Minister distributed Bachelor of Science Degree Certificates upon the conferred Midshipmen by the University of Chittagong at a separate ceremony held at the Naval Academy Auditorium.

#### Kuwait returnees to stage sit-in in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Jan 5: The repatriated Bangladeshis from Kuwait in Sylhet would stage a day long sit-in and observe a token hunger strike on January 29 in the premises of the manpower office here if their demands are not met by the

. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Kuwait Protyagata Bangladeshi Samity held here today with Sirajul Islam Faruque in the chair. A large number of repatriated Bangladeshis from different areas of greater Sylhet attended the

meeting. The demands include payment of compensation at the rate of US\$ 4000 as recommended by the United Nations, distribution of the money through the Deputy Commissioners and publication of the list of the repatriated Banglådeshis.

# The Midnight File

#### Truce in Lanka from Sunday

COLOMBO. Jan 5: Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga today authorised a truce with the separatist Tamil Tiger guerillas, which will make way for a "cessation of hostilities" from Sunday, an official said. Kumaratunga signed a document which had already been initialled by Velupilla Prabhakaran, the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Belam (LTTE), in his northern stronghold of Jaffna, the official said. reports AFP.

#### Talks on Israeli redeployment in West Bank next week

GAZA. Jan 5: PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Israelt Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will meet within the next two weeks to discuss guidelines for an Israeli redeployment in the West Bank, a top Palestinian negotiator said today. "Arafat, Rabin and(Foreign Minister Shimon) Peres... will be meeting next week or the week after to look into the specific issues of redeployment of the Israeli forces from the cities and the populated areas in the West Bank," Nabil Shaath told a news conference in Gaza, reports Reuter.

## Trade fair opens tomorrow

stalls, five restaurants, four

kiosks and 14 utility and ser-

vice booths, including a post

office, a bank, and an informa-

tion and media centre, have

for the participants, an audito-

rium, a mosque have also been

set up. It will also include 230

car parking slots, two entry

gates, one service gate, 13

ticket counters and 11 tollets.

A token fee of Tk one per per-

son will charged for the use of

mint-pavilions and 61 stalls

have so far been allocated to

64 foreign participants. While

some 100 stalls, 18 pavilions

and 16 mini-pavilions allotted

Investment promotion

seminars will be organised at

the auditorium with a seating

other entertainments shows

will also be organised everyday

from 6 pm to 8:30 pm. Four

local enterprises have set up

two arching gates and two

The fair is being organised

under a Tk 3.72 crore funding

from the government and an-

other Tk 55 lakh raised thro-

ugh stall fees and service

The fair is expected to at-

tract a good number of foreign

buyers of Bangladeshi goods

while it will also enable local

businessmen to acquaint

themselves with foreign prod-

a positive impact in expanding

our trade relations with other

countries." Shaheedullah said

Officials are also looking into

"We hope the fair will have

fountains at the fair ground.

capacity of 1500. Cultural and

to the local firms.

charges

Nine of the pavilions, six

In addition, 12 dormitories

been set up at the fair ground.

From Page 1 Col 5 for the general public from 10. am to 9 pm every working day. On Friday, it will remain open from 3:30 pm to 9 pm. The fair will open at 3 pm on January 9 on the occasion of the Biswa litema while it will remain closed from 3 pm January 16 to 3pm the next day on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat. Admission charge at the fair has been fixed at Tk five per person.

Organisers said that 16 firms each from India and Pakistan, have already conformed their participation. Other participating countries are: China, Iran, the United Kingdom, Thailand, Greece Hong Kong, Bhutan, Sri Lanka Republic of Korea, Australia, Germany, Vletnam, the United States and the United Arab Emirates.

Shaheedullah said that the foreign firms have been asked to primarily display machinery and equipment in order to encourage technology transfer to Bangladesh.

The foreign firms are also expected to display electric and electronic goods, industrial and agricultural machin ery, textile equipment, house hold items, handicrafts, car pets, surgical equipment and, other items.

Bangladeshi producers will put on display textile products. ready-made garments, jute goods, ceramic ware, toiletries and cosmetics, handicrafts, electric goods, frozen food, leather goods and plastic and melamine products. Prominent local participat

ing firms include Singer (Bangladesh). Nabisco Biscuit. Square Toiletries, Rangs Group. Saleh Carpet, Bengal Fine Ceramics, Jamuna Group, KD Garments and a number of sector corporations.

Forty-nine pavilions, 165

the possibilities of turning the DTIF into an annual event with fair facilities built into the proposed world trade centre to be set up in Dhaka.

#### Ex-minister From Page 1 Col 4

les in this connection. As a result, the bidder paid Tk 25.95,952 in nine installments in a period of about seven months but did not deposit the remaining Tk 12.14.000.

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption filed the case under Section 5 (2) of the 'Corruption Prevention Act' 1947. both against the bidder Shish Mohammad and former state minister for allowing irrational time to the bidder for the payment of instalments violating government rules and for not taking any action against the

bidder to realise the money. The Anti-Corruption Bureau has initiated investigation into the case on emergency basis.

# Grozny.

From Page 1 Col 4 350,000 people have been left homeless.

Earlieri a lone Russian fighter jet made one bombing raid shortly after midnight and another in the morning, said Timur Tsurovev, a Chechen fighter at the rebel headquarters on he southern edge of Grozny.

Only minor street skirmishes and some tank fire were heard Thursday. Fog hung over all of Chechnya, limiting visibility and making ac-

curate bombing difficult. Intensive tank and mortar fire was heard near Chechnya's border with western Ingushetia, where, bombing raids in recent days killed at lest four villagers. An unknown number of Chechen fighters have fanned out to the hills to engage Russian forces trying to seal the republic.

In Grozny. Chechen fighter Hussein Mudayev, dressed in a camouflage uniform and carrying a Russian-made sniper rifle, said the rebels' success so far should prove "to Bill Clinton that Russia is not so strong after all.

Yeltsin a week ago had promised to stop bombing. But even as he made the announcement, warplanes continued their raids, destroying much of central Grozny, in

cluding an orphanage. Russia's Independent TV showed footage Wednesday of what appeared to be cluster bombs. Doctors treating the wounded have said bombs packed with nails are being

Russian troops kill

15 Tajik rebels MOSCOW, Jan 5: Fifteen Tajik Islamic rebels were killed by Russian border guards trying to enter Tajikistan from Afghanistan. Russian news agency reported

today, says AFP. The reports said two groups of Islamic opponents - one with four people and the other ! with 11- were fired on by the Russian troops when they ignored the guards' orders to surrender.

The incidents occurred Wednesday morning at a border post in the country's southwest in the Moskovski "When the fighters refused

to surrender they opened fire

and ... eliminated the two groups." Interfax News Agency reported. It said there were no casualties among the border guards, who have been targets

of Afghan-based Tajik rebels in

firefights along the border. On Wednesday afternoon, another rebel group tried to cross the border farther east near Kalaikhumski. Russian reports said the borders "neutralised" the group but did not specify what this

About 15.000 mostly Russian troops from a Commonwealth of Independent States force are deployed in Tajikistan — 75 per cent along the Afghan border - to support the neo-communist Tajik regime in its struggle with islamic guerillas often based in Afghanistan.

### Art exhibition

From Page 1 Col 8 Tk 50,000 Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Award and Mohammad Yunus the Tk 50,000 Arab-Bangladesh Bank Award while Jamal Ahmed got the Pacific Group Gold medal

Three honorary awards worth Tk 10,000 each went to Shaikh Afzal, Abdus Sattar and Mohammad Igbal. A total of 227 art works and

in the competition.

sculptures by 183 artists will be displayed in the exhibition. The First National Exhtbition was held in 1975 and 10

exhibitions were held in the last two decades. The exhibition will remain

open everyday from 2 pm to 7 pm till January 26.