

US, Pakistan to revive jt military forum

ISLAMABAD, Jan 11. Pakistan and the United States, moving to improve ties strained by a dispute on Islamabad's nuclear programme, are to revive a forum for bilateral military cooperation that has been dormant for more than four years, US officials said here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

The development followed talks between visiting US Defence Secretary William Perry with his Pakistani counterpart, Atab Shabban Mirani, and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Tuesday.

The two countries have agreed to revive the Pakistan-US Military Group, to hold regular discussions on security matters and military cooperation, a US spokesman told AFP.

The forum will deal with issues like joint military training, military education programmes, peacekeeping roles and global security issues.

The forum was earlier set up in 1984 at the peak of the anti-Soviet war in neighbouring Afghanistan, but was abandoned because of Pakistan's nuclear programme.

In October 1990, then President George Bush invoked the anti-proliferation Pressler amendment that forbids American aid to countries suspected of pursuing a nuclear bomb programme. He cut off the nearly \$600 million dollars in annual US economic and military assistance to Pakistan, which used to be the third-largest recipient of US aid.

Official sources said that without revoking the Pressler Law, the United States wished to reduce some irritants in its new post-Cold War agenda.

Pakistan has been extremely critical of the legislation claiming that its "discriminatory" application on Islamabad has been adversely affecting its security.

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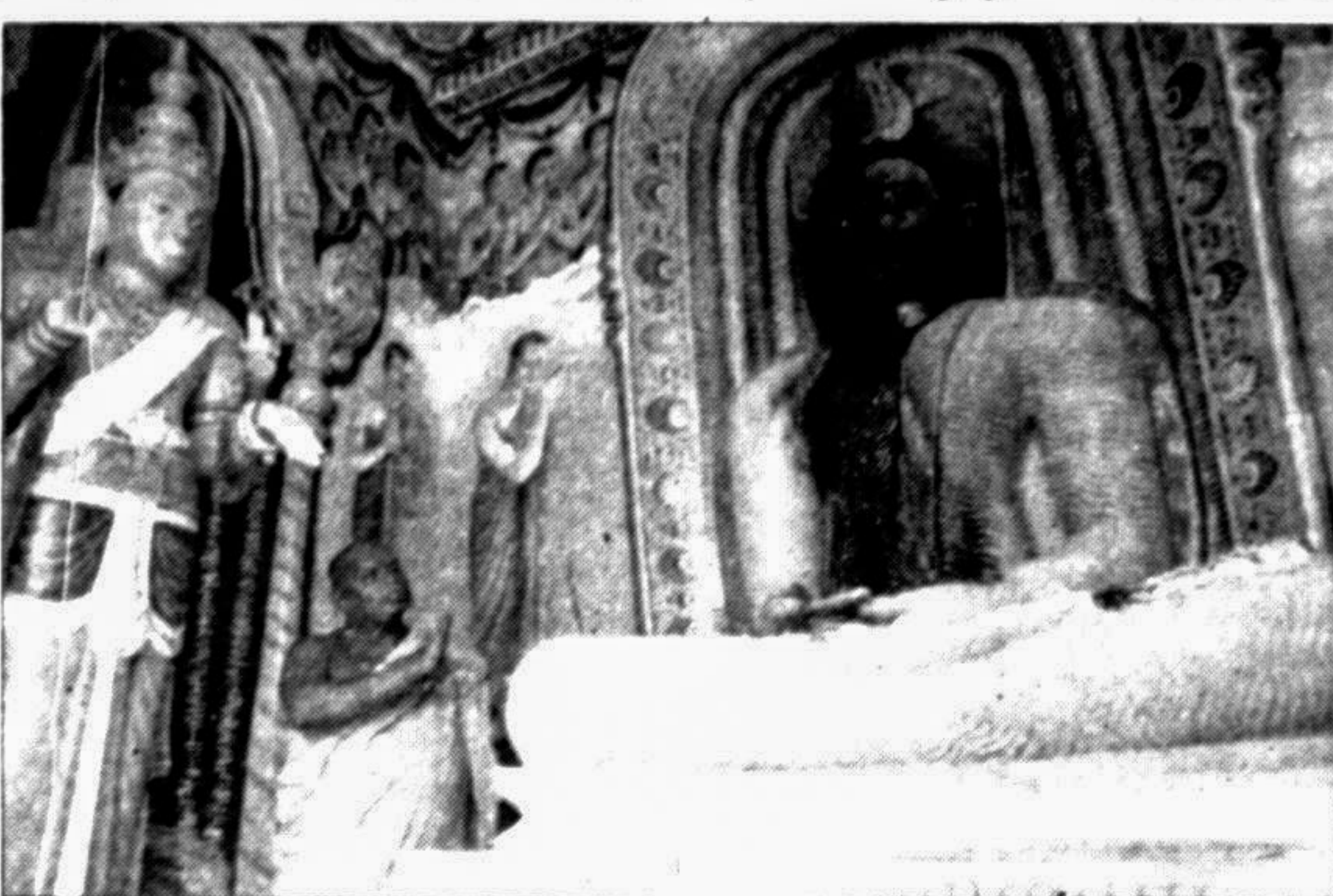
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A Buddhist monk standing beside a statue of Buddha that was set on fire yesterday in the Seeduwa area, north of Colombo. The incident took place one day after a Roman Catholic church in the area was attacked. — AFP photo (Story on Page 5)

4 JCD activists expelled

By DU Correspondent
The situation of the Dhaka University campus remained peaceful yesterday despite the inner conflict in the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) during the last few days. The JCD after an emergency meeting Tuesday night expelled four of its activists and also cancelled their primary membership.

They are Mukut, Ripon, Kamrul and Tuhin. The JCD leaders have urged all its activists to maintain peaceful atmosphere on the DU campus and in other educational institutions.

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Express. A wide range of US products and services are expected to be displayed at the trade show, including computers and accessories, irrigation pumps, electrical goods, petroleum products, audio-visual equipment and textile printing machinery.

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Karam Elahi new Pak envoy to Bangladesh

By Staff Correspondent
Karim Elahi has been appointed as the new Pakistan High Commissioner to Bangladesh. He is expected to arrive in Dhaka shortly to take up his new assignment.

A career diplomat Karam Elahi joined the Pakistan Foreign Service in 1968. He was serving as an Additional Foreign Secretary before his new appointment.

Elahi is replacing Anwar Kemal who left Dhaka on January 10 after a five-year stint in Bangladesh.

Iran has no secret N-plan, says IAEA

VIENNA, Jan 11. The UN nuclear watchdog said on Tuesday it had no evidence that Iran had embarked on a secret nuclear weapons programme, reports AFP.

International Atomic Energy Agency IAEA said in a statement at its headquarters here that "nothing indicates that Iran is engaged in a secret nuclear programme."

IAEA inspections of Iranian nuclear sites had uncovered no installations in contravention of its commitments to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty NPT, said the watchdog's spokesman, Hans Friedrich Meyer.

Dhaka Zoo

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gled for hours to catch it. From the freedom of the Bay of Bengal, the poor turtle now finds itself in a 20'x20' knee-deep pool.

Banya, the Indian lioness, gave birth to four beautiful cubs three months ago. The cuddly, playful little creatures are never shy of the camera. Their mother keeps a watchful eye on them, sometimes making a dash towards the curious on-lookers.

About three to four thousand people visit the zoo everyday. Their main attraction is the orangutan, which is known as *Ban-Manush* (Jungle-Man) in Bangla.

Lawyers decide to boycott magistrate's court

By Court Correspondent
The Dhaka Ainjibi Samity (DLA) yesterday decided to boycott the Court of Magistrate A K Nazmuzzaman in the Dhaka Magistracy.

A DLA press release said, the decision came after alleged misconduct of the magistrate with some lawyers in his court.

The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by DLA president Ramzan Ali Khan, advocate. It was also addressed by Abdu Sabur, Abu Sayeed Sagar, Serajul Alam, Abdul Ahad Mia and Nuruzzaman Noni.

2 accords

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The Jamaat-e-Islami brought out its procession from the North Gate of the Baitul Mukarram Mosque.

The opposition will also organise mass contact programmes on January 14 and 15 and bring out torch processions on January 16.

The Midnight File

India, Singapore start jt naval exercises today

NEW DELHI, Jan 11: India and Singapore will hold week-long joint naval exercises in the Bay of Bengal from Thursday, navy officials said here today. It will be the third naval exercise between the two countries, they said. Top Singaporean naval officers will visit the Andaman Islands in the Bay of Bengal on Sunday to observe the exercises, they added.

Cop charged with torture for bribe

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Jan 11: A police officer has been charged with torturing some arrested people in the thana lockup with the intention of extorting money from them.

A written complaint in this connection was lodged with the Superintendent of Police (SP), Sylhet today.

The complaint stated that ASI Shah Alam of Sylhet Kotwali Thana arrested five persons, three of them brothers, from their village-home on Monday afternoon.

The public brought them to the thana hazzat and asked them to pay Taka 5,000 for their release. Following their refusal police kept them in the hazzat instead of sending them to the court the next morning.

The ASI, with the help of his colleagues, then gave the arrested persons a good beating and sent them to the court after office hours. This prevented the arrested persons from seeking bail.

Air Force chiefs

See Page 12 Col 3
American competitor and, moreover, offered training facilities and supply of spare parts, sources said, adding that "this was ignored."

Yusuf Hossain Humayun, defence lawyer for Ershad, expressed inability of the defence to conduct the case yesterday and pleaded for an adjournment. Mahbubur Rahman, another of Ershad's counsels, stated that the defence had submitted three petitions asking for an adjournment to allow it to get necessary papers and also for the defence lawyers to consult their clients.

Gaziul Haq, appearing for Sultan Mahmud and Mosharrif Hossain Kazal, appearing for Mostafazuddin and Shahjad Ali, also prayed for adjournment.

Public prosecutor Abdur Razzak Khan did not object and the judge adjourned the hearing. Khan, however, pointed out that had the defence wished they could have collected the papers because the appearance date had been fixed three months ago.

The judge also instructed the authorities concerned to see that the defence lawyers could have exclusive meeting with Ershad in the Central Jail on January 29.

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The first day of the trade show today has been declared as the traders day and only businessmen and traders will be allowed to visit the show from 10 am to 5 pm and thereafter it will be kept open for the general public till 8 pm. The show will be open for the general public during the remaining two days from 10 am to 8 pm.

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Security officials had no details on the attack, which came the same day that gunmen opened fire on worshippers leaving a mosque in Barika, near Batna, killing four and seriously wounding another.

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