# US, Pakistan to revive jt military forum

ISLAMABAD, Jun 11. Pakistan and the United States moving to improve ties strai ned by a dispute on Islama bad'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

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

The two countries have agreed to revive the Pakistan US Military Group, to hold regular discussions on security matters and military coopera

tion, a US spokesman told AFP The forum will deal with is sues like joint military train ing, 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 neighbour ing Afghanistan, but was abandoned because of Pakistan's nuclear programme

In October 1990, then President George Bush in voked the anti-proliferation Pressler amendment that for bids 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

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.

The amendment has also stalled the delivery of 38 F-16 aircraft for which Pakistan had already made payments. Prime Minister Bhutto on Tuesday repeated that Washington should either supply the planes or

#### PM to visit

From Page 1 Col 5 Pakistan are yet to be fixed.

During the visit to Sri Lanka, Begum Zia will review with Sri Lankan president Chandrika Kumaratunga, the achievements of the decadeold forum.

The Prime Minister will also take the opportunity to discuss bilateral, regional and international issues of common concern. Setting up of direct airlinks and boosting of exports between the two countries may also be discussed The date for the next Sri Lanka-Bangladesh Joint Commission meeting due to take place in Dhaka early this year, is expected to be fixed during the visit.

The Prime Minister's entourage would include Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman and Director General of SAARC, Ashfagur Rahman

To overcome legal obstacles, sources said Washington might help Pakistan get the planes through a third country to which it would sell the 38

Meanwhile, in another de velopment, Perry confirmed a US commitment to assist in the withdrawal of Pakistani peacekeeping forces stationed in Somalia by the end of

Pakistan has the biggest contingent in Somalia with 6.000 troops deployed in a total of 8,500 Blue Helmets.

Another report by AP adds Perry on Wednesday urged Pakistan and India not to de ploy missiles capable of carry ing nuclear weapons, saying it would raise tensions between the hostile neighbours.

What I stressed was the importance of not escalating any of the activities in the weapons of mass destruction. either missiles or nuclear weapons," Perry told a news conference following two days of talks with Pakistan's politi cal and military leaders

The United States has tried unsuccessfully to halt the nu clear programme in the South Asian nations, but both are now considered capable of making atomic bombs.

With no nuclear agreement in sight, the United States is hoping to persuade the countries not to deploy missiles that could carry nuclear arms.

Perry said he neither asked nor received nuclear guarantees from Pakistan and is not expected to get them in India where he continues his trip Thursday.

However, he did praise Pakistan as "a model of moderation in the Islamic world, and said the country was essential to peace and stability in South Asia.

#### Corruption case against Shah Moazzem

The Bureau of Anti-corruption yesterday lodged a case against former LGRD minister

Shah Moazzem Hussain for abuse of power and causing loss of Taka 6.67,200 to the government, an official hand out said, reports BSS The handout said, the

former LGRD minister while in office through abuse of power and with the motive of deriv ing financial benefit dissolved the elected committee of the Bangladesh Autorickshaw Drivers' Cooperative Federation Ltd of 1986-87 and subsequently formed an ad hoc committee consisting of people of his own choice and through that committee he imported some 500 new look baby taxis instead of Bajaj baby taxis at a cost of Taka 2.39,18.950 causing a loss of Taka 6.76.200 to the government. The Autorickshaw Drivers' Cooperative Federation. as a result, suffered a loss to

# Destructive activities

From Page 1 Col 7 government, and the other of destructive activities being perpetrated by the Opposition.

The development trend. which has been initiated by the BNP government after the restoration of democracy, has enhanced the confidence of the people and the image of Bangladesh abroad.

Criticising the Opposition's activities, including their mass resignation from Parliament. Begum Zia said that the Opposition had stayed away from the Jatiya Sangsad although they spoke highly of parliamentary democracy.

She reminded the Opposition MPs of their duties of discussing the people's problems, solving those in Parliament and passing good laws. She said, instead, the Opposition had refrained from discharging their duties as elected representatives of the people.

The Opposition, she said. had taken to the streets to remove an elected government by raising non-issues instead of performing their due responsibilities.

"Can the Opposition help solve the people's problems supplement the nation's development and pass good laws by taking to the streets?" she questioned.

Finding no other issues to oppose the government. Begum Zia said, the Opposition had raised the issue of a so-

called caretaker government. There is nothing called a caretaker government any-

where in the world, she added. Referring to the passage of the 12th Constitutional

Amendment which envisaged that the country would be run by the elected representatives at all spheres, she said no nominated person can run the

the tune of Taka 2,39,18,950.

the handout added.

Running of the country by a non-elected person, she said, would be contrary to the Constitution and a breach of the promises made to the

The BNP government, the Prime Minister said, could not do anything in violation of the Constitution and in disregard of the people's verdict.

Referring to the steps taken to introduce identity cards for the voters, the Prime Minister said that the Election Commission had further been strengthened to conduct freer

and fairer elections. Responding to some local demands, the Prime Minister meet those, including the in

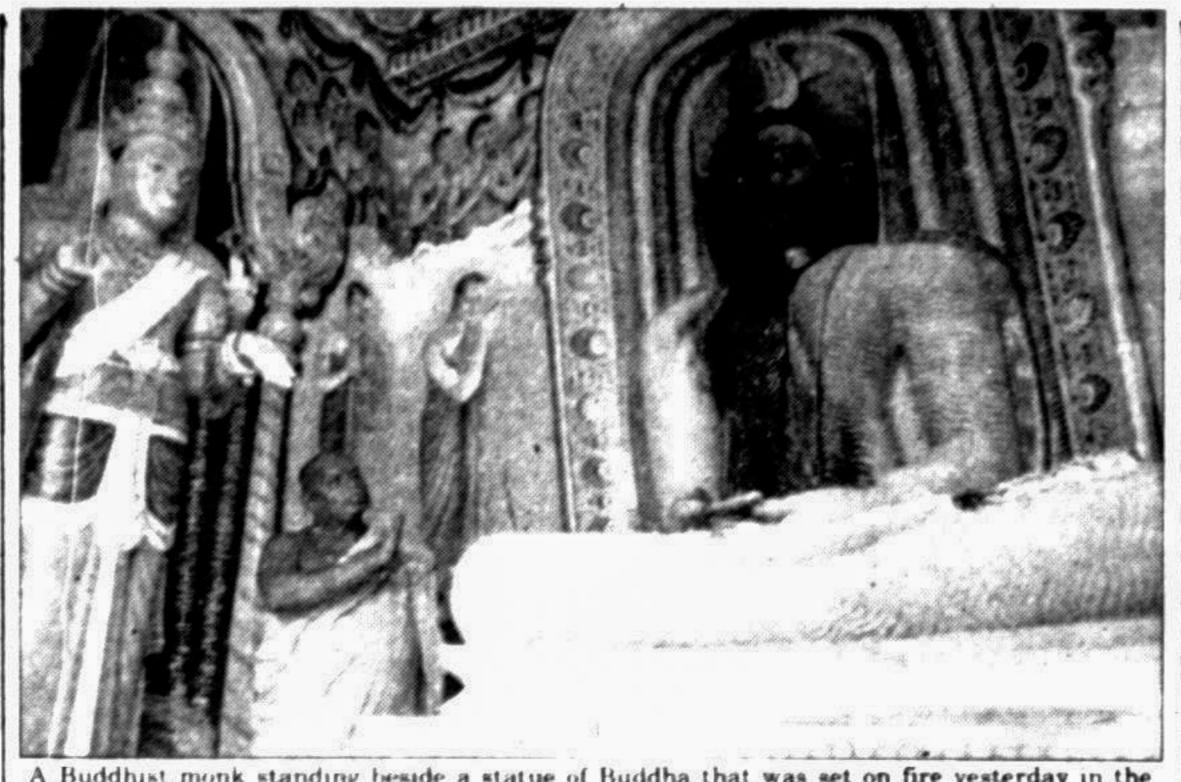
said steps would be taken to troduction of honours courses in the Haraganga College. Presided over by Jasimuddin Ahmed, a local BNP

leader, the meeting was also addressed by Deputy Leader of the House Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Minister for Commerce and Information M Shamsul Islam, Deputy Minister for LRGD and Cooperatives Abdul Hye, Chairman of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Shahidul Huq Jamal MP. Shahjahan Siraj MP. M Hamidullah Khan MP, Begum Shamsunnahar Ahsanullah MP. General Secretary of Munshiganj District BNP Mujibur Rahman, and Kazi Abul Basher. Saju Kamal and Salehin Ahmed

#### **Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

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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 - AFP photo (Story on Page 5) church in the area was attacked

# 4 JCD activists expelled

By DU Correspondent

The situation on the Dhaka University campus remained peaceful yesterday despite the inner conflict in the Jatiya tabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) during the last few-days.

The JCD after an emer gency meeting Tuesday night expelled four of its activists and also cancelled their pri mary 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 edu cational institutions

# Speaker

cfl under the President to su pervise the next elections.

From Page 1 Col 7

"A delay in the Speaker giv ing his decision will give the rival camps the scope to continue backstage efforts to remove their differences and reach a mutually honourable solution," an Opposition leader from the Awami League said Leaders of both sides had telephonic conversations about the matter, he said, without giving details.

Some ruling party sources said they had no knowledge about any fresh move for talks to end the political impasse.

In a related development Attorney General Aminul Huq yesterday met the Speaker in the afternoon and had discussions for about an hour. Chie Whip of Parliament Khandaker Delwar Hossain was also pre-

When contacted over telephone. Aminul Hug said he had no serious discussion with the Speaker during the meet

"I just enquired about his health," he said, declining to elaborate.

An unconfirmed report however, said that the Attorney General discussed a possible Bill for an amend ment to the Constitution.

The Speaker went to his of fice yesterday at 10 am and left around 7:30 pm.

#### PM asks BDR From Page 1 Col 5

junctures of national life, including maintaining law and

She said due to the BDR's alertness, the killer disease plague could not affect Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister said the government is considering strengthening the BDR.

She recalled the heroic role of the BDR in the War of Liberation and remembered the sacrifices of Birshresthas Nur Mohammad Shaikh and Munshi Abdur Rouf.

Earlier, Begum Zia reviewed an impressive march past and took salute.

After the march past, she distributed the President's Medal to two BDR personnel for bravery. Begum Zia later inaugurated

a fair organised by the Officers' Wives' Club to mark the occasion. She also went round the Earlier, on her arrival, the Prime Minister was received

by Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury and Director General of the BDR Major General Mohammad Anwar Hossain The function was also at-

tended by Deputy Speaker Humanyun Khart Panni, ministers, state ministers, MPs, Chief Election Commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf, Diplomats, chiefs of the three services, senior civil and military officials and dignitaries.

Later, addressing a separate meeting at the headquarters at Peelkhana, the Prime Minister instructed the sector commanders to identify the real smugglers in the interest of development

"If we can curb smuggling, we can increase production in mills and factories, ensure development of the country and improve the people's lot," she observed.

#### bus, mosque: 15 killed ALGIERS, Jan 11: Pifteen and fled, security authorities people were killed and seven said in a communique. wounded in attacks on a bus Muslim militants have de-

Algerian rebels attack

and a mosque in eastern Algeria, security forces re ported Wednesday, reports AP

Their announcement came on the third anniversary of the army-backed coup that established a ruling military committee and sparked the threeyear-old civil war against the government.

Eleven people were killed and six wounded when the bus was attacked Tuesday in the eastern city of Batna, 430 kilometers (270 miles) southeast of Algiers by suspected Muslim extremists supporting the Islamic insurgency

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 an-The gunmen fired on the

worshippers from a vehicle Newspaper office attacked

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 11: A group of vouths exploded at least thirty crackers during an attack on the Sylhet bureau office of the Dainik Bangla tonight.

They also tried to break the collapsible gate of the office building and threatened the staff with dire consequences. It all happened when the

youths reportedly set up a stall and began selling crackers openly near the bureau office at about 5 pm and an office assistant asked them to remove

#### Rao sacks From Page 1 Col 4

Prime Minister Rao has asked his aides to draft a resolution seeking Arjun Singh's ouster from the party, the Times of India said.

Rao, the Congress Party president, would need a vote to oust Singh, so he is campaigning for support. The vote is expected at the next party meeting, but no date has been

If Singh is expelled, the Congress Party could split into factions, threatening Rao's leadership and the party's chances in six state elections in February and March.

Since November, the Congress party has lost three state elections and three Cabinet ministers have been dismissed because of their alleged roles in two scandals: Shady deals involving sugar imports and the 1.7 billion dollar securities scandal.

clared in some parts of Algeria that imams named by the gov ernment should not be allowed to conduct prayers.

Several government-designated clerics have been assas sinated by suspected Islamic extremists who have waged an insurgency for almost three years after the government cancelled legislative elections and outlawed the main Muslim movement, the Islamic Salvation Front.

Algerian opposition members met in Rome for a fourth day in a closed session Wednesday to discuss ending the strife that has killed more than 15,000 people.

#### Campaign to save the Taj from floodlights

NEW DELHI, Jan 11: An indian attorney plans to step up a campaign to save the Taj Mahal from pollution and has threatened to block government plans to illuminate the architectural marvel with highintensity floodlights, reports

Mahesh-Chandra Mehta, India's top environmental lawyer said he would take New Delhi to court if it tried to install floodlights near the monument and altar its landscape as part of a plan to boost tourism.

"Lights generate heat, and heat burns marble." Mehta said of Tourism Minister Gulam Nabi Azad's plan to give a lacelift to the 16th-century mausoleum which attracts hundreds of thousands of visi-

### Lawyers decide to boycott magistrate's court

By Court Correspondent The Dhaka Ainjibi Samity (DLA) vesterday 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 Abdus Sabur, Abu Saveed Sagar, Serajul Alam, Abdul Ahad Mia and Nuruzzaman Noni.

The lawyers alleged that the magistrate had been misbehaving with them for a long time He did not change his ways even after repeated requests. the press release added.

# Afghan factions hold peace talks

KABUL, Jan 11: Peace delegations from rival Afghan factions fighting for and against President Burhanuddin Rabbani held their first face to face meeting south of Kabul on Tuesday, Radio Kabul reported, says AFP.

Three pro-Rabbani representatives met with rival faction leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar at his Charasiab head quarters some 25 kilometres (15 miles) south of the capital on Tuesday, the state radio said in a broadcast.

No details of the three-hour session were given except that both sides described the talks as 'positive.'

On Tuesday night, however, locals were disturbed by a heavy exchange of artillery fire - the muzzles, flashes and explosions of which could be clearly seen on the eastern frontlines. "It was not a major attack.

It was no big thing," General Fahim, head of National Security told AFP. Fahim said Hekmatyar's

Hezb-i-Islami faction tanks on

Marajan Hill which in turn had replied with heavy weapons However, by day de facto ceasefire holds in Kabul, and

Bini Hissar Hill had shelled

pro-Rabbani positions on

Wednesday saw calm restored and the city bazaars crowded with shoppers, and normal traffic. A permanent peace settle ment between the warring

factions, who have been battling each other since Kabul ught out its procession from fell to the Mujahideen in April 1992, is linked to the resignation of Rabbani who is still in office, although, his two year term ended December 28, 1994.

The peace talks on Tuesday were not arranged by the United Nations, whose special envoy Mahmoud Mestiri has been charged with finding a solution to the Afghan crisis. but was an initiative from what Radio Kabul described as "neighbouring and Islamic countries."

#### 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 Janu ary 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

From Page 1 Col 5 gled for hours to catch it. From the freedom of the Bay of Bengal, the poor turtle now finds itself in a 20'x20' kneedeep 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 dash towards the curious onlookers.

About three to four thou sand people visit the zoo everyday. Their main attraction is the orangutan, which is known as Ban-Manush(Jungle-Man) in Bangla. Two years ago, during the

winter, about 200 pelicans came to the zoo's huge water reservoir. Five of those never left and are still in the lake living happily as permanent inmates. As usual, thousands of mi-

gratory birds have swarmed the lake this winter also Occasionally, they fly in flocks of hundreds or even thousands, creating a spectacular sight for the eyes of the be-The original plan of the zoo contained establishment of a

Safari Park -where animals would not remain captive inside cages but roam about freely. That plan never materialised. Instead, the land earmarked for this was used for setting up the botanical garden, another favourite attrac tion for the denizens of this crowded city.

#### Ctg port From Page 1 Col 8

channel was suspended after the 1991 cyclone that left a trail of devastation here. All the navigational aids were either damaged or displaced during the cyclone, causing suspension of night-navigation

The CPA has replaced the damaged navigational aids and signal system at the channel.

Foreign cargo vessels can now easily berth at the Chittagong Port jetties both day and night without delaying their stay at the outer anchor age. The ships also can sail out at night from the port jetties i cargo-loading is completed port officials said.

With the resumption of night navigation more foreign cargo vessels are expected to call at Chittagong Port from now on, the officials said

### **Processions**

From Page 1 Col 4 from Lalbagh area under the leadership of party chief Sheikh Hasina

The Jatiya Party yesterday afternoon brought out a procession from Jatrabari. The processionists dispersed at the South Gate of the Battul Mukarram Mosque after parading different city streets.

JP leaders Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Moudud Ahmed Shah Moazzem Hossain and Kazi Zafar Ahmed led the procession for sometime. The Jamaat-e-Islami bro-

Maghbazar intersection. The processionists dispersed at the North Gate of the Baitul Mukarram Mosque. Before bringing out the procession, the Jamaat held a rally which was addressed by party secretary general Mou-

lana Matiur Rahman Nizami.

Sheikh Ansar Ali and A T M

Azharul Islam. The opposition will also organise mass contact programmes on January 14 and 15 and bring out torch processions on January 18.

# The Midnight Rile

India, Singapore start jt naval exercises today

NEW DELHI. Jan 11: India and Singapore will hold weeklong 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

# 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 wriften 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 hazat and asked them to pay Taka 5.000 for their release. Following their refusal police kept them in the hazat 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 weeking 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 al low it to get necessary papers and also for the deference lawyers to consult their clien:

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

Public prosecutor Adbur 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.

Md Borhanuddin and Moinuddin, both assistant public prosecutors, assisted Razzak Khan.

#### US trade show From Page 1 Col 8

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. 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.

### 2 accords

vears in case of oil and 25 years in case of gas.

From Page 1 Col 3

Occidental Petroleum is one of the largest diversified multinational companies based in US, with operations and interests in oil and gas exploration and development, natural gas transmission, power generation and chemicals. During its 30 years of interna tional operations, the company has discovered 11 billion bar rels of oil and gas equivalent.

Occidental Energy Ventures Corp, a subsidiary of Occiden tal Petroleum, has recently submitted a proposal to the Bangladesh government to build, own and operate a 300megawatt private power plant.

It may be mentioned that a similar production-sharing contract was signed a few weeks back with a UK-Dutch joint venture company. Cairn Energy PLC and Holland Seas Search, for exploration of oil and gas in Block Nos. 15 and

Petrobangla sources said the two companies have already begun their exploration in the offshore areas of the Bay of Bengal

# Speaker's role

criticised Jatiya Party leader Moudud Ahmed and Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta yesterday sharply reacted to the Speaker's delay in disposing of the issue of the Opposition's resignation from Parliament.

reports UNB. They alleged that Shaikh Razzak Ali had destroyed the

institution of the Speaker. It is unusual that the Speaker is taking so much time to give his decision when the Constitution is so clear and unambiguous' over the question of resignation as per its Article 67 (2). 'It looks highly motivated and is unaccept-

able," Moudud said. In reply to a question, he said all members were present while submitting their resignation letters and 'We have already ceased to be members of Parliament since December

Suranjit Sengupta also criticised the Speaker's delay in giving his ruling. 'He has undermined the institution of the Speaker as well as befooled the nation," said Sengupta. 10 killed in

Somaliland

fighting MOGADISHU, Jan 11: At least 10 government troops were killed and several others wounded today in flerce fighting with rebel militias in Hargeisa, the capital of the secessionist Somaliland, relief

workers said, reports AFP. The fighting, pitting government troops loyal to the region's self-styled "president" Mohamed Ibrahim Egal and fighters opposed to him erupted at 7:00 local time (0400 GMT), with exchanges of artillery shells and anti-air

craft missiles. The number of casualties on the rebel side could not be

#### immediately established **FBCCI**

Prior to the national con-

vention, the FBCCl will hold

From Page 1 Col 8 political programmes.

regional meetings at the five divisional headquarters, the meeting decided. It discussed the outcome of the joint meeting of the heads

bodies and the general body members of the FBCCI held in the city Tuesday. The executive committee of the FBCCl also expressed its satisfaction at the way the business community had demonstrated unity and expressed confidence in the

of the constituent member-

leadership of its apex body for various moves taken so far to safeguard their interest. According to sources, the committee also decided to watch the political situation in

#### the country before taking any 'major decision'. '

Dudayev From Page 1 Col 4 for peaceful negotiations, but Russia is trying to break in an already open door. No one knows why.

Dudayev, a former Soviet air

force general who declared

Chechnya's independence from Russia in 1991, said the key issue now was to end the bloody war. "Only after you put out the flames can you see what remains and what you have to rebuild again." he said. "The is-

casualties from both sides, senseless casualties and senseless destruction. A day earlier, his government had reiterated its demand that Russian troops withdraw before Chechen

sue now is to stop the military

action and stop the senseless

fighters lay down their arms as Moscow insists. Dressed in camouflage fatigues and a military cap. Dudayev was flanked by heavily armed bodyguards as he spoke to journalists who were taken to a building in Grozny to meet

with him. He looked very tired.

the day to discuss grim mili-

His cabinet met earlier in

tary realities: Russian troops closing in on the presidential palace and other key installations in the centre of Grozny Once again, an informal truce that brought a hill in the fighting in the morning was brief. Russian television said reinforcements had been sent to

Chechnya and other troops

were undergoing training, but

it was unclear what steps the

Kremlin plainned next in the month-old war The Russian parliament met today to discuss the war. Most factions, from the democrats to the Communists, oppose it.

as does an overwhelming majortty of the public.