

# Arafat must now strive for a full Palestinian state

GAZA CITY, Jan 22: Yasser Arafat, elected Palestinian president by a landslide, must now strive to fulfill his ambitious campaign pledge: A full Palestinian state with its capital in east Jerusalem, reports AP.

Israel has made clear that before any further expansion of the Palestinians' limited autonomy in parts of the West Bank and Gaza, it expects Arafat to annul clauses in the PLO charter calling for the destruction of the Jewish state.

Palestinians delivered a clear message this weekend that they want the process to continue, ignoring calls by Arafat's Islamic militant and leftist opposition to boycott the first Palestinian election. More than 80 per cent of the 1 million voters cast ballots. "I am very proud of this very important historic democratic election, in which a very high majority of our people have participated," Arafat said early Monday after final results showed him overwhelmingly winning the race for president.

"We hope that (it) will be one of the most important efforts on the way to an independent Palestinian state," he said.

Mahmoud Abbas, a senior PLO official close to Arafat, said the Palestinian parliament will declare independence within three years. The period of Palestinian self-rule, as negotiated with Israel, ends in May 1999. Negotiations on the final status of the autonomous areas and Jerusalem are to begin in May.

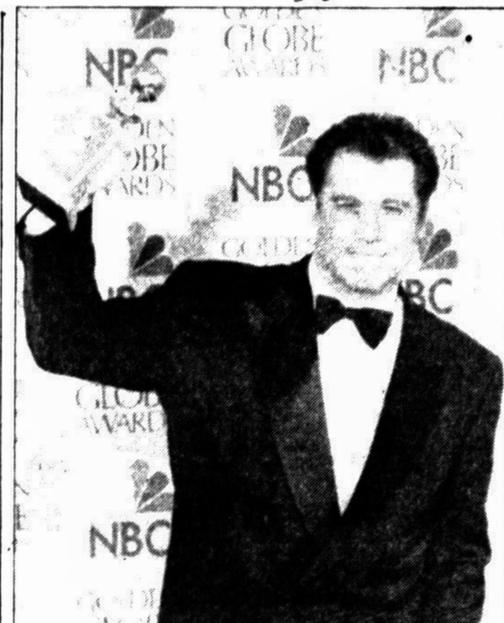
With victory in hand, a

raspy-voiced, exhausted Hanan Ashrawi said Sunday that the new Palestinian national council must have the "courage and integrity" to stand up to Yasser Arafat.

Ashrawi became a familiar figure abroad as the articulate, combative spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation that held talks with Israel after a 1991 Madrid conference launched the peace process.

Another report says, the self-rule elections have in effect turned the Palestinian territories into an independent state, a left-wing Israeli minister said in Jerusalem today.

"The elections have created a new political reality with the emergence of a de facto Palestinian state," said Environment Minister Yossi Sarid of the Meretz Party in the labour-led coalition.



Actor John Travolta waves his golden globe award for photographers yesterday after winning the Best Actor award in a comedy motion picture for his role in 'Get Shorty' at the 53rd Annual Golden Globes Awards in Los Angeles. — AFP/UNB photo

# 39 killed as Tigers 'down' chopper

COLOMBO, Jan 22: An air force helicopter carrying 39 people crashed today into waters controlled by Tamil Tiger guerrillas in northern Sri Lanka, official sources said, reports AFP.

There were no reports of survivors.

Tamil Tiger rebels said they shot down the helicopter.

Voice of Tiger Radio, mouthpiece of the LTTE, said its guerrillas shot down the helicopter at rebel-held point Pedro, a few miles east of the Giant Palaly base where the LTTE shot down two Avro transport planes last April, reports AFP.

Defence sources said the helicopter may have been shot down by an anti-aircraft gunner firing from a boat off the eastern coast of the Jaffna peninsula which is dominated by the rebels.

The Russian-built Mi-17 transporter was taking security personnel from the main air force base at Palaly on the northern edge of the Jaffna peninsula to a smaller military base at Vettikalkerni when it disappeared, the

# PM's tour: Hartal called in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Jan 22: The mainstream opposition parties have called a day-long hartal in Sylhet town on Wednesday, the day scheduled for the tour of the Prime Minister.

The hartal call came from a joint meeting of AL, JP and Jamaat held this afternoon.

The speakers said that the people in Sylhet would resist the Prime Minister's proposed visit for starting election campaign.

# 2 teenage sisters raped in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Jan 22: Two sisters were reportedly raped last night by a gang of five at Nandipara in the city.

The sisters aged about 17 and 14 went to the town from adjacent Daobhogh in search of their father who had remarried recently and was staying away.

They fell into the hands of the gang who claimed to know the whereabouts of their father.

They took them to a house and later at night took them to a field and repeatedly raped them.

Police rescued the girls and sent them to Narayanganj Hospital. Police also arrested three of the alleged rapists Maigga, Biswajit and Masum.

# Unite against one-party polls: Hasina

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the people are united to resist the one-party elections under the BNP's blue-print, and protect the country and democracy, reports UNB.

Addressing a meeting in her party's information cell in the evening, she said the government is holding "one-party farcical polls only to stick to power by ignoring the desire of 90 per cent of the people" for voting under a non-party neutral caretaker government.

Hasina said the government is trying to hold one-party elections on the plea of Constitution, but the relevant article of the Constitution is "not mandatory, it is instructive."

She alleged that the government itself has violated many provisions of the Constitution and snatched away people's independent right of voting in the name of Constitution.

A meeting of the central secretaries of the Awami League yesterday directed its workers to intensify the current movement to resist the "farcical elections of blue-print" under BNP government.

The meeting held at the party's central office with its general secretary Zillur Rahman in the chair adopted a resolution demanding cancellation of the "farcical elections," schedule, resignation of Begum Zia's government and elections under a neutral non-party caretaker government.

ALCEC meeting

Meanwhile, the extended meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCEC) will be held on January 27 at the Engineers' Institute auditorium, instead of January 29 announced earlier.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting.

# Nasaka returns 15 Bangladeshis

COX'S BAZAR, Jan 22: The border security force of Myanmar, 'Nasaka', today returned 15 Bangladesh citizens who were abducted from Bangladesh territory two months ago, reports UNB.

The Nasaka force handed over the 15 Bangladeshis to BDR 39 battalion at Teknaf border today.

Some Nasaka personnel intruded into Bangladesh territory and forcibly took away the local citizens while they were cutting bamboo at a forest near Jamtoli border. Later, they were held in Myanmar prison.

# 10 shot dead in Pakistan

MULTAN, Jan 22: Ten people were shot dead in an attack today on a police van taking prisoners to a special court for trial in the province of Punjab, police said, reports AFP.

The attack appeared to be a vendetta against six men accused in a murder case who were among the dead in the shooting near the town of Hasilpur, about 700 kilometers southwest of Islamabad, a police official said.

Two policemen and two other prisoners were also killed in the attack, police said.

The police van, which was taking the prisoners to a special court in the city of Bahawalpur, was ambushed by 10 men armed with AK-47 rifles who escaped.

# Bus dacoity in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 22: Dacoits disguised as passengers looted valuable items from the passengers of a bus on Kishoreganj-Korgaon road this evening, reports UNB.

Police said a group of about 20 armed dacoits swooped on the passengers as the bus reached at Danapatuli, about 8 km of the town.

They fled the scene with the valuables, including cash, worth about Tk one lakh, leaving some 20 passengers and the bus driver injured.

Four of the injured were admitted to Kishoreganj Sadar Hospital with stab injuries while six others rushed to Gochhahata Health Complex.

# Rab urges people to gherao candidates

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) leader A S M Abdur Rab has urged the people to mount social pressure on the candidates of the coming election to withdraw their nominations, reports UNB.

He made the call while addressing a joint representatives meeting of Dhaka city units of JSD, Sramik Jote and Chhatra League at the party office here yesterday, said a press release.

"Gherao the candidates who will not withdraw their candidature by January 23, the last date for the withdrawal," the JSD leader said.

The meeting was addressed, by Abdul Maleq Ratan, Mohammed Khaled, Sheikh Rashid Mahmud, Wali Ahmed Patwari and Abul Khayer Sazzad. Syed Jafar Sazzad presided.

# Text books

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books for Class VI were given to the publishers almost a month back but they supplied the English text book only yesterday, he said.

About the books for Class IX, he said that those would reach the market sometime next month. Supply of positives of the books to the publishers have already started, he added.

Publishers said that the delay was caused because the Text Book Board had changed the syllabi for these two classes and introduced new sets of books this year.

The Chairman, however, said that introducing new syllabi was not the factor as the printing of books also depended on the supply of paper in the country.

Text books for Classes VII and VIII reached the market last week. These books, however, were printed according to the previous syllabi.

# Girls call strike in Pirojpur

PIROJPUR, Jan 22: Students of a local girls' school have called a day-long strike at Parerhat river port of the district on Wednesday demanding removal of their headmistress, reports UNB.

Sources said the students of Sammitia Secondary Girls' School brought out a procession and held a rally in the river port area protesting alleged misappropriation and abuse of power by the headmistress, Anurupa Bhuomik.

Earlier, on January 4, the students submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner of the district to press the same demand.

# Body recovered

By Staff Correspondent

The body of an unidentified man was recovered from a drain near the main road of Mirpur Section-7 in the city yesterday evening.

The cause of the death could not be known immediately.

However, the duty officer of Pallabi thana could not give any details.

# Ramadan

From Page 1

Fish sellers claimed that supply of fish had declined in the last one week. All varieties of vegetables have also become dearer. Prices of tomato, cauliflower, beans, egg plants, onions etc have gone up by Taka 2 to Taka 5 per kg. The same trend was noticed in case of pulses, dried chilli.

# The Midnight File

## Diana's private secy resigns

LONDON, Jan 22: Princess Diana's private secretary, Patrick Jephson, resigned today. Buckingham Palace said, Jephson became the second member of the Princess of Wales' staff to quit since her controversial BBC TV interview in November, reports AFP.

## First-ever agri credit by private bank

The National Bank Limited (NBL) is planning to start giving farm credit soon — for the first time by a private bank — to boost the agriculture sector often neglected by the institutional creditors, reports UNB.

The NBL Managing Director, Kazi Abdul Mazid, said yesterday the bank has decided to replicate the supervised lending it is now extending to farmers in the Barind Multipurpose Development Project to other areas.

Addressing the members of the Economic Reporters Forum, he said the Board of the bank has agreed to visit the Barind area shortly, and is expected to endorse the proposal for extending agricultural loans to the farmers across the country.

The bank is providing small but supervised credits up to Tk 10,000 to some 2,900 farmers in the Barind area.

"Our experience is very good, utilisation is well while recovery is 100 per cent," Mazid said.

NBL, the first private sector bank in Bangladesh, is also planning to enter into joint venture banking in Myanmar which, the NBL

## Bank dacoity in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Jan 22: A gang of armed dacoits looted about Tk 44,000 from a bank and some shops in Kanaighat thana here in the early hours of today.

The dacoits entered the Agrani Bank, Sarkerbazar branch, by breaking open the main gate at about 1 am and looted Tk 24,200 and a gun from there.

The dacoits also attacked some nearby shops and looted about Tk 20,000.

A case has been registered. However, none was arrested so far.

## Sit-in

From Page 1

demanding her resignation. But none turned up for the programme yesterday.

Meanwhile, foreign and local media men waited in vain to cover the planned sit-in there and also at the Jatya Press Club if there be any demonstration or press conference.

## ADP project

From Page 1

Bangladesh, has reportedly vented concern to the government at the slow pace of aid disbursement during the first five months of the current fiscal.

The government and the donors are sitting today at the Planning Commission for a mid-term review of ADP implementation. State Minister for Planning Dr A Moyeen Khan will preside.

Overall ADP utilisation during the first five months of the current fiscal is 23 per cent, one percentage point down than that of the corresponding period of last year.

In a position paper, already sent by the ERD to the World Bank which is the coordinator of the donors' group, the government boasted the utilisation as satisfactory in the context of a volatile political situation.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

External Publicity Section  
Ministry of Information  
Foreign Ministry Building  
Dhaka

No. 3(18)/95-96-EP(Pub)/127 Dated: 21 January, 1996

Sub: Notice Regarding Photographic Competition & Exhibition

External Publicity Section is going to hold a competition of colour photographs on Bangladesh's natural scenery, heritage, art-culture, people and their day to day life, flora & fauna, historical & archaeological sites/relies, attractive tourist spots/centres etc. Colour photographs of size 12"X16" are invited from interested photographers in Bangladesh for the competition. An individual competitor can deposit a maximum of 15 photographs.

The last time & date of depositing photographs to the undersigned is up to office hours of 31 January, '96.

For detailed information including rules & regulations, the undersigned may be contacted directly or over phone.

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# Garment sector

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involved with readymade garments business often face "stock lot" due to refusal by the foreign buyers to accept the products showing reasons like inferior quality and delay in shipment. Sometimes, the suppliers of fabrics and accessories delay in sending consignments and so our manufacturers also fail to produce the garments in time. The official suggested a supervisory role by the banks concerned to improve the situation.

"Due to slight delay in sending our products to USA, we are going to lose US dollars 1.70 lakh," said Shawkat Osman, Managing Director of the Tanni Knitwear Limited. Chairman of the company Il-Iyas Haider Chowdhury has already gone there (USA) to make understanding with the buyer and minimise the loss. "But, we cannot recover more than 50 per cent of the value, as the consignments will be sold at high discount," he added.

Last year Voyager Garments incurred a loss of 22000 US dollars. Its buyer in Ireland refused to accept the consignment on flimsy ground. It had demanded documents of Generalised System of Preference (GSP) and Origin of Certificate at the same time.

"It is impossible to send both the documents at the same time," said Farid Uddin Ahmed of the Voyager Garments. He said, if GSP documents are not required, Origin is not required. Ahmed also alleged that Bangladesh missions abroad have not been generally helped in avoiding such losses. At least 10 per cent of the garments exports become stock lots, he said.

Some garments manufacturers claimed that sometimes some buyers deliberately put exporters in to "traps of stock lots." Then they offer much lower price, and the sellers find no alternative to accepting it to minimise the loss and run their business.

"If a buyer wants to make a consignment a 'stock lot case,' he can easily do it showing any minor excuse," he said another official of the EPB.

"Our missions abroad can help us by sending information on buyers' background," said Ahmed adding there are also fake importers abroad. He said, his company made a US dollar 10,000 agreement with a Seoul trader namely, to import buttons.

"They sent us torn papers and polythene instead of buttons" we failed to trace them later," He suggested for more active role by Bangladesh missions abroad in this regard.

# Raising of bus fare Injunction order upheld

A two-member bench of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court yesterday upheld a temporary injunction order dated 27 April 1991 by the sub-judge, Patiya, Chittagong, in a public litigation case filed on October 30, 1990 objecting unilateral raising of bus fare by owners on Chittagong-Patiya routes from Tk 5 and Tk 6 on bus and minibuses respectively, reports BSS.

Justice Md Abdul Karim and Justice Md Syed Amirul Islam in their judgement also rejected the verdict of the district session judge, Chittagong, which cancelled the temporary injunction granted to the petitioner by sub-judge, Patiya. The public litigation case was instituted by Advocate Hari Sadhan Dev Barman and Advocate Mozam Mozam Hossain.

After Chittagong District Session Judge dismissed the judgement of Patiya, sub-judge, advocate H S Deb Barman and others filed a civil revision case with the High Court. The High Court first stayed the operation of the judgement of the Chittagong Session Judge Court on the matter and after full hearing yesterday, dismissed the verdict of the session judge court, Chittagong, the press release said.

Barrister Amirul Islam pleaded for the petitioner and was assisted by Subrata Chowdhury and Barrister Tania Amir.

Deputy Attorney General A F Hasan Arif, Borhanuddin Javed and Ehsanul Kabir defended the other side.

# Muslim students boycott religious edn classes in N England

LONDON, Jan 22: More than 1,500 Muslim students in 40 schools in northern England have been ordered by parents to boycott religious education classes and a Muslim leader says the move could spread, reports AP.

The parents in the Kirkcaldy area of west Yorkshire, which has a large immigrant Asian population, say the syllabus in the classes is too orientated toward Christianity.

Religious education is an established part of the curriculum in Britain's state sector education system. It aims to give students factual historical details about leading world religions. By law, it must feature Christianity but each local education authority must take account of other religions.

Parents have the right to withdraw children from religious education classes.

The Muslim students involved in the boycott are still attending the rest of the classes in the school curriculum.

# Dhaka to boost trade with Thimpu

Bangladesh Ambassador-designate to Bhutan M Mizanur Rahman said yesterday efforts were underway to boost bilateral trade between the two SAARC countries.

Rahman, who is leaving for Thimpu in a couple of days to take up his new assignment, told UNB that Bhutan had exported goods worth 30 million US dollars to Bangladesh in last six years.

The tiny Himalayan Kingdom, having a population of 6 lakh, had imported commodities valued 1 million US dollars from Bangladesh.

Bhutan exports fruits and fruit-products to Bangladesh and imports medicines and cosmetics from here, the envoy said.

Rahman also said Bangladesh industrialists were negotiating with Bhutanese entrepreneurs for setting up a cement factory under joint venture in the Kingdom, which has ample limestone.

# Pakistani jailed in China

BEIJING, Jan 22: A Pakistani man has been sentenced to three years in a Shanghai jail for cashing stolen travellers checks, officials at the city's Intermediate Peoples Court said today, reports AP.

Mohammad Khalid was convicted on January 18 of exchanging 49,300 yuan (5,940 dollar) in travellers checks that had been reported as lost or stolen by their owner, said Zhang Keqing, an official at the court.

Zhang said the court also fined Khalid 50,000 yuan (6,024 dollars).

Fraud involving the use of stolen or invalid travellers checks is on the rise, the newspaper Legal Daily, which reported the case, quoted court officials as saying.

# Opposition

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people at the district, thana, union and village levels.

AL Organising Secretary Mohammad Nasim, briefing newsmen, said the meeting resolved that holding of a single-party election would not be allowed.

# Docs on strike

From Page 1

removal of these 'illegal' pharmacies. They also gave a memorandum to the health secretary demanding punishment to Dipu and his accomplices.

Moslem Mia claimed that the incident of assault had no link with the pharmacy. Doctors were angry because they were earlier refused 'possession of the premises by the Union,' he further said.

# Talks for 40 French jets' sale to Pakistan continue

ISLAMABAD, Jan 22: Negotiations for the sale of 40 French fighter jets to Pakistan are ongoing despite newspaper reports that Paris plans to halt the arms deal, a senior government official said today, reports AP.

Pakistan's Information Minister Khalid Ahmad Kharal said since no contract had been signed between France and Pakistan, the proposed sale could not have been blocked.

"There is no signed contract," Kharal told reporters. "We are negotiating, but there is no contract to freeze."

The influential Paris daily Liberation reported over the weekend that France was prepared to scrap the sale of 40 Mirage 2000-5 jets to Pakistan in order to preserve its strong ties with India.

Pakistan and India are bitter rivals in South Asia, having fought three wars since winning their independence from British rule in 1947.

The Liberation report said France also stopped the sale of missiles to mainland China's rival Taiwan.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sardar Aseef Ali called the Liberation report speculative.

"We have no such intimation from Paris," Aseef Ali was

# SC office timings unchanged

The timetable for the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court will remain unchanged during the month of Ramadan. The offices will function as usual from Saturday to Thursday from 8:30 am to 2 pm with a 15-minute break (from 1:15 pm), said a PID handout last night, reports UNB.

# Deportation of Chakma refugees demanded Strike paralyses Arunachal

GUAHATI, Jan 22: A general strike called to demand the deportation of Chakma refugees paralysed the far eastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh today, officials said, reports AFP.

Shops, businesses, banks, offices and schools were closed across the remote state bordering Tibet and vehicles were off the roads, they said.

The "dawn to dusk" shutdown was called by the Congress (I) Party state government and powerful All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union (AAPSU) and received the support of opposition parties.

They called the general strike to protest a January 9 Supreme Court verdict directing the Arunachal Pradesh government to protect the lives and property of the estimated 100,000 Buddhist Chakma refugees in the state.

Arunachal Pradesh's indigenous tribal groups have accused the central government of ignoring their calls for the deportation of Chakma refugees.

The Chakmas have been granted refuge in the state since 1964 after they fled their native Chittagong Hill Tracts in former East Pakistan, now Bangladesh.

Arunachal Pradesh Home Minister Neelam Taram told AFP by telephone from the state capital Itanagar that the strike had been widely followed and there were no reports of violence.

He said that if the central government does not solve the refugee problem by February then Congress legislators would resign from the party and boycott the parliamentary elections expected in April.