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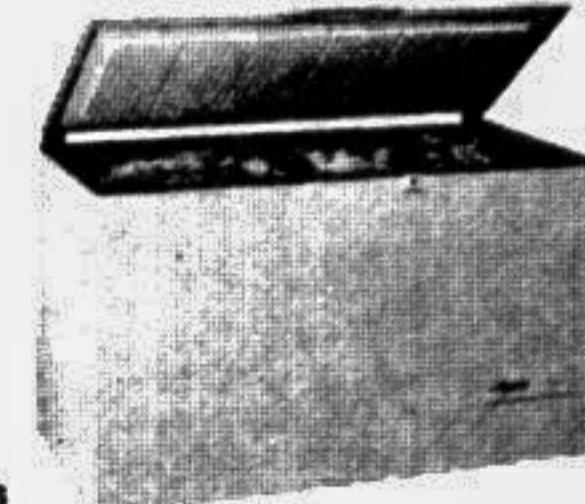

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## Foundation of National Defence College laid

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday laid the foundation stone of the National Defence College (NDC), the first of its kind in the country, on the Staff College premises at Mirpur, reports UNB.

Addressing a function organised on the occasion, Sheikh Hasina said the government has taken adequate steps for overall development of the armed forces as it is determined to build up a strong, skilled and well organised forces.

"We have taken various measures for the welfare of the members of the armed forces and accomplished their professional excellence with development," she added.

The Prime Minister said armed forces can not be developed and made skilled without imparting proper and adequate training. "Our armed forces have been involved in relentless hard work since its inception."

But there was no scope of institutional training for high-ranking military officials, she said adding that the necessity of establishing National Defence College (NDC) had always been felt for higher training of the armed forces.

Today a new milestone has been set up in the field of higher training of the armed forces.

### Exclusive talks

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to Bangladesh from January 16 after attending the three-nation Business Summit the day before.

Official sources said Nawaz Sharif will have an exclusive tête-à-tête with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina before they join the official talks on January 16.

The sources said issues of trade and economic cooperation are likely to dominate the official meeting between the two countries.

They said a cultural agreement is likely to be signed by the two countries during the Nawaz Sharif's visit.

During his stay, the Pakistani Prime Minister will call on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and attend a banquet to be hosted in his honour by Prime Minister Hasina.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to call on Nawaz Sharif on January 16.

Before his departure for Islamabad, the Pakistani premier will go for an excursion to the Sundarbans on January 17.

## Benazir files 3 cases

From page 1  
he or his family owns outside Pakistan.

Benazir's action came two days after British authorities had ordered seizure of documents relating to her family assets and bank accounts in Britain on Islamabad's request.

AFP adds, Zardari today said he feared for his wife's life and accused unidentified quarters of conspiring to eliminate the Bhutto family.

"I am jailed for no crime of my own and now I fear that the conspirators want to eliminate the Bhutto family as happened to the Gandhis in India," Zardari told reporters in the central jail.

UNB adds: An independent investigation carried out by the New York Times has confirmed allegations by the Pakistan government that Benazir and her husband Asif Zardari had made at least \$100 million in illicit profits through kickbacks.

The actual amount could be as high as \$1.5 billion that they

## Three-nation summit

From page 1  
erate," he said.

The organisers have also invited businessmen from other SAARC countries as observers, which they said, would dispel misgivings about the agenda of the summit. Kanti Kumar Podar, President of the SAARC chamber, and its six vice presidents will also attend.

Bilateral agenda, business or political, will take a back seat in the whole exercise, the officials said.

Transport and communication are key areas identified by Bangladesh chamber leaders in which the three nations can work together towards growth and development. "We can link up with, say, Central Asia through India and Pakistan or we can be a gateway to ASEAN countries."

The business leaders, in presence of foreign, finance and commerce ministers and civil servants, will discuss issues such as trade, will discuss issues in the light of SAARC Preferential

## UK immigration minister due in city today

British Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Mike O'Brien, MP, arrives in Dhaka today on a three-day official visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

As minister responsible for immigration and passport matters, O'Brien is visiting the British High Commissions in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh.

During his stay in Bangladesh, he will also visit Sylhet from where the majority of 3 lakh plus Bangladeshi community in UK originate.

He will meet community leaders and the trustees of the Bangladesh Overseas Centre and the Newham Bengali Community Trust.

The minister will be accompanied by Richard White, Head of Migration and Visa Division in the Foreign and Commonwealth office in London.

## IFAD president arrives today

By Staff Correspondent

President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Fawzi Hamad Al-Sultan arrives Dhaka today on a four-day visit to Bangladesh.

During the visit, the IFAD president will call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He will also hold meetings with a number of ministers, senior government officials, officials of UN agencies in Bangladesh and representatives of various NGOs working in the agriculture sector, says a release.

IFAD, a UN organisation headquartered in Rome, has invested nearly Tk 150 crore in Bangladesh so far and its current programmes includes support to seven projects in live stock, fisheries, forestry, water resources and rural infrastructure and agricultural credit.

The group went on strike protesting extortion and terrorism in Tamabil checkpost area by a section of truckers.

During the visit, the IFAD president will make field trips to Mymensingh and Netrakona to see the progress of various IFAD-assisted development projects. He will also visit the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) in the city.

## Mercury to fall

From page 1  
fog.

Fog shrouded the sun in Dhaka city but people in Khulna, Jessor and adjacent areas enjoyed the warmth of sunlight for about two hours.

In the city, the hazy sky clouded by fog and cold winds excentuated the bite of the cold spell.

Biting cold continuing in the northern districts claimed 34 more lives yesterday, raising the total to 189 so far.

The maximum temperature in Dhaka was recorded at 14.8 degree Celsius and the minimum at 12 degree yesterday. Visibility in the city improved further yesterday compared to the day before, the Met office said.

The lowest temperature in the country was recorded at 7.9 degree Celsius at 23.9 Srimangal and the highest at 23.9 Teknaf.

The Times was given copies of documents obtained by the Pakistani authorities from a Bhutto family lawyer in Switzerland, reportedly purchased at \$1 million.

These documents, ranging from handwritten notes on bank transactions to purchase receipts of property around the world, show a clear pattern of corruption perpetuated during Benazir Bhutto's two terms as Pakistan's Prime Minister.

PAKISTAN (from): Rashid Latif (Capt), Saeed Anwar, Aamir Sohail, Shahid Afridi, Ijaz Ahmed, Azhar Mahmood, Aaqib Javed, Inzamamul Haq, Sajid Mushtaq, Mushtaq Ahmed, Mohammad Hussain, Manzoor Akhtar, Fazil Akbar, Younis Youhana.

INDIA: Mohammad Azharuddin (Capt), Sachin Tendulkar, Ajay Jadeja, Saurav Ganguly, Navjot Sidhu, Robin Singh, Jagavali Srinath, Hrithik Kanitkar, Sairaj Bahutal, Debadish Mohanty, Harvinder Singh, Rahul Singhvi, VVS Laxman, Nayan Mongia.

PAKISTAN (from): Rashid Latif (Capt), Saeed Anwar, Aamir Sohail, Shahid Afridi, Ijaz Ahmed, Azhar Mahmood, Aaqib Javed, Inzamamul Haq, Sajid Mushtaq, Mushtaq Ahmed, Mohammad Hussain, Manzoor Akhtar, Fazil Akbar, Younis Youhana.

REVENUE  
From page 1  
and supplemental duty, also slumped, dropping by Tk 199.30 crore against the target of Tk 1823.82 crore.

The Income Tax collection target also fell short by Tk 29.90 crore and other tax and duties by Tk 5.48 crore.

The reason behind the fall was attributed to evasion of duties by importers, particularly the car importers and reduced imports.

## Sundarbans

From page 1  
coits. "Kalu daicot hails from an area near the signal tower in Mangla and Altu Robal daicot, a Christian from the Dhaingmari area, controls the eastern part of the Pashuri river."

Dhaingmari Forest officials said these gangs were operating in Marapashur, Jangal Karmahal, Lalung and Khagram areas. "Our main power is inadequate that it is not possible to crack down on these gangs," said Habibur Rahman.

With the sun remaining shrouded, the match got underway with the help of floodlights after both Bangladesh captain Akram Khan and his Indian in-

counter agreed to play under

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