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Preparations for arms laying ceremony on

CHITTAGONG, Jan 27: Preparations are underway for the arms surrender by 600 Shantibahinimen to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a ceremony on February 10 at Khagrachhari, official sources said.

The preparatory committee headed by Minister Kalpa Ranjan Chakma held its meeting today at the Chittagong circuit house and decided to take all necessary measures for holding the arms surrender at the Khagrachhari stadium.

The meeting was attended by Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong Shakawat Hossain and other high officials of the government.

Five sub-committees were formed to make the function a colourful one, said Kalpa Ranjan Chakma while talking to this correspondent after the meeting.

He said the surrendering of arms would begin from 11 am on February 10 and the Shantibahinimen would reach Khagrachhari through different points.

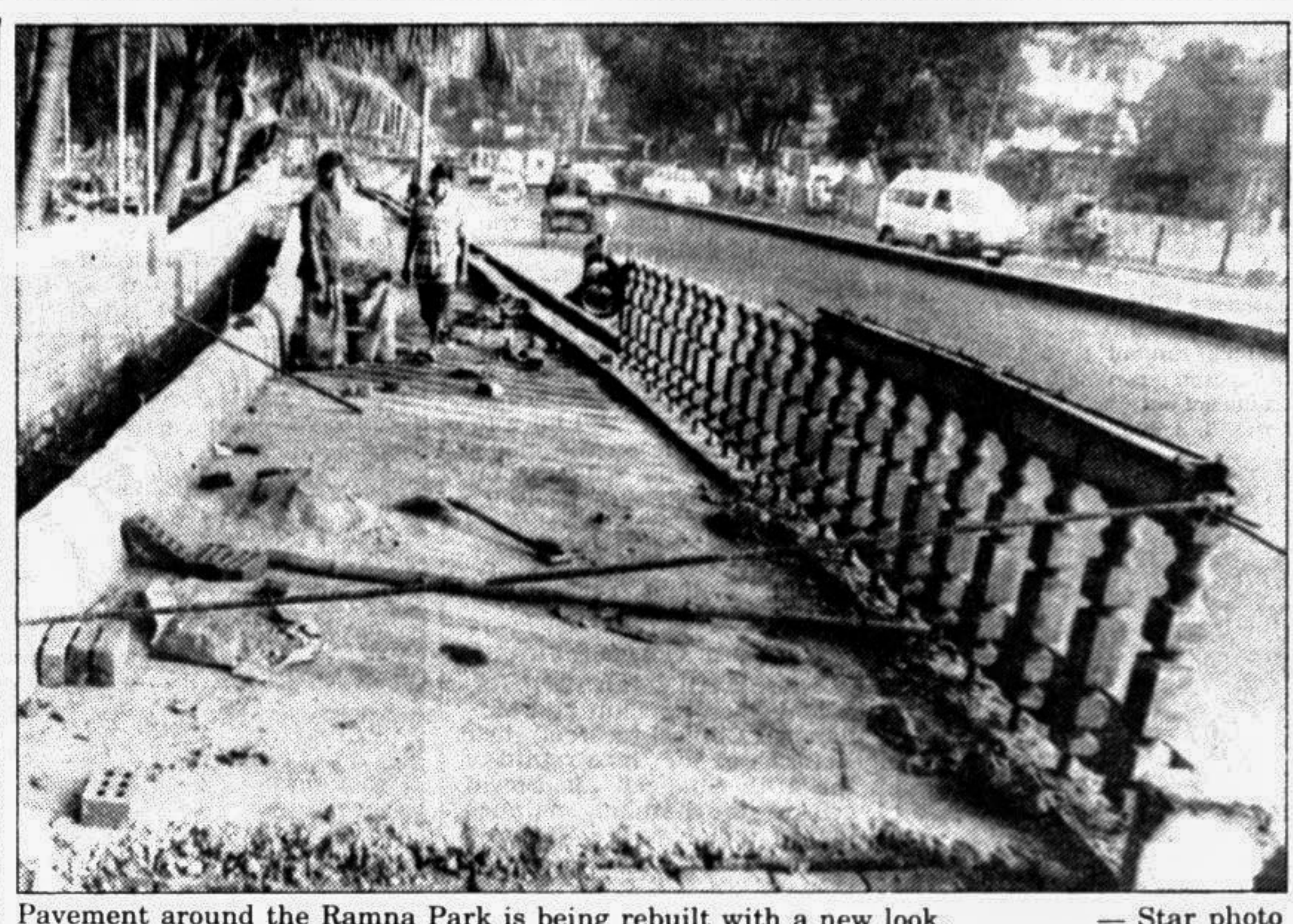
After the surrendering of arms, the Shantibahinimen would be given cash amounting to Tk 50,000 each, he said, adding that they would be allowed to stay at the transit camp at Khagrachhari before leaving for their respective homes.

All foreign diplomats staying in Bangladesh, ministers, secretaries, press, opposition leaders and dignitaries would be invited to attend the function, the minister said.

The budget for the function is now being finalised, he said replying to a question.

Some cultural troupes from the three hill districts and other parts of the country, would be brought for various cultural programmes on the occasion, the minister informed.

Another follow-up meeting of the preparatory committee will be held at Khagrachhari on February 4, which is likely to be attended by the Home Minister, he informed.



Pavement around the Ramna Park is being rebuilt with a new look. — Star photo

Frenzied shopping

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with the traffic in gridlock and shoppers finding it difficult even to move on pavements and streets. Home-bound people rushing to Sadarghat, Kamalapur and Saidabad terminals added to the chaos.

On the streets, traffic police, aided by extra police force and guards hired by shopping malls, tried in vain to maintain order.

Smokes from autorickshaws, liberally clouding the gridlock of traffic, made the shoppers life miserable.

But nothing could deter Fazlu Mia and his family of four children. They were out, shopping in the Gulistan area, before rushing home to Patuakhali.

City fathers seemed to have ignored the invasion of the sidewalks by the vendors in their thousands.

The pavements seemed to have drawn the maximum number of buyers.

Despite the chaos, people streamed to Bangabazar, a bargain hunting paradise for shoppers and known for stock lots. Attraction of a 'Levi jeans' at a bargain of Tk 300 and a 'Van

It venture air cargo handling service from Mar

Air Cargo Handling Service, a joint venture of a local company and USA Aviation Service, will begin operation in March this year, reports UNB.

The service, first of its kind in civil aviation sector in Bangladesh, intends to develop the air cargo handling system in Dhaka and other international airports.

A signing ceremony to inaugurate the service between Bismillah Airlines of Bangladesh and Ogden Aviation Services Company Limited of USA was held at a city hotel yesterday.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain inaugurated the joint venture programme as chief guest.

Ogden Aviation invested 25 million US dollars in the tie-up project taken under the policies of privatisation being pursued by the government, according to a PID handout.

DU terrorists

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two rival factions of BCL, mainly over the submission of tender and establishing supremacy in the halls.

An activist of BCL was stabbed following the trouble between the two groups which control most of the DU residential halls.

Police said that in line with the government directive, they raided two BCL-dominated halls and arrested five of its activists, including two outsiders, on Monday.

"Following fresh directive, the police action will continue and new steps will be taken against the terrorists, irrespective of party affiliations," said a senior police official.

BNP denies

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Parliament session.

"It was a routine courtesy call," Bhuiyan added.

Press reports said the BNP leaders had handed over the list of its MPs and other leaders who have been victimised by "political" cases and other acts of government repression.

The BNP leaders also reportedly cited the incidents of "human rights violation" during the Awami League rule.

Clinton nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO, Jan 27: US President Bill Clinton has been nominated for the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to protect world peace and promote democracy, three Norwegian legislators announced today, reports AP.

Clinton, embroiled in a sex scandal in the United States, was nominated by members of the right-wing Party of Progress, one of the largest blocs in Norway's Parliament.

"Throughout his presidency he has been a guarantor and friend of peace," the lawmakers said in a statement.

They praised Clinton for helping end the war in former Yugoslavia and for standing up to "despots who want to repress human rights and democracy's rules of play."

One of the legislators, Vidar Kleppe, said by telephone that they made the decision to nominate Clinton in December, before his current problems.

The nomination deadline for this year's peace prize is January 31, although the Oslo-based awards committee usually accepts nominations postmarked by then. The committee refuses to release the names of nominees, usually 120-130 each year, or comment on candidates.

57 missing as ship sinks off Sumatra

JAKARTA, Jan 27: At least 57 people were missing after a passenger ship sank in heavy seas on the weekend off Riau on Sumatra island, a maritime official and a news report said today, reports AP.

Twenty-three people were rescued after the Sambu Sakti-1, sank before dawn Saturday with 80 people on board in waters near Tanjungbaru, 900 kilometers (562 miles) northwest of Jakarta, said the newspaper Suara Pembaruan.

Navy ships were searching for the missing, the paper said.

Purnomo, an officer at the National Search and Rescue Agency, told The Associated Press that an unconfirmed report said as many as 110 might have been on board, meaning as many as 87 might be missing.

He could not provide further details.

According to Suara Pembaruan, two of those rescued were women.

It quoted officials on Sumatra as saying the ship sank in big seas and strong winds during a voyage between local ports on the eastern coast of the island.

A right-wing political agenda: Hillary

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is investigating allegations that President Bill Clinton had sex with Monica Lewinsky, 24, when she was a 21-year-old White House intern and then told her to lie about it.

Mrs. Clinton spoke as the president prepared for this evening's State of the Union speech to Congress and the nation, and after Ms. Lewinsky's lawyer submitted a formal proposal to Whitewater investigators detailing the testimony she would offer in return for immunity from prosecution.

The special office set up by Congress to investigate high officials has been looking into Clinton's business dealings in Arkansas and allegations of a White House cover-up, among other matters, since August 1994. Its inquiry was expanded last week to include the Lewinsky matter.

Mrs. Clinton said it was possible her husband gave gifts to former White House intern Ms. Lewinsky but said if that is true it is because he is gregarious and giving to everyone he meets.

"I think it's possible, of course," she said, "I've seen him take his tie off and hand it to someone."

"His behaviour, his treatment of people, will certainly explain all of this."

Clinton, in his public statements, and Ms. Lewinsky, in a deposition, said they did not have sexual relations. But Ms. Lewinsky described such a relationship with him in taped conversations with a friend and has also said privately that she was urged to lie about it.

Speaking calmly but firmly in the "Today" interview, Mrs. Clinton said she does not recall meeting Ms. Lewinsky when she worked at the White House. She said she and the president have discussed the former intern at great length and "as this matter unfolds, the entire country will have more information."

She said she has been asked why she did not appear more upset. "I've just been through this so many times," she said. "We've been accused of everything, including murder."

"It's not being numb so much as being very experienced in the unfortunate mean-spiritedness of American politics right now."

When "Today" show host Matt Lauer began, "Where's there's smoke..." she quickly

Khaleda's Eid day engagements

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Begum Khaleda Zia will exchange greetings with people on the Eid day at her 29 Minto Road official residence, reports UNB.

The one-hour programme, from 10:30 am, will remain open for people from all walks of life, said a BNP press release yesterday.

Earlier from 10 am to 10:30 am, Begum Zia will exchange Eid greetings with ambassadors, high commissioners, diplomats and representatives from international organisations.

Dacoity at city house

By Staff Correspondent

Dacoits took away cash and gold ornaments from the residence of a businessman at Kazi Para in the city yesterday afternoon.

An unidentified gang entered the first-floor flat of Abdul Wadud at about 1pm. The family members went out for shopping locking the main door, police said.

The dacoits entered the house breaking open the main door. They broke the lockers inside the house and took away Tk 1.07 lakh and gold ornaments worth about Tk 90,000.

Wadud lodged a case with Mirpur thana in this regard. However, none was arrested in connection with the robbery till filing of this report last night.

Terrorist held with arms in Demra

Demra police yesterday arrested Kala Monir, 30, a notorious terrorist of the area and recovered one sawed-off rifle and a foreign revolver and 10 bullets from his possession, reports BSS.

Police said, they raided the house of Kala Monir at East Jurain area at 3 pm and arrested him. Police also arrested two accomplices of Kala Monir from the area. They are: Shamim Ahmed and James.

Police said the arrested persons are the members of an organised gang of terrorists and involved in criminal activities in the city for a long time.

Alleged dacoit beaten to death in Feni

FENI, Jan 27: An alleged robber was beaten to death by angry villagers in Daganbhuiyan thana of the district early today, reports UNB.

Police said Babul, 27, was caught by a gang of dacoits tried to commit dacoity in a house at Dilpur village.

Babul had been wanted by police in five cases.

Earlier on Monday, dacoits looted valuables of the passenger of a bus near old Ranirhat on Feni-Chagalnaiya road by putting up barricade on the road.

13 Sarbahara men arrested in Pabna

PABNA, Jan 27: Police in separate drives in different parts of sadar thana arrested 13 members of the outlawed Sarbahara Party today, reports UNB.

On information, police raided Gopspur, Modhupur and Alodia villages and arrested Rabiul, Keramat, Iyad Ali, Jamaluddin, Ohab, Afzal, Amjad, Meheruddin, Majid Mia, Liyakat, Shahjahan, Nayeab and Zahul Islam.

Gherao in mills

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the demand of the workers as illegal. They blamed the CBA leaders for instigating the workers for creating what they termed as lawlessness.

At the time of writing this report, the agitating workers of Jute Spinners Ltd attacked the office of the general manager damaging doors and windows after failing to realise their demand. Police intervened to control the tense situation.

When contacted, KMP Commissioner Kazi Nazrul Islam said that steps were being taken to keep the situation under control.

The Third Way: Negating capitalism & socialism

An American lawyer and economist yesterday outlined a new economic theory — The Third Way — for moving towards a freer, more just and economically classless society, reports UNB.

Dr Norman G Kurland, President of Washington-based "Center for Economic and Social Justice", said The Third Way that ignores both the capitalistic and socialistic economic systems would help to build an economically just society to ensure better life for the people.

"If you can't distribute your income you can't produce," he said while presenting the keynote paper at a discussion meeting in the city on "The Third Way: Towards Economic Empowerment and Justice in the Emerging Global Marketplace."

Elaborating the new concept, Dr Kurland said The Third Way is based on four pillars: Limited Economic Power for the State, Restoration of Free and Open Markets, Restoration of Private Property and Expanded Ownership of Productive Assets.

The Third Way is a systematic approach, balancing the demands of participative and distributive justice by lifting institutional barriers which have historically separated owners from non-owners, he said.

Explaining, he said: This involves removing the roadblocks preventing people from participating fully in the economic process as both workers and owners. More people then can begin earning higher incomes from their own capital as well as from their labour.

The new system, he added, is not on redistribution of income, but on providing people with social means and a legal system which will encourage them to create their own new wealth and share in profits broadly and equitably.

Negating socialism and capitalism, Dr Kurland said both the systems concentrate economic power at the top. "It makes little difference that under capitalism the concentration is in private hands and under socialism the concentration is in the hands of the State."

The US economist pointed out that both capitalism and socialism are "excessively materialistic in their basic principles, and both in their own way degrade individual worker."

Defending private ownership, he said private property is not the problem. "The problem is with the monopolisation and both the systems monopolise property in their own way."

Former Vice Chancellor Prof M Muniruzzaman Mia, Barrister Mainul Hossain, Father RW Timm, former IGP Dr Enamul Huq and Barrister Abdullah Al Mamun took part in the discussion.

Organised by Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRH), the function at the CARITAS auditorium was presided over by BHRH President Kazi Abdur Razzak.

India blames Pakistan for sending armed mercenaries

NEW DELHI, Jan 27: India today charged Pakistan with "pushing in" heavily armed mercenaries to create terror and kill innocent people in Jammu and Kashmir, reports PTI.

Addressing a United Nations workshop here, union home secretary BP Singh drew attention of international delegates to "deliberate attempts of a neighbouring country to push mercenaries with illegal arms to create such types of killings."

Condemning the killing of 23 Kashmiri Pandits by militants in Ganderbal in the valley yesterday, Singh, without naming Pakistan, said, "The international force should take note of the situation."

Stating that there was an urgent need for not only controlling illegal arms trade but also international terrorism, he said the workshop was more relevant in today's society marked by a soaring crime rate involving greater use of firearms.

Arab League warns US against attack on Iraq

CAIRO, Jan 27: The Arab League warned the United States Monday against a military attack on Iraq, saying there were better ways to settle their differences over UN inspections, reports AFP.

"The League totally rejects the use of force against an Arab state Iraq, and thinks resorting to force is unacceptable, League Secretary General Esmat Abdel Meguid said.

The Cairo-based organisation of Arab nations "warned the United States against conducting a new military strike against Iraq," he said.

"Dialogue, diplomacy, and politics are better ways of settling such differences" he added.

Housewife beaten to death

COX'S BAZAR, Jan 27: A young housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband in Teknaf thana of the district on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said Nurul Haq of Leda village killed his wife Khorsheida, 20, for staying a night at her father's house without his permission.

Meanwhile, police arrested Nurul Haq in connection with the killing.

Nari Samaj

From page 1

ers. But we are absolutely frustrated by the judicial verdict on those cases," the statement said.

"The very instance of the doctor who gave false medical report, the SP who tried to suppress facts and the others of the administration being acquitted in Yasmin murder case, does not reflect proper justice," it added.

The forum expressed its fear at the way the government was handling the whole situation. "After the verdict on Yasmin murder case on 30 August, 1997 there should have been an appeal within 90 days. We have tried, on numerous occasions, to see the Attorney General to discuss the matter but he declined to give us time."

Nari Samaj quoted reports compiled by the Ain-o-Salib Kendra, an NGO, and said in 1996 some 262 women were subjected to rape and torture while in 1997 the number rose to 753. Some 262 women were raped and 255 were gang raped. The members of the law enforcing agencies raped nine women and attempted to rape five. Some 62 women were killed in rape-related incidents and three women committed suicide after they were raped. Against 753 incidents of rape, 460 cases were filed.

The organisation appealed to all the political parties to sink differences and unite to fight repression on women.

"We are directly appealing to the Prime Minister. We want to see the government's political pledge reflect in their work," the statement said.

Present at the press conference, among others, were Shaheen Anam, Shireen Akhtar, Farida Akhtar, Maleka Begum, Dr Naila Khan, Khaleda Khan, Shima Das and Natasha Ahmed.