

## PDB employees beat up teachers in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Jan 1: PDB employees beat up trainee teachers leaving 25 of them injured when they went to the Executive Engineer's office yesterday to hand over a memorandum demanding restoration of power supply at the local PTI institute, reports APB.

Over one hundred teachers went there demanding restoration of the power line, snatched by a passing truck three days ago. But the PDB employees allegedly locked the main gate and beat them indiscriminately with iron rods, sticks and bamboo, witnesses said. Female teachers were also not spared and some of them were assaulted, they alleged.

Eleven of the teachers were held by the PDB employees and handed over to police but they were later released, police said.

## Birth anniversary of Jasimuddin observed

FARIDPUR, Jan 1: The 96th anniversary of birth of Pali Kabi Jasimuddin was observed today across the country in a befitting manner, reports UNB.

The day was observed at his birthplace at Gobindapur in Faridpur with daylong programme which include placing of wreaths and offering of special prayers at the *majar* of the poet, poetry recitation, cultural function and discussion meeting.

President of Jasimuddin Foundation and DC of Faridpur AFM Abdul Haque Chowdhury and General Secretary Kazi M Mahabubul Haq laid wreaths and offered *fateha* at his *mazar* in the morning.

Members of the foundation were also present.

Ansaruddin High School, established by the poet, Jasimuddin Research Council, Bahurupi Shahitya Sangskritik Sangstha, Faridpur Kabi Parishad and Faridpur Press Club also laid wreaths there.

In the afternoon, cultural functions and discussion meetings were held to mark the occasion. Speakers at a discussion meeting, organised by the Pali Kabi Foundation at the Kabi Bhaban, urged the government to patronise Pali Kabi Jasimuddin Mela, organised every year in the district on this occasion.

They also asked the government to rename Faridpur Medical College as 'Pali Kabi Jasimuddin Medical College'.

## AI concerned at Obaid's health

By Staff Correspondent

Amnesty International (AI) has recently expressed deep concern about the state of health of BNP lawmaker KM Obaidur Rahman and security of his wife, Prof Shaheda Obaid.

AI Deputy secretary general Pierre Fane communicated the London-based international human rights body's sentiment to the Bangladesh Home Minister in a letter on December 3. A Home Ministry source confirmed the information.

In its letter, the AI wanted to know from the Home Minister about physical and psychological state of the BNP leader and requested him to provide appropriate medical treatment and other facilities to the opposition politician.

The letter also said that the investigation of the jail killing incident and trial of those involved in it was very important. "But harassing anyone in the name of the trial would tantamount to injustice".

Taking note of the 'attacks on Shaheda Obaid on November 19', the AI requested the government to ensure adequate security to her.

The AI wrote the letter in response to an appeal made to the human rights organisation by Shaheda Obaid.

Meanwhile, California Congressman of the US House of Representatives John T Doollittle has recently written a letter to the US Embassy in Dhaka, making queries about the case and state of the BNP leader's health.

The Congressman wrote to the embassy in response to a letter written to him by Shama Islam, Obaid's only daughter living in America.

## Seminar on globalisation & Bangladesh held

By DU Correspondent

A seminar on 'Globalisation and Bangladesh', was held Thursday at Nat-Mandal on the Dhaka University campus to mark the biennial general meeting of International Studies Association, Bangladesh (ISAB).

Organised by the ISAB, the programme was presided over by Prof Muzaffer Ahmed.

Alamgir Faruque Chowdhury, Commerce Secretary attended the programme as the chief guest. The papers, presented at the seminar were 'Globalisations and Bangladesh: An Overview' by Dr Meghna Guhathakurata, 'Regionalism in South Asia and Bangladesh' by Dr MA Samad, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 'Globalisation of Bangladesh Economy: Trade and Investment Issues' by Dr Munim Kumar Barai, 'Sub-globalisation and Bangladesh' by Ashraf Ibn Noor and 'Global Climatic Change & Bangladesh' Dr Mizan Rahman Khan, Research Director of BIIS.

Anu Muhammed, a teacher of Jahangirnagar University also addressed the seminar.

## Mannan Bhuiyan accuses govt of repression

By Staff Correspondent

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday accused the government of misrule and repression, saying that life is not secure under the rule of this government.

The police are arresting BNP leaders and workers and filing false cases against them one after another while the Awami terrorists and accused in murder cases are freely moving, he said in a statement.

Demanding immediate release of two BNP leaders, Bhuiyan said police without any charge arrested Monwar Hossain Dulal and Sheikh Farid Bahar in Feni during Thursday's opposition-sponsored demonstration.

He said the government is creating an unstable situation at Feni through the arrest of the two leaders.

Bhuiyan said the ruling party held the entire Feni to ransom while the administration completely failed to control the prevailing situation in this district.

The BNP leader alleged that the Feni district administration has surrendered to illegal pressure of the ruling party. The government is using the administration in its party interests, he said.

He said the businessmen and traders could not run their business as the administration is giving protection to the terrorists instead of providing protection to the businessmen.

The BNP secretary general also alleged that AL terrorists in presence of police attacked on the agitating BNP activists in different parts of the country during Thursday's nationwide demonstration.

## Ctg Press Club executives

CHITTAGONG, Jan 1: Abu Sufian and Faruque Iqbal were elected President and General Secretary respectively of the Chittagong Press Club at its biennial election held yesterday reports BSS.

According to official results announced by Election Commissioner Mainul Hasan Siddiqui, the election was held for ten posts of the club managing committee, while Abu Sufian was re-elected president unopposed.

Other office bearers are: Senior Vice-President — Helaluddin Chowdhury, Vice President — Ali Abbas, Joint Secretary — Ashoke Chowdhury, Treasurer — Osmanul Haq, Cultural and Publicity Secretary — Papash Barua, Sports Secretary — Tapash Barua (Rumul), Members are: Shamsul Haq Haidari, Deebakar Ghose and Saifuddin Mohammad Khaleel.

## One killed in road accident

MYMENSINGH, Jan 1: The driver of an auto-tempo was killed and three police constables were injured in a road accident at Kazi Shimla in Trisal thana of the district today, reports UNB.

The accident took place on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at about 4 am when a truck collided head-on with the tempo in the dense fog. Tempo driver Abul Kalam (45) died on the spot.

Two of the injured constables Amir Hossain and Shamul Haque were admitted to Trisal Thana Health Complex.

The policemen were on patrol on the highway on board the tempo.

Police seized the truck, but its driver managed to flee. A case was filed with Trisal thana in this connection.



## Death anniversary

The first death anniversary of advocate Faiz Ahmad Chowdhury, former advocate of Dhaka High Court, will be observed today, says a press release.

Qurankhwani and *milad mahfil* will be held at Faiz Ahmad's village home at south Batiara, No 13 Jagannath Deghi union in Comilla, after Asr prayers.

## Prize distribution ceremony of Rupali Tarar Mela

Rupali Tarar Mela, a juvenile organisation, held a discussion meeting, cultural function and prize and certificate awarding ceremony at the Shishu Academy premises in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Information DN Bepari distributed prizes and certificates among the winners of an art competition. He also handed over the Juvenile Literature Award '98 to Poet Mosharraf Karim, said a press release.

The speakers urged the well-off section of the society to come forward to help flourish latent talents of the children.

They also emphasised the need for united efforts of all juvenile organisations of the country in establishing the rights of the children.



Ajit Roy presenting a song along with his students at the launching ceremony of his audio cassette titled 'Ami Jeno Shei Batiwala'. The cassette features music composed by the renowned singer himself. — Star photo

## Hun Sen denies giving guarantee of immunity to Khmer Rouge leaders

PHNOM PENH, Jan 1: Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen today answered growing international criticism by denying he has given a guarantee of immunity from trial to defecting Khmer Rouge leaders, reports AFP.

"I did not give any guarantee to anyone to be free from justice," he said in a statement, reacting to criticism of his warm welcome to defecting Khmer Rouge leaders Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea.

"I also said even I cannot guarantee immunity to my wife and children from prosecution," he added, in a six-page statement aimed at defusing the mounting controversy surrounding the welcome of the two leaders.

The two ailing leaders — who defected to the government last week — were both architects of Pol Pot's regime that claimed the lives of up to two million people.

"But there is no change in my stand at all: my stand to try the Khmer Rouge continues," Hun Sen said.

"I am among those who support the investigation of the genocidal Pol Pot regime, but I am not an accuser of this or that person on behalf of the

prosecutor," he said.

Hun Sen also blasted Thailand for hosting senior Khmer Rouge leaders and forcing him to accept defections rather than force the rebels to stand trial.

"Our neighbouring country, who has kept the leaders of the Khmer Rouge, at top levels and lower levels, always denied that there were any Khmer Rouge leaders on their soil," he said in the statement.

"They said they would give these leaders to us if we accept them back into national society," he added.

Hun Sen argued that only 72 hours after the agreement of the defection Khieu Samphan, Nuon Chea and their families arrived in Pailin, a dusty former rebel stronghold on the Thai-Cambodian border.

"To my knowledge Pailin has no international aerodrome to bring these people from any other country to Pailin. They came by car," he complained.

Although the strongman did not name Thailand directly in a concession to maintaining some diplomacy, he said: "I apologise for this, but I force myself to speak the truth for real morality, not artificial morality."

## Released western hostages leave South Yemen

SANA, Jan 1: Eleven Western tourists left Yemen Friday, three days after being freed from their Islamic extremist kidnappers in a bloody army rescue that left four other hostages dead, reports AP.

The former hostages, 10 Britons and one Australian, left on a flight for Paris, said a Yemeni official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Another survivor, Mary Quin of New York City, was expected to leave early Saturday for Frankfurt. An American woman, whose identity was not disclosed, remained hospitalised in the southern port city of Aden recovering from a pelvic wound.

The bodies of the three Britons and an Australian killed in Tuesday's rescue operation were also on the flight, said the official.

The group was seen off at the airport by British Ambassador Victor Henderson, Yemen's Cultural Minister Abdul Malik Mansour, Yemeni journalists, political personalities, and members of human rights groups, said the official.

Young girls in national costume presented the Westerners with flowers before their departure.

The killings have shocked Yemen, known for its hospitality, even by kidnappers. In recent years, tribesmen seeking better roads or schools for their impoverished provinces have kidnapped scores of tourists but usually released them unharmed after treating them as guests. Until Tuesday, no hostage had been killed.

Tuesday's shootout started when Yemeni troops moved in

to rescue the 16 Westerners as they were being led up a mountain in southern Yemen. A 17th foreigner, a British tour leader, had escaped while the abduction was taking place Monday.

The government said the troops acted after the kidnappers started killing the hostages. But some of the hostages said the kidnappers started killing after the troops opened fire.

The dead were identified as Ruth Williamson, 34, Peter Rowe, 60, and Margaret Whitehouse, 52, of Britain and Andrew Thirk, 35, of Sydney, Australia.

Australia has sent a diplomat from the embassy in Saudi Arabia, which handles Yemen, to press for details on the shoot-out. Scotland Yard investigators also are traveling to Yemen.

## Alleged burglar beaten to death in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, Jan 1: A mob caught an alleged burglar and beaten him to death near Bellali Barabala in Sadar thana of the district today, reports UNB.

Police said Shamsul Haque, 35, came under attack in the early hours of today when he along with his three accomplices came to the place to steal some cables of the Rural Electrification Board.

His accomplices, however, managed to flee. Police later recovered the body.



A demonstrator holds a picture of Wang Youcai, a jailed Chinese dissident recently sentenced to 11 years in prison for attempting to set up an opposition party in China, as others join him in shouting slogans during a protest outside the Hong Kong government offices Friday. About 300 pro-democracy demonstrators and labour activists held a protest to demand that mainland China release jailed dissidents and for an end to Chinese Communist Party's monopoly on power. — UNB/AP photo

## 26 killed, 10 raped last month

By Shaikh Nazrul Islam

Murder, rape, robbery and mugging characterised the list of crimes in the capital in December of 1998.

As reported in the press, at least 26 people were murdered and ten women were violated during the period against 23 murders and nine rapes in the previous month.

The most sensational murders were those of film star Sohel Choudhury, the double murder at HRC Bhaban at Kawanbazar and of Humayun Kabir, a city leader of ruling Awami League.

The month began with three killings on the 1st day and ended with two killings on the 21st.

December's rape victims include two cousins at city's Maneshwar Road under Lalbagh thana, and seven-year-old Chadni who was killed after rape.

Hoodlums set fire in a slum at the Kamalapur area in which at least 400 shanties were gutted and 2500 people were left homeless on December 1.

Dacoits robbed gold ornaments and valuables worth about Tk 6 lakh from the residence of a DGM of BRTC at city's Tejgaon area.

Fazlul Huq, a business man was chopped and gunned down at his Talla under Gulshan thana and another Kawsher was chopped and shot dead by a group of miscreants at Jurain area in the city on December 3.

A housemaid, Abdi, was seriously injured by her master at

the city's Gulshan area. She was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Shahidul Islam and Constable Abdul Jall were arrested by the Detective Branch of police for their alleged involvement in forgery of money on December 3.

A grocery store owner Bashir Ahmed Babul was stabbed to death in his shop at Bakshibagh in Malibagh on December 6.

Mohammed Ali and Zakir Hossain, two security guards of HRC Group, were killed at the first floor of the building and Tk 4.22 lakh was robbed from the building on Dec 10.

Fifty people were injured in sporadic clashes during dawn-to-dusk hartal in the city on Dec 13.

Dacoits looted valuables worth about Tk 16 lakh from a house at Banani during which a relative was kidnapped from the house on December 15.

Jainal Abedin, a workers leader was killed in clashes between two rival groups of workers at Razarbagh on December 16.

Salma, a housewife, was beaten to death by a neighbour at Senpara Parbatia under Mirpur police station in the city on December 16.

A police Naik Shahidur Rahman was shot dead by his colleague Sheikh Bakul Hossain at the residence of DC (Traffic) at Babar Road under

Mohammadpur thana in the city on December 17.

Shahara Khatun, a house wife, was burned to death at her residence at Azampur kutch-abazar slum under Uttara thana on December 17. An engineer of a private firm was killed when he was pushed down from a passenger bus in front of the Secretariat in the city on December 23.

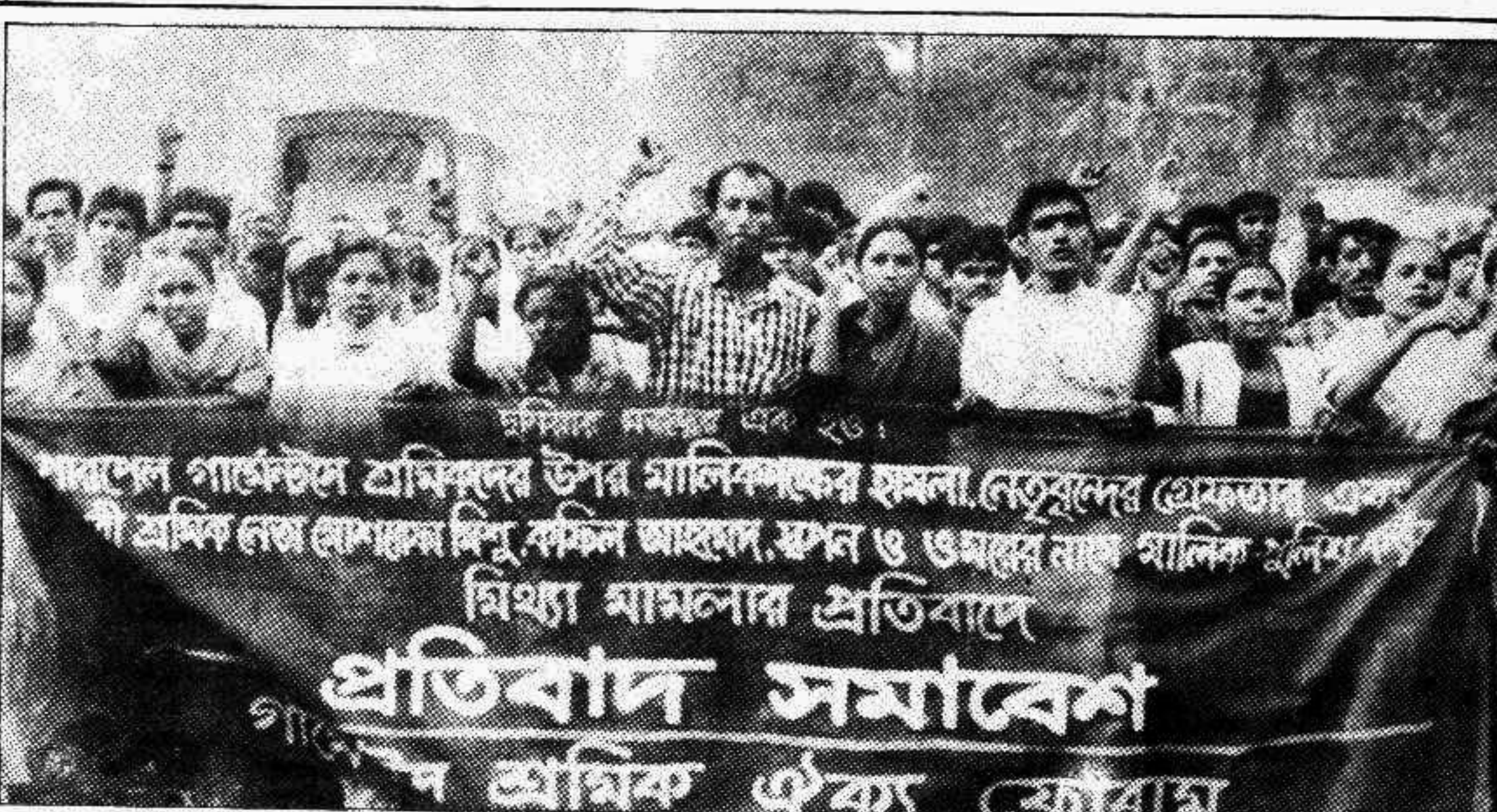
A seven-year-old girl, missing since Dec 17, was found dead hanging from a barbed wire fence at Mazar Road in Mirpur on December 23.

Two staff reporters of the Daily Janakantha were robbed and one of them was stabbed by the muggers in separate incidents in the city on Dec 25 and 26.

Anwar Hossain, a student of Dhaka College, died on Dec 27 after being injured in a cracker blast on his way back from Tarabi prayers in city's Nakhlaipara area. Miscreants being chased by police in the area tried to throw crackers at the police which caused the accident.

A Madrasa student Makdesur Rahman was slaughtered in the city's Mirhajareebagh area under the Demra thana by hoodlums on Dec 30.

Bodies of two unidentified men were recovered from a drain of Hatkhola Road and another from Larminie Street under Sutrapur thana on Dec 31. Both the bodies were tied with ropes around their necks.



Bangladesh Garments Sramik Oikya Forum brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the attack on workers of Purple Garments recently. — Star photo

## Clinton still most-admired man in US

WASHINGTON, Jan 1: President Bill Clinton in 1998 was the man most admired by Americans and his rating was four per cent higher than before the Monica Lewinsky sex scandal broke, a Gallup poll showed on Thursday, reports Reuters.

According to the poll, conducted on Monday and Tuesday, Clinton was listed first or second on the most admired list by 18 per cent of those queried, far ahead of the second person on the list, Pope John Paul II, who got 7 per cent.

That rating for Clinton, who has led the poll each of the last five years, was up from 14 per cent in 1997 before word of his affair with the former White House intern monopolised the nation's news.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was the most admired woman with 28 per cent, twice what her rating was the year before. She too has led the list for the past five years.

Behind the president and the Pope John Paul II were US religious leaders Billy Graham, at 5 per cent and basketball star Michael Jordan, at 4 per cent.

Independent counsel Kenneth Starr, who conducted the investigation of Clinton's relationship with Lewinsky, was most admired by only 1 per cent of the public, putting him in 13th place, tied with civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, former Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Norman Schwarzkopf, the general who led US forces in the Gulf War.

In May this year, India conducted a series of nuclear explosions in the deserts of Rajasthan, prompting Pakistan to match the tests. Both neighbours have fought three wars since they became independent 51 years ago.

Both countries have refused to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, saying they allow the original five nuclear declared nations to hold on to their arsenal while denying other nations the right to develop nuclear arms.

The Taliban, who rule 90 per cent of Afghanistan including the capital, are Sunni Muslims and mostly Pushtun — the majority ethnic group in Afghanistan.

They follow a strict version of Islam that bars women from work and education, bans all light entertainment including music and forces men to wear beards.

The Taliban are locked in a bloody conflict with the northern opposition alliance that controls the remaining 10 per cent of the country and comprise mainly of ethnic and religious minorities including the Shites, Tajiks, Uzbeks and Hazaras.

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## Avalanche kills 6 in Quebec

MONTREAL, Jan 1: At least six people were killed and 25 injured in Quebec on Friday when an avalanche swept down on an Inuit village's New Year celebration, police said, reports AP.

The avalanche crashed into a gym in Kangisalujuq, a coastal village 1,530 kilometres north of Montreal on Ungava Bay, off the Labrador Sea.

"It was a little after midnight, when 400 to 500 people were in the village gymnasium, when the avalanche struck," said Constable Francois Dore, a provincial police spokesman.

"Some people had the time to get out, but some are still missing," Dore, who gave the death toll, said the remote community had no doctor and there was no possibility of getting any outside help to fly in Friday morning because of a blizzard.

Canadian military rescue planes were expected to arrive from either Montreal or Quebec when the weather cleared, he said.

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## Shakespeare greatest Briton of the millennium

LONDON, Jan 1: A British Broadcasting Corp readers poll has chosen play right William Shakespeare as Britain's personality of the millennium, the organisation said Friday, reports AP.

Britain's World War II leader Winston Churchill was second, with England's earliest typographer, William Caxton, in third place.

The poll was organised by Radio 4's "Today" news programme.

Listeners voted by telephone on their choice to find a short list of six. Initial nominees included Elizabeth I and Henry VIII as well as some light-hearted entries such as Rolling Stone Mick Jagger and the puppet Miss Piggy from the Muppets.

Listeners then were asked to determine the final placings of the six.

"Even though thousands of listeners voted for other nominees, I think most people would agree that Shakespeare should be there or thereabouts," said "Today" editor Rod Little.

Shakespeare polled 11,717 votes, Winston Churchill 10,957, and Caxton 7,109 Little said.

Biologist Charles Darwin, whose 19th century theory of evolution by natural selection changed mankind's view of nature, was fourth with 6,337 votes.

Physicist Isaac Newton, who in the 17th century developed the modern world's understanding of mathematics and physics, was fifth with 4,664 votes.

Albert Einstein said that Newton's book, "The Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy" was "perhaps the greatest intellectual stride that it has ever been granted to any man to make".

Oliver Cromwell, leader of the victorious English Parliamentary forces who defeated and beheaded Charles I in England's 17th century civil war, was sixth with 4,653 votes.

## 2 killed, 3 hurt in Kashmir

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, Jan 1: Two people were killed and three injured today when Indian troops fired mortars into a border village on the Pakistan side of the disputed Kashmir state, officials said, reports AFP.

The Indians targeted the village of Polaschafar in the Abbaspur sector in Poonch district, 130 kilometres (81 miles) south of Muzaffarabad, the state capital, they said.