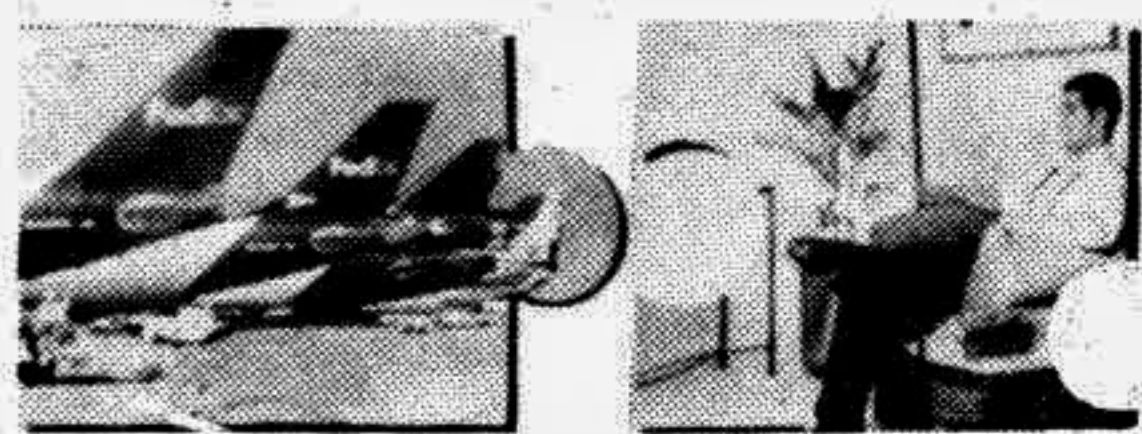


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Dhaka-Ctg Highway PM lays foundation of five bridges

MUNSHIGANJ, Jan 9: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the opposition to help the government in continuing its development activities instead of finding issues for unnecessary movement, report agencies.

"Don't look for creating issues, rather compete with us by creating movement on the issues of socio-economic development and giving programmes acceptable to the people," she said calling upon the opposition to assist the government in continuing its uplift activities.

Addressing a function of foundation laying of five bridges on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway at Baushia, Hasina said: "Don't create sufferings for the people in hunting issues, rather allow the government to complete its ongoing development activities."

The prime minister laid the foundation of five new and wide (four lane) bridges on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway at Bhaterchar.

Later she addressed a meeting at the proposed Engineers Staff College premises at Baushia.

Hasina said the government is planning to construct "alternative roads" for local use adjacent to highways for smooth and safe communication.

"We are going to adopt a plan to that end to reduce pressure on the highways and ensure a smooth transportation in the long distances," she said.

She said under the new plan the communications, and LGD and cooperatives ministries would jointly construct the alternative roads parallel or adjacent to highways for local communication.

"This will make the highways safe and smooth for movement of vehicles."

All between 26 and 40 kilometres northeast of Dhaka, the bridges are being reconstructed at a cost of Taka 123 crore with financial assistance from Japan and Asian Development Bank.

The bridges, which were originally two-lane ones, will have four lanes after the reconstruction under a project which is expected to be completed by 2000.

"This is an important project in our continued programmes for developing the communication infrastructure as it would ensure a speedy and safe road link between the capital and the port city of Chittagong," Hasina said.

The bridges to be reconstructed are: 90-metre long Marikhal bridge, 215-metre long Asharichar-1, 120-metre long Asharichar-2, 164-metre long Bhaterchar and 60-metre long Madhya Baushia bridge.

Sheikh Hasina said the government has already announced that the general election would be held in 2000, one year ahead of the expiry of its tenure.

"In one sense, we've already accepted your demand... decided to hold election earlier. We work for the welfare of the people, we don't hanker after power," she said.

The government is toiling day and night to ensure the real development of the people, and the opposition should allow the government to complete its task, she said. "We want cooperation from the opposition, we want development of the nation."

She said it is not possible for the opposition to build up movement on artificial issues.

"The general election will be held under a caretaker government, and the party which will do good for the people will be elected by the people."

Two and a half years is very little for giving a shape to the development activities, the prime minister said.

She said the people have already started getting fruits of some of these development works, but they will get full benefits of the activities later.

Police dismantle terrorist hideout in Karachi: 6 held

KARACHI, Jan 9: Pakistani police today dismantled a key terrorist hideout in central Karachi and arrested six people after a tense hostage drama and a gunbattle in which a police informant died, a senior official said, reports AFP.

A heavy police contingent in more than a dozen armoured personnel carriers launched an operation in the volatile Li-aquatabad district where terrorists used to take shelter, the city police chief Farooq Amin Qureshi told reporters.

The suspects holed up in a three-storey building located deep in the congested area and took hostage several women and children of a family living on the ground floor, he said.

They gunned down a civilian informant when he tried to enter the premises, Qureshi said.

After a day-long siege and an exchange of fire with police, the six agreed to surrender following assurances they would not be killed, he added.

He said police seized seven Kalashnikov assault rifles, three pistols and a light machine gun (LMG) with hundreds of rounds from the building.

The official said the seizure of the LMG was the "first in the history of Karachi." It was mounted on the roof of the building to ward off any security swoops, he added.

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US national security adviser and as secretary of state under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford in the 1970s, he played China against Russia with inventive triangular diplomacy.

The transcripts of secret conversations that may have changed history are being published by the National Security Archive of George Washington University, for release Sunday.

These were obtained through freedom-of-information requests and other means, the private group said.

Kissinger's office said he was traveling and was not available for comment on the disclosures.

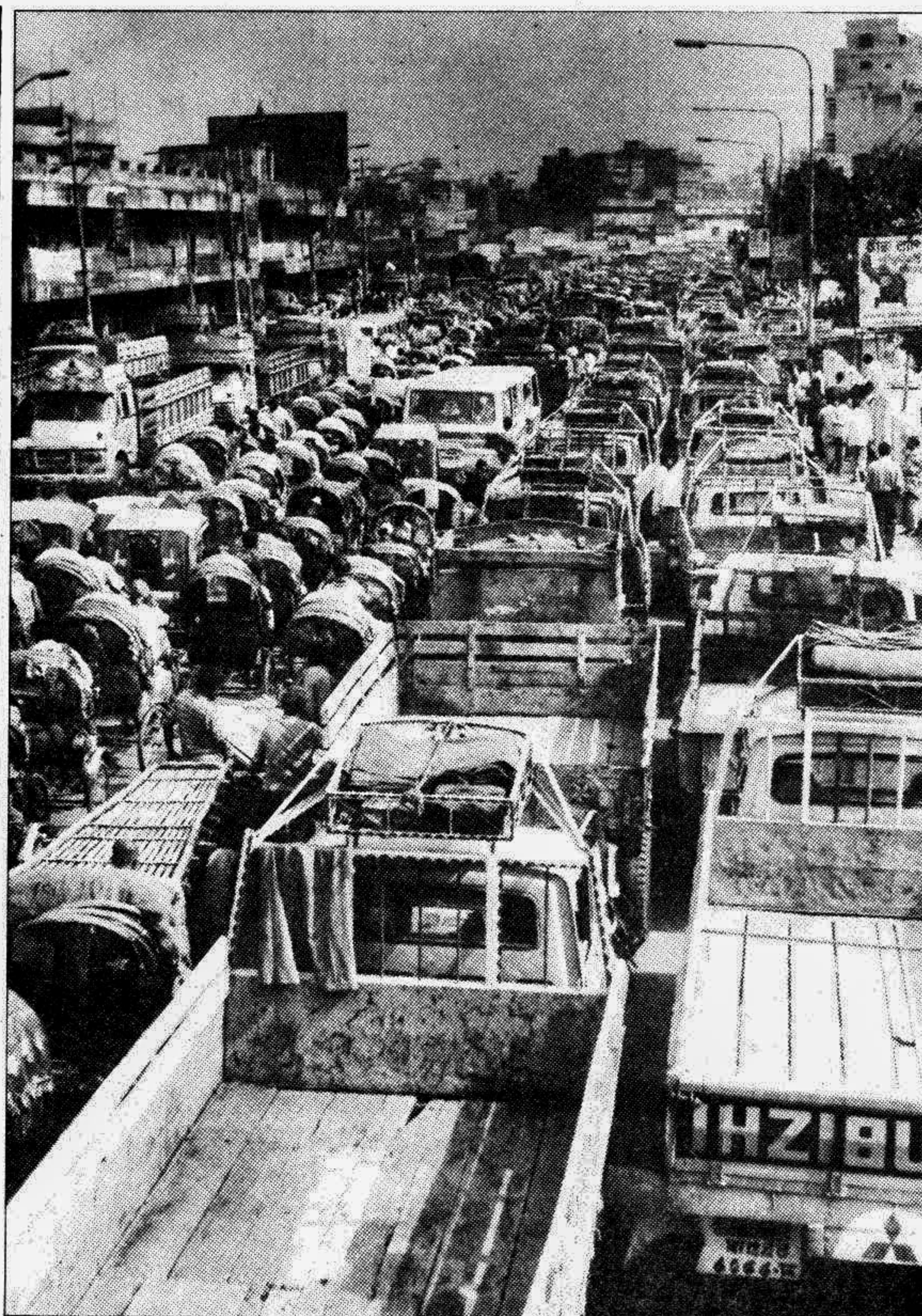
Interspersed in the documents are flashes of Kissinger's celebrated wit.

Chou told him, for instance, that China was giving only limited support to revolutions in Latin America, and "we are still learning," Kissinger quipped; "I hope you don't learn too fast."

Tough remarks also are attributed to him.

He told British Prime Minister James Callaghan in 1974: "As everyone knows, the Soviet Union that you do not know."

According to transcripts of top-secret talks Kissinger held



Terrible trucks

These lorries are not to be parked there on the Bangshal Road, the crucial link between downtown Dhaka and river terminal Sadarghat. Added to it are the anachronistic rickshaws and pushcarts, causing the congestion that our photographer Sk Enamul Haq framed yesterday. As Haq and his Star colleagues are fighting a seemingly losing battle against the capital's one of worst diseases, we pretend to be optimistic by printing the same old picture. Will those calling the shots wake up?

—Star photo

Kissinger secretly offered help to China against Soviets!

WASHINGTON, Jan 9: Advising Chinese leaders that the US was determined to amass enough nuclear weapons to destroy their country, Henry Kissinger secretly offered US satellite information and a hot line to China long before the communist government gained American diplomatic recognition, reports AP.

"We would be prepared, at your request, through whatever sources you wish, to give you whatever information we have about the disposition of Soviet forces," Kissinger told Huang Hua, the Chinese ambassador to the United Nations, in 1971.

The specific reference was to Soviet forces deployed during the war that year between India and Pakistan. But Kissinger offered a web of intelligence sharing in meetings with Chinese leaders including Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Premier Chou En-lai in November 1973.

"There are no secrets with (you about) the Soviet Union," Kissinger told Mao. "There is nothing we are doing with the Soviet Union that you do not know."

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Police forcibly arrest members of the Congress Party who raised slogans condemning the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the Bajrang Dal, both militant right wing Hindu groups, in Bombay Saturday. Christian organisations and human rights groups have blamed various militant right wing Hindu groups for the Christmas Day attacks on churches and church properties in Dange district, 300 kms north of Bombay.

—AP/UNB photo

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PHILIPS

US to increase jets in 'no-fly' zones

WASHINGTON, Jan 9: The United States will increase the number of warplanes patrolling "no-fly" zones over Iraq to better counter efforts by Saddam Hussein's forces to shoot down Western pilots, says the US general in charge of the region, reports AP.

"I think, clearly, he is trying to lure us into a possible shoot-down situation and we are taking every measure to prevent that," Marine Gen Anthony Zinni said Friday.

Zinni, leader of US Central Command, said he had asked for another eight F-16 C-J fighter jets armed with missiles capable of targeting radar used by Iraqi air-to-missile sites to aim at US and British planes. He also requested four additional tankers to refuel planes in flight so they can patrol for longer periods in the southern airspace over Iraq.

"We are taking action based on what Saddam's doing," Zinni said.

Iraqi pilots and anti-air-

craft sites have tried four times since Dec 28 to shoot down US and British planes patrolling "no-fly" zones over northern and southern Iraq. The patrols began in 1991 and 1992 to protect Kurds and Shiite Muslims from Iraqi attack.

Iraq has proclaimed the patrols are illegal. After the Dec 16-19 US and British airstrikes against Iraq, Saddam pledged to challenge the no-fly zones, something his planes have done more than 40 times in the past two weeks, the Pentagon said.

Violations "range from racing down and tucking their nose in and running back, to attempting multiple-plane kinds of tactical maneuvers against our forces, trying to work in cooperation with surface-to-air missile systems on the ground," Zinni said.

US planes have returned safely to base each time. Iraq claims that US missiles fired at its anti-aircraft sites have killed about a half-dozen soldiers and one farmer.

4 incidents of fire at Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Jan 9: Four separate fire incidents occurred in and around the city today, fire service sources said, reports BSS.

Two poultry farms were gutted at Halishar and a thatched house was damaged at Bepari Para. A dairy farm and a poultry farm were also damaged by fire at West Kuwash in the early hours of today. Two cows and 3000 chickens were roasted alive in the fire.

A truck loaded with cotton was partly damaged by fire when it originated from the burning end of a cigarette, fire service sources said.

Abducted girl rescued

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 9: Police today rescued a girl student of a local madrasah, abducted three days ago, from Saratia village in Sadar thana of the district, reports UNB.

Police also arrested a young man, Zinnah, on charge of his involvement in abducting Shantona, 14, daughter of Shamsul Huq of the village and a student of class VII.

Mscreants picked up the girl on Wednesday night from her house at gun point, police said.

Police rescued her from a house of the village and arrested the young man after her father filed a case with the police on Thursday.

Planned strike in BCIC postponed

The Samrak Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) yesterday postponed the strike and other programmes called earlier in BCIC, a press release said, reports BSS.

Aziz Bhai

From Page 1
involvement in activities subversive of social and economic interest of the country. Police also claimed that he had been evading huge amount of tax while importing and marketing goods.

Anupom Sen member of BB board of directors

Dr Anupom Sen, a professor of Social Science Department of Chittagong University, has been appointed member of the board of directors of Bangladesh Bank, a press release of the university said, reports BSS.

Country's one of the leading sociologists Prof Sen, presently an elected Senate and Syndicate member, joined the sociology department of the university in 1969 as an assistant professor.

Earlier, he worked in Dhaka University and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

Mayor candidate

From Page 1
ration," the AL candidate said. Asked to explain, Rob claimed that Taveur Rahman miserably failed to eradicate mosquito, rehabilitate the evicted hawkers and present a planned development of the city.

Blaming the BNP Mayoral candidate for politicising the city corporation, the AL candidate alleged that the corporation was used for his party politics.

Rab said he wants the election to be held in a free and fair manner. "If it is held so, you take it for granted that Taveur Rahman will suffer a crushing defeat."

"Why will people vote for BNP candidate? He bluffed the city dweller by wasting Taka 190 crore through corrupt engineers and dishonest contractors during his long tenure."

He alleged that Mayor Taveur Rahman was solely responsible for playing of about 20,000 unlicensed rickshaws in the metropolitan area.

"I have parted with Ershad for his wrong political decisions. Awami League has a glorious background and I want to dedicate rest of my life to serve the people under its banner, showing respect to the Father of the Nation," Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Rob said.

Impeachment trial

From Page 1
ties to make sure that we did not conduct ourselves in a way that disgraced the Senate," said Sen Robert Beneett, a Utah Republican.

Under the accord, the House — which has appointed 13 Republican members to lead the prosecution — and the White House each would get 24 hours of floor time, about three days, to present their cases.

Senators would get 16 hours for questions. When those are concluded, motions to dismiss the case and to call witnesses could be made, they would require a majority vote.

The House and White House would have to recommend a list of witnesses and have three hours each to argue why they should be called.

If the motion to dismiss failed and the list of witnesses was approved, the trial would recess while the witnesses were deposited by each side. A second majority vote would be required after the depositions to determine if any of the witnesses would actually be called to testify.

Each side would get eight hours for closing arguments, and each article of impeachment would be voted on at the conclusion.

"If we can get through this process as we now have proposed... it will be fair, expeditious and dignified," Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle said.

"House sources said prosecutors wanted to call about a half-dozen witnesses, including key players such as Lewinsky, Clinton secretary Betty Currie and Clinton friend Vernon Jordan as well as White House aide Sidney Blumenthal."

"This puts off a major confrontation," New York Democratic Sen Charles Schumer

said. "We've basically agreed to start the process going and see if there can be some kind of agreement on witnesses later."

The accord followed a caucus speech by West Virginia Democrat Robert Byrd, who warned Senators that during the impeachment process the House had "fallen into the black pit of partisan self-indulgence, the Senate is teetering on the brink of that same black pit."

Senators said a four-member bipartisan group would make sure there were safeguards and guidelines on calling witnesses and handling potentially salacious testimony.

The vote on the accord was delayed for a few hours as negotiators tried to nail down the details, with a dispute arising over whether new evidence not included in the House impeachment report could be introduced at trial.

But Senators said the opening presentations would have to be based on the record developed by the House inquiry. The introduction of any new evidence later in the trial would require a majority vote.

There will be no surprise evidence," Republican Sen Olympia Snowe of Maine said.

House Judiciary Chairman Henry Hyde, who will lead the prosecution, said on Friday witnesses were crucial to the case but added that he appreciated the bipartisan agreement.

"We also look forward, with Senate Concurrence, to calling witnesses in support of the evidence," Hyde said.

Witnesses were not called during the House inquiry because its role was simply to determine whether charges against Clinton were warranted, Hyde said.

In the only previous presidential impeachment trial President Andrew Johnson escaped conviction by one vote in 1868.



Manirul Alam elected president of Jatiya Press Club

Khandker Manirul Alam was elected the President of the National Press Club in the re-polling held yesterday, reports UNB.

He defeated his lone rival Muhammad Shafiqur Rahman by 13 votes. The reelection was required as the two candidates polled equal number of votes, 240, in the election held on December 30, 1998.

In the repolling, Manirul Alam got 252 votes against 239 votes secured by Shafiqur Rahman.

Two panels contested the December 30 election to the 17-member Managing Committee of the Press Club. The panel led by Alam won 10 posts: President, Senior Vice-President, two Joint Secretaries, Treasurer and five members.

The other panel led by Rahman secured seven posts: Vice-President, General Secretary and five members.

Elected office-bearers are: President — Khandker Manirul Alam (Holiday), Sr Vice President — Badiul Alam (Financial Express), Vice President — Farid Hossain (AP), General Secretary — Shawpan Kumar Shaha (BSS), Joint Secretaries — Abdur Rahman Khan (Independent) and Bakhtiar Rana (UNB) and Treasurer — Abdul Baten (Ittefaq).

The elected members: Kamaluddin Sabuj (BSS), Golam Sarwar (Ittefaq), Ziaul Huq (Ittefaq), Farayaz Sultana (Janakantha), Zahiduzzaman Farooq (Ittefaq), Shafiqul Karim Sabu (BSS), Shehabuddin Ahmed Nafa (Daily Star), Shamsul Huq Zahid (Dhaka Courier), Rawnak Hossain (Photographer) and Abdal Ahmed (Dinkal).

Homecoming

From Page 1
love and affection.

In a message, President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday said a strong democratic system should be built up in the country with the united effort of all for achieving political and economic emancipation of the people.

Terming January 10 as a memorable day in the history of the nation, he said, "It was a day of great joy for the people of the war-torn country."

"The nation recalls the glorious history of the struggle for independence through remembering this day," he added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for united endeavours for prosperity of the poverty-stricken people in the country to make the homecoming day of Bangabandhu memorable and meaningful.

The Prime Minister said Bangabandhu was assassinated with members of his family on August 15, 1975 when he was engaged in the reconstruction of the war-ravaged country and its economy.

Observance of the homecoming day would be meaningful only when a happy and prosperous society can be established said the prime minister.

Government, ruling Awami League and its front organisations, and different socio-cultural bodies have chalked out separate programmes to observe the day.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will distribute letters of state honorarium among newly-listed disabled freedom fighters and martyred families today. The programme will be held at the International Conference Centre in the city at 11:30 am.

Bangladesh Awami League will hold a discussion meeting at Engineers Institution auditorium at 2 pm today to mark the homecoming day. Hasina, who is also the president of Awami League, is scheduled to attend the meeting as chief guest.

Other programmes of AL include hoisting of national and party flags, and garlanding the portrait of Sheikh Mujib at Bangabandhu Bhaban.

Frozen food

From Page 1
The frozen food exporters

claim that international prices have plummeted up to 40 per cent and another 20 to 25 units will be closed if the government does not take immediate steps.

Out of total 123 shrimp processing units, only 57 are now in operation. The rest have been closed, they claim.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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