

LATE NEWS

LONDON, Jan. 2, (AFP)—British travellers are trying to blockade EEC ports with 5,000 fishing boats if Britain does not win an exclusive 50-mile fishing zone.

THE KABUL TIMES

Vol. XV, No. 232, Sunday Jan. 2, 1977, JADI 12, 1355, S.H. PRICE AFS. 6

WEATHER

The skies will be cloudy throughout the country with possible snowfall in next 24 hours.
Kabul temperature:
Max. temperature +5
Min. tonight -8

First stage of Parwan water, power Project completed

CHARIKAR, Jan. 2, (Bakhtar)—The first stage of Parwan water and power project has been completed and was inaugurated last Thursday by Second Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Sayyed Abdullah in the name of Almighty God and the wish for progress of Afghanistan. Work on second stage of the Project began at the same time.

Cutting the ribbon Abdullah said: "I have the pleasure to inaugurate, in the light of the Republican regime, one of the major water and power projects of the country in Parwan province which will play a decisive role in greening the area and raising the economic and social standards of the people".

The Second Deputy Prime Minister expressed the hope that "our dear country Afghanistan, in the light of great and progressive thought of leader of revolution Mohammad Daoud will achieve successes that will assure the noble Afghan nation a comfortable and decent life as is the wish of the revolutionary regime".

The opening ceremony was attended by Justice, Interior, Planning, Communications and Commerce Ministers, Governor of Parwan, officials of Water and Power Ministry and local officials, Ambassador of People's Republic of China and some members of Chinese embassy in Kabul, and a great number of people of Parwan.

The ceremony held at the Public Park of Gulbahar near the headway of the project was opened with

the recitation of few verses from Holy Koran and the national anthem.

Afterwards the Minister of Water and Power Eng. Mohammadi in a speech said: The water and power project of Parwan, one of the public utility and mul-

ti-faceted economic projects of country, is aimed at better utilising the water from Panjsher River for irrigation of new lands and improvement of old farms covered by the Project which is considered the most (Continued on page 4)



Minister of Water and Power Eng. Mohammadi speaking at the ceremony marking the completion of the first phase of the Parwan water and power project.

Jangalak produces goods valued at Afs. 113,500,000

KABUL, Jan. 2, (Bakhtar)—During the past nine months goods valued at Afs. 113,500,000 have been produced at the Jangalak Factories. Compared to work done during the whole year of 1354, there has been an increase of 75 per cent in the production of first nine months of the current year.

The President of the Jangalak Factories, Saifi speaking to Bakhtar said that the production of the factories for 1355 was envisaged to be Afs. 111,100,000. But the factory, surpassed this target by 2.5

per cent in nine months. The major items produced at the factories are fuel and water tanks and metal doors to meet the orders placed by the government organisations, he added. Other activities of the factories are centre for repair of vehicles, production of agricultural tools, metal beds etc. The factories employ 1115 workers including engineers and administrative personnel, he added.

So far this year the Jangalak Factories have obtained some Afs. 96 million from the sales of its products which shows an increase of Afs. 34 million compared to corresponding period the year before.

700,000 m cotton for W. Germany

KABUL, Jan. 2, (Bakhtar)—The Afghan Textile Company has exported 700,000 metres cloth to West Germany this year at the total price of DM 689,000. A source of the Afghan Textile Company said that from the beginning of this year until the end of Qaus, 40,214,000 metres cotton and rayon textiles has been produced in textile factories of Gulbahar, Puli-Khumri and Jabalseraj which shows an increase of 3,900,000 metres as compared to last year.

CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS SENT

KABUL, Jan. 2, (Bakhtar)—The Information Department of the Foreign Ministry said that on the occasion of the new Christian Year, President and Prime Minister Mohammad Daoud has sent congratulatory telegrams to heads of state and government of friendly countries.

KABUL, Jan. 2, (Bakhtar)—The Information

Department of the Foreign Ministry said that President and Prime Minister Mohammad Daoud has sent a congratulatory telegram to President of the Democratic Republic of Sudan Gaafar Al Nimeiry on the occasion of the independence anniversary of Sudan.

Similarly President and Prime Minister Mohammad Daoud has congratulated President of the Cuban Republic Osvaldo Dorticos Torrado on the occasion of the National Day of that country.

New Indian envoy named

KABUL, Jan. 2, (Bakhtar)—The Information Department of the Foreign Ministry said that President and Prime Minister Mohammad Daoud has issued an agreement for the appointment of Shindra Kumar Singh as new Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan which was requested by the Indian government earlier.

Nation observes Moharam 10 in meetings

KABUL, Jan. 2, (Bakhtar)—Friday December 31 was the 10th of Moharam Haram which corresponds to the day of martyrdom of Hazrate Emam Hussein, (peace be upon him). Meetings commemorating this historical tragedy were held throughout the country.

Information and Culture Minister Prof. Dr. Nevin representing the government attended the prayers meeting in Kabul's Omu-mi Takyakhana for the souls of martyrs of Karbala, and prayed for the Holy soul of Hazrate Emam Hussien. The meeting was also attended by some high ranking officials and a large number of Kabul citizens.

In the meeting commemorating this historic day the Ulama's in their speeches shed light on this historic event of Karbala and wished for further successes of the honest servants of the country in the light of the Republican regime.



A scene of the commemorative meeting on the occasion of Moharam 10th held in Kabul.

Housing Construction Unit to be enlarged

KABUL, Jan. 2, (Bakhtar)—The agreement on preparation of technical documents, alteration and expansion of the Housing Construction Unit between the Housing Construction Unit of the Public Works Ministry and the Soviet Union was signed last Thursday. The agreement was signed by President of Housing Construction Unit Eng. Abdul Latif and Deputy Economic Counsellor of the Soviet embassy, Choubarov. On the basis of this agreement, designs and technical documents will be prepared for alteration and renewal of the factory.

In the second stage machinery and other related equipment will be installed in the factory. A source of the Housing Construction Unit said that with implementation of this agreement, the production capacity of the factory will increase from 35,000 cubic metres concerted work of 70,000 cubic metres. The factory will be able to construct 14 residential blocks of five story each and seven blocks of nine story each annually.

Smith annoys British mediator

SALISBURY, Jan. 2, (Reuter)—British diplomat Ivor Richard, Chairman of the Geneva conference on Rhodesia, appeared angry yesterday after meeting Prime Minister Ian Smith for two and one-half hours.

Although Richard was smiling when he arrived here earlier yesterday, his mood had clearly changed during his talks with the Rhodesian leader.

After the meeting ended, a frowning Richard curtly told reporters: "we had a vigorous exchange of views. As a result I understood Smith's position and

he understood mine." He then strode through a group of reporters without further comment. A veteran reporter of the Geneva talks said he had never seen the usually mild-mannered envoy in such a manner.

Richard is here as part of his six-nation shuttle tour in southern Africa which is aimed at paving the way for the resumption of the Geneva talks on Rhodesia's future. The conference now is scheduled to resume on January 17.

He met Bishop Abel Muzorewa, leader of one faction of Rhodesia's black nationalist movement, later last night.

Smith is known to be angered at the slow pace of the settlement talks and the treatment given the Rhodesian government delegation in Geneva.

Observers here said Smith might have used his meeting on home ground

with Richard to be blunt. When he arrived, the British diplomat said he had not brought new proposals to put to the Rhodesian people on a "take it or leave it basis".

He said he was on an initial visit to review the whole situation surrounding the Geneva conference and to "discuss ideas".

In his New Year's message to the country Smith said he considered some of the new British proposals for the future of the country to be unrealistic. But he promised his government would "examine

them on their merits". A British aide said Richard would continue his talks here today before leaving for South Africa, where he will meet Prime Minister John Vorster on Monday.

British officials were unable to give details on who Richard would see today. It was not known whether he planned another meeting with Smith.

Richard arrived here from Zambia, where he began his six-nation shuttle. From South Africa, he is to travel to Botswana, Mozambique and Tanzania.

Dr. Azeem visits Nangarhar hospital

JALALABAD, Jan. 2, (Bakhtar)—Deputy Public Health Minister Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim Azeem last Thursday visited various sections of Nangarhar Civil Hospital and the construction work of 200 bed hospital of Jalalabad. During the visit the Deputy Public Health Minister was accompanied by some officials of the Public Health Ministry and head of the Public Health Department of the province. The 200 bed hospital of Jalalabad being built by Banayee Construction Unit has surgery section for children, administration, school building and dormitory for nurses. The hospital is expected to be completed shortly.

According to another report Prof. Azeem also visited the construction work of 30-bed hospital in Asad-Abad, centre of Kunar, and Malaria Eradication and Tuberculosis departments in Chauki and Koutz Kunar districts and met the concerned personnel and discussed various problems. Prof. Dr. Azeem was accompanied by Loi Woloswal of Kunar, some officials of the Ministry of Public Health and the concerned officials of various health sections of Kunar.

700 TONS RAISINS EXPORTED

CHARIKAR, Jan. 2, (Bakhtar)—During the past two months nearly 700 tons raisins has been exported to foreign countries from Wazir Factory of Parwan province. A source of the factory said that the raisins belonging to individual businessmen was exported to Holland, Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany. The source added that at present 2000 tons raisin is under process and will be exported to a number of friendly countries.

Home news round up

KABUL, Jan. 2, (Bakhtar)—President of the Public Library of Moscow Galvich Abdulin left for home last Thursday. At Kabul airport, he was seen off by a representative of the Ministry of Information and Culture. Abdulin visited Kabul recently under Afghan-Soviet cultural exchange program to see a number of libraries of the Ministry of Information and Culture.

salt mine of Takhar province an increase of 420 tons over last year.

A source of Kalfagan salt mine said from the beginning of Hamal till the end of Qaus of the current year salt fetched afs. 1,860,000 an increase of Afs. 49,000.

KABUL, Jan. 2, (Bakhtar)—On the proposal of the Ministry of Public Health, approval of the cabinet and endorsement of the Head of State and Prime Minister Dr. Sayyed-Mohammad Sheyab Kaifi has been appointed as president of Central Blood bank, holding rank two.

NEW DELHI, Jan. 2, (Reuter)—Thirteen people were killed and 25 injured in a head-on collision between two buses near Gohana in the northern Indian state of Haryana yesterday, the Indian news agency Samachar reported.



The President of Housing Construction and Deputy Counsellor for economic affairs of the Soviet Union in Kabul signing the agreement.

THE KABUL TIMES



Published everyday except Friday and public holidays.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want and if they can't find them make them. (Bernard Shaw)

Parwan Irrigation Project

Parwan is mostly known for its grapes, but huge quantities of other fruits, and cereals are also grown there.

The people of Parwan have developed remarkable skills in working the land. Coupling these skills with hard work they gather huge harvests with the help of only simple tools, and little other inputs.

One hardship that they left to their own resources, could not overcome was the scarcity of water. Utilising of the waters of Panjsher river took more in the way of technology and capital investment that they could afford.

This was undertaken by the state, and last week the completion of the first phase of the project, and commencement of work on the second phase was marked at a special function.

Altogether the project provides sufficient, year round supply of water for 120,000 jerbis of land, of which 50,000 jerbis

are virgin. The virgin lands are mostly located on slopes, and will be irrigated by a canal fed by pumps. The power for the pumps is produced by a 2400 kw plant on the main canal.

The supply of electricity exceeds the needs of the pumping station, leaving quantities for use of small scale industries, and lighting.

Special techniques have been used in implementation of this project which have allowed considerable savings, and assured a high degree of efficiency.

Considering the scope of the project, and its multifaceted advantages, capital and equipment has been used most economically.

The lands benefitting from the project are all located in densely populated areas, or adjacent to villages. With all the people adept in farming and orcharding, maximum utilisation of the lands is assured without extra expenditures on machinery, extension work, and other inputs.

The experience in implementation of this project will prove of immense value to the country in project choice and planning.

Afghanistan as one of the least developed countries of the world is compelled to make up for the scarcity of resources through cost consciousness, through greatest possible use of domestic human and material resources, and through labour intensive processes and practices at least for the time being.

The financial and technical assistance offered to the Republic of Afghanistan by the People's Republic of China is highly appreciated.

Tens of thousands of jerbis of lands are already benefiting from the Parwan canals, and within two years the second phase of the project will be completed serving as a living example of fruitful cooperation.

Washington, Jan. 2, (AFP) — President Ferdinand Marcos said yesterday tougher talks lay ahead before a final solution could be reached to the southern Philippine Moslem problem, and flexibility was needed to ensure the success of negotiations.

Libya and the Islamic conference helped mediate the December talks between a panel representing the Marcos martial law regime and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), spearhead of the rebellion in the Mindanao-Sulu region.

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Marcos on southern Philippine problem

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Marcos indicated that the autonomy would be

"limited". How it would be defined would be decided in a second round of negotiations to be held also in Tripoli from Feb. 5 to March 3.

He said the February talks "may be more crucial, more difficult" in the light of the fact that the first conference was several times threatened with collapse.

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This meant Philippine territorial integrity and "constitutional processes" should be maintained.

"We must think of our national interest, but at the same time we must not impose such conditions that it will cause another awkward termination of the efforts to settle the Mindanao conflict," the president said.

As a compromise, Marcos said he suggested that autonomy "will be limited within the provisions of the constitution, without any specific statement, so that we can all agree."

As to the area to be covered, Marcos said earlier this week that this would be determined by a plebiscite to be held in 13 rebellion-hit provinces.

Yesterday, Marcos revealed that the MNLF was opposed to a plebiscite adding clarified that the holding of such a poll actually was "still under study".

Marcos said if the December talks had collapsed, "there would be practically a state of hostilities, because this was the threat. They (the MNLF) would bring this matter to the United Nations, they would raise the question of counter-action not only by Libya and the others but also by the members of the Islamic conference against the Philippine government."

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Young --- Jimmy Carter's man of faith

WASHINGTON, Congressman Andrew Young (Democrat of Georgia) has leaped to the first rank of U.S. black leaders as a builder of bridges between races and one of the first to put his money on Jimmy Carter for president.

During the Civil Rights protests of the 1960s, Young was the bridge between the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. and the whites and the segregationists. This year Young was Carter's bridge to the blacks and white liberals.

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AFGHAN PRESS

JAMHOURIAT: In this morning's issue the paper comments on the civil code. This is the first time that in the 5000 year history of the nation a comprehensive civil code is promulgated. The years after the revolution of 1973 have seen an unprecedented striving for promoting justice, and improving the administration of justice in the country, as well as defining by law the rights and obligations of the citizens and institutions in the history.

The civil code of the Republic of Afghanistan is fully compatible with the principles of the Holy Islamic religion and Islamic law, and the healthy traditions, values, and mores of our people. The people of Afghanistan are deeply appreciative of the efforts

of the government of the Republic of Afghanistan aimed at promotion and consolidation of the rule of law in the country.

ANIS: In Thursday's issue the paper commemorates the anniversary of martyrdom of the Holy Prophet's grandson. He was martyred for the cause of right, Islamic unity and brotherhood, and justice. The occasion has been marked for 13 century. It was not only a shockingly sad event for the world of Islam, but the story of Karbala is a living example for the faithful that not matter what the cost one should stand up against wrongdoing, and against enemies of our beliefs, and faith and convictions.

In another editorial in the same issue the paper

expresses appreciation to the leadership of the revolution and the government of the Republic of Afghanistan for the great accomplishment of promulgating of the nation's first and most comprehensive civil code.

The paper notes that with the coming into force of the civil code individuals, families, and the nation as a whole will know very well where they stand in as much as rights and responsibilities are concerned, and will understand what to expect of the law, and of the legal system of the country.

Some time ago the paper had sent a number of questionnaires to its readers asking their views on contents and form of the paper.

In Thursday's issue the paper publishes opinions of the respondees. The majority seems to be satisfied with the typography and packaging processes followed by the editors of the paper. Some have suggested minor changes in specific instances. The readers also expressed satisfaction with the content and presentation of the newspaper's editorials and expressed the wish that the paper continues addressing itself, in its editorials, to vital national issues, fulfilling its historic mission.

The news columns of the paper have also been praised as highly informative and pertinent. News coverage is comprehensive as well as understandable, making interpretation quite easy for the reader.

WORLD PRESS

JOHANNESBURG, Jan. 2, (AFP)—Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith is sufficiently confident he will get guarantees on the rights of the white minority in Rhodesia after a hand-over to black majority rule that he is making plans to stay on himself, the South African newspaper Die Vaderland reported here.

In an interview with the paper Smith said he had no intention of leaving Rhodesia after the blacks come to power.

He admitted that in the present situation an exodus of whites could create a serious problem for his

government in that it would decrease the size and force of the Rhodesian army's strike power.

On the future of the Geneva talks, Smith said he seriously doubted that it would be possible for the conference to be resumed on Jan. 17 planned by Britain.

Problems which had to be sorted out before the conference reconvened were too great to allow any hope of a resumption before the second half of January and it was not certain whether the venue would still be Geneva, Smith said.

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IN OUR STRANGE WORLD

LAGOS, Jan. 2, (AFP) —A cargo of beer aboard a Ghanaian-chartered ship that had been anchored off Lagos's crowded port since Sept. 19 waiting for berthing space has been captured by armed pirates who "chanted war songs" as they pillaged, the semi-official daily Times reported here.

The newspaper said police suspected an inside job. A crew member had been paid 90 naira (133 dollars) for his silence, police said.

The ship, the SS Thewore, was chartered in Takoradi, Ghana, to take more than 8,000 cartons of beer to Lagos.

A key man in the robbery had fled Nigeria before police moved in, but several of his accomplices were arrested, the Times reported.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 2, (Reuters)—The two law firms and three executors

handling the estate of the late oil billionaire, J. Paul Getty have been paid five million dollars in partial fees even though the will has been challenged by Getty's granddaughter.

Los Angeles superior court judge Neil Lake awarded about one million dollars each to two law firms. The rest of the five million dollars went to two of Getty's sons and an executor company. The three are acting jointly as executors of the estate.

The payments are only a portion of the fees they will eventually earn for their work on the estate valued at more than 700 million dollars.

Unofficial estimates of the estate at the time of Getty's death in England last June put it at between two and four billion dollars. But a spokesman for his executors said at

least part of his fortune was left in trusts drawn up before his death.

Getty's oldest granddaughter, Anne Catherine Getty, has contested the will, claiming that a codicil added shortly before his death was signed under undue influence by his advisers when he was not of "sound and disposing mind."

The codicil left the bulk of the Getty fortune directly to his art museum in a Pacific coast villa, cutting out his family as administrators of the museum bequest.

The documents filed in court revealed that the 11 women companions left money in his will have all been paid.

Among these was British divorcee Penelope Anne Kipson, who decorated Getty's 450-year-old English estate. She was left 1.167 dollars a month for life and 800,000 dollars in Getty Oil Company stock.



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| Editor | ADS. RATES |
| Nour M. Rahimi | Classified: 6 Lines per column 9 point letters Afs. 20. |
| Tel: 26847 | Classified: 6 Lines per column 9 point letter Afs. 40. |
| Editorial | Display: Column cm. Afs. 30. |
| Tel 26848 | SUBSCRIPTION RATES |
| Business & Circ. Manager: 23834 | Half yearly Afs. 900 |
| Advertising: 26859 | Yearly Afs. 1600 |
| Circulation: 26851-53 ext. 59 | FOREIGN |
| | Yearly Dollar 80 |
| | Half yearly Dollar 35 |

New USSR Parwan Water and Power Project envoy named to United Nations

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, Jan. 2, (AFP).—The new Soviet Ambassador to the United Nations, Oleg Troyanovsky, will take over as president of the Security Council as soon as he arrives here.

It will be the Soviet Union's turn to preside over the council in January. Member countries take turns by alphabetical order.

A number of other new faces will be seen on the council. U. S. President — elect Jimmy Carter has designated black Congressman Andrew Young to become the American UN representative.

France's new U.N. Ambassador Jacques Leprette arrived here in the second half of December.

A successor to Chinese representative Huang Hua has not been appointed since he was recently promoted to Foreign Minister.

Ivor Richard, the representative of the other permanent member of the Security Council—Britain—has been absent for several months taking part in the Rhodesian negotiations.

Non-permanent members on the council in 1977 will be Benin, Canada, West Germany, India, Libya, Mauritius, Pakistan, Panama, Rumania and Venezuela.

The council is expected to convene on Jan. 10 to hear a complaint against Rhodesia by Botswana.

Carter on statehood for Puerto Rico

PLAINS, GEORGIA, Jan. 2, (AFP).—President elect Jimmy Carter said yesterday that he was "willing" for Puerto Rico to become the 51st state as long as its residents desired the change in status.

Asked his reaction by announcement Friday by outgoing President Gerald Ford that he would recommend statehood for Puerto Rico, Carter recalled: "during the campaign I said that unless the Puerto Ricans themselves express their preference for statehood, the Congress should not take the initiative."

He went on to say: "I would be perfectly willing to see Puerto Rico become a state if the people who live there prefer that." The Caribbean island currently has the status of a commonwealth of the U.S., with extensive local autonomy.

Regarding Puerto Ricans wish, Carter said: "I don't know how they feel." He recalled that in 1967 a large majority of Puerto Rican voters indicated they preferred their current status.

Party loyal to Mugabe formed in Rhodesia

SALISBURY, Jan. 2, (Reuter).—A new political party, the people's movement, owing allegiance to the militant nationalist leader Robert Mugabe has been formed in Rhodesia.

Its publicity secretary, the reverend Cnaan Banana, told a press conference in Salisbury's highfield African township yesterday that the founder members were mainly former executive officers in bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African Council (UANC).

Mugabe, who is outlawed from Rhodesia had accepted overall leadership in exile of the new party, Banana said.

Banana himself defected from bishop Muzorewa's nationalist faction du-

(Continued from page 1) fertile lands in the country. With the completion of this Project not only possibilities are provided for gravity irrigation, the irrigation through pumps which is the major part of the project have also been made possible, said Eng. Mohammadi.

The hydro-electric power station with a capacity of 2400 kws not only will meet the needs of pumping station of the Project, energy will also be provided for running the various other plants in Parwan area, added Eng. Mohammadi.

Further elaborating on interesting technical aspects of the Project the Minister of Water and Power expressed thanks for the disinterested aid of friendly country of People's Republic of China in helping in completion of the Project.

The Chinese ambassador

to Kabul Kan Yeh-tao in a speech recalling, with appreciation the amicable relations existing between Afghanistan and People's Republic of China, said "The Republican State of Afghanistan under the leadership of Mohammad Daoud, the President and Prime Minister, has developed its national economy through endeavours and efforts and establishes, on large scale, the irrigations schemes which will provide favourable conditions for future development of agriculture and development of industries in the country."

The Chinese ambassador expressed hope that cooperation between the two countries will further expand and lead to further consolidation and ever increasing friendship between the two countries.

The Bakhtar correspondent adds that with the completion of the project a total of 24,800 hectares of

land will come under irrigation—14,800 hectares water short land and 10,000 hectares arid land.

The first stage of the project has cost Afs. 576,453,000 with some 1.5 million pound sterling for import of machinery. The work carried out includes construction of 85.78 kms canals, building pump houses and a 2,400 kws power plant and 481 structures including bridges, culverts, turn-ups, syphons etc.

The second stage of the work on the project which began last Thursday includes construction of 82.6 kms canals and 622 small structures which is to be completed in the next two years at the cost of Afs. 175,854,000 or 976,970 pounds sterling.

The Bakhtar correspondent adds that the Second Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Sayyed Abduwan and other invitees after the opening ceremony visited the Ghorband syphon, part of the main canal of the project, the power station and pump house while Eng. Monamadi and engineers in charge provided information.

Afterwards a number of residents of Parwan and workers of the project spoke about the attention the republican state is paying in drawing up and implementing plans and projects for the welfare of people and expressed pleasure and gratitude.

In reply the Second Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister expressed appreciation for the sentiments towards the Republican state and while talking to them he explained the basic objectives of the Republican state which entail the welfare and prosperity of masses of population.

Sayyed Abdullah said "It is up to us that in the light of thoughts of the leader of the revolution which are based on national progressive and revolutionary principles, to create the spirit of work, activity and dedication towards serving the people and progress of Afghanistan with patriotic responsibility in mind and to fight against any form of irresponsible acts, indifferences and reaction."

Egypt, Libya ready to help rebuild Lebanon

BEIRUT, Jan. 2, (Reuter).—Lebanese Premier Selim Al-Hoss said yesterday that both Egypt and Libya had expressed willingness to help rebuild Lebanon, which was regarded as a collective Arab task.

Speaking to reporters on his return from a visit to Cairo and Tripoli earlier this week, Dr. Hoss described his talks with the two countries' leaders as positive.

He said Egyptian Premier Mamdouh Salem had said his country was ready to help Lebanon deal with its social and economic problems.

Libyan leader Colonel



KABUL, Jan. 2, (Bakhtar).—The certificates of the participants of the accounting course were distributed to them by Deputy Finance Minister Fazul-Haq Khaliqyar, last Thursday.

In a ceremony held on the Deputy Minister of Finance presenting a certificate to one of the graduates of the course.

occasion. Deputy Finance Minister urged participants of the course to use their knowledge in fulfillment of their responsibilities. A source of the Accounts Department of the Finance Ministry said that the course opened last

month for the expansion of knowledge of the accountants and controllers was attended by 65 officials. The participants who scored higher marks received gifts arranged by the Finance Ministry.

WORLD NEWS ROUND UP

BRAZZAVILLE, Jan. 2, (Reuter).—More than 200,000 adults have learned to read and write in the people's republic of the Congo in the past decade as the result of a government campaign against illiteracy, according to officials.

Some 325,000 of this Central African country's 1,320,000 inhabitants still cannot read or write, but the government hopes illiteracy will have disappeared completely from the Congo in 10 years time.

DARWIN, AUSTRALIA, Jan. 2, (Reuter).—Over 100 Indonesian troops have been killed in recent clashes with left-wing independence forces in Timor, according to the Australian based campaign for an independent East Timor.

The campaign said it had picked up a broadcast from the independence movement, Fretilin, reporting intense fighting with Indonesian troops near the northern coast town of Va-

masse between December 22 and 27.

BEIRUT, Jan. 2, (Reuter).—Battle-scarred veterans and raw recruits of Fatah, the biggest Palestinian commando group, yesterday marked the planting of a mine on a Galilee road exactly 12 years ago that began the guerrilla war against Israel.

Yasser Arafat, leader of Fatah and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), received a standing ovation as he arrived at the packed municipal stadium here to take the salute from an estimated 600 fighting men and women, including recruits not yet in their teens.

COLOMBO, Jan. 2, (Reuter).—The government has cancelled all leave for postal and telecommunication workers because of the country's worsening strike situation, an official spokesman said here yesterday.

Port commission workers struck last Wednesday for more pay, joining railway workers whose strike is now in its 11th day.

Telecommunications engineering workers walked out Friday in sympathy with the port workers and railwaymen.

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA, Jan. 2, (AFP).—South African police arrested 176 people to prevent a recurrence of tribal clashes which killed at least 14 people over the Christmas weekend, it was announced here.

Police used an army helicopter in a large-scale

operation to halt fighting between the Cele and Raddebe tribes, near port Shepstone.

According to police, nearly 100 people have died in tribal fighting in South Africa in less than week. Authorities have given no details of the cause of the clashes.

Jordan

announces

660m. sterling budget for 1977

AMMAN, Jan. 2, (Reuter).—The Jordanian Government yesterday announced a record 332 million dinar (660 million sterling) budget for 1977.

This is an increase of 70 million dinars (136 million sterling) on last year's budget.

More than half the budget is being financed by foreign aid and loans totalling 180 million dinars (356 million sterling).

Revenue from local sources is expected to be more than 137 million dinars (270 million sterling) and an expected 15 million dinars (29 million sterling) deficit will be financed by local borrowing.

Defence expenditure is increased by 16 million dinars (31 million sterling) to 67 million dinars (131 million sterling).

Development projects have been allocated 136 million dinars (270 million sterling), an increase of 55 million dinars (108 million sterling) over last year.

Nationwide campaign to boost production in China

HONG KONG, Jan. 2, (AFP).—China has started the new year with a nationwide campaign to boost industrial production, provincial radio broadcasts indicate.

The Kwangsi provincial radio station reported that a conference was held in Nanning "to convey and implement the spirit of the preparatory meeting for the national conference on learning from Taching (China's leading oil producer) in industry".

Officials called for the convening of a provincial conference before the national conference scheduled to be held in Peking towards the end of February, the radio reported.

It added that hope was expressed that the leadership at all levels will seriously grasp well the various preparatory work regard the process of preparing for the conference as a process of deeply mo-

bilising the masses of movement of learning from Taching in industry to a new stage.

Kwangsi officials made it clear that no time is to be lost between now and the national conference.

They said, "we must give free rein to the masses, mobilise struggle and self-reliance and roll up our sleeves to work".

The officials added, "production in the first quarter of 1977 must not be lower than the level of the fourth quarter of 1976, and we must fulfil 23 to 25 percent of the plan for 1977."

"Materials now stored in warehouses and kept by enterprises themselves must all be used in production, mainly for satisfying the demands of light industry and supporting agriculture. We must make a good start to 1977."

Herat cotton company export rises to 3750 tons

By A Reporter

The Herat Cotton Company has so far exported a total of 3750 tons of cotton to Britain and Holland during 1976. Holland purchased 1000 tons and Britain 2750 tons of cotton of the total export, said the Manager of the Company Aslami in an interview with the daily Anis.

Aslami continued that the Herat Cotton Company (HCC) also signed a contract for the export of 2,000 tons of first sort cotton to China. The cotton will be exported to China by the end of April 1977. The cotton has been sold at 1720 dollars per ton of which 1100 dollars will go to the company's account while 620 dollars will be deposited in the state accounts. The state also bears the forwarding costs.

Aslami also said that during last year that is 1976 only 3,000 tons cotton was exported to the People's Republic of China while during the current year the export has risen as aforementioned by 750 tons. The company has also exported some quantities of oil cakes produced by the oil extracting plant. The company has since its establishment exported a total of 13,000 tons of cotton to Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, People's Republic of China, Britain, Holland and Republic of Iraq. The company carries out its operation in Herat and Badghis provinces and collects and brings the cotton to the company for ginning and sorting.

Besides ginning, pressing and sorting of the cotton purchased from the farmers and its sale to local and foreign companies HCC also runs an oil extracting plant and also manages an ice producing factory. The company pa-

ys the farmers in cash for their cotton and for the development and increase of cotton growing area the company distributes free of charge improved variety of cotton seeds among the farmers in Badghis and Herat provinces. The government has also fixed reasonable rates for the purchase of cotton from the farmers divided into three categories namely first, second and third sort.

Usually the cotton purchasing offers are received through the Ministry of Commerce, the ministry first fixes the price and other conditions and then the agreement is signed. The cotton companies also sometimes take direct part in finding new markets by inviting tenders from foreign companies and if the offers are approved by the ministry the deals become final and the cotton is exported.

Aslami recalled that in the past the company used to sell cotton on barter basis but now it has gained an independent nature making maximum profit. Of late the government has been making relentless efforts for capturing new international markets for cotton and for expanding the existing ones. Care has also been taken that the quality remains up to the standards and satisfies the customers. The Herat Cotton Company Aslami said was established in 1942 for processing and cleaning of cotton for export purposes. The company has new and modern gin and press machines and also oil extracting plant.

MANILA, Jan. 2, (Reuter).—The Philippine government ordered quarantine offices to undertake strict anti-cholera measures on incoming passengers aboard vessels and aircraft from Sabah.

India takes over entire oil refinery

NEW DELHI, Jan. 2, (AFP).—The advent of 1977 saw the almost entire oil refining capacity in India coming into the control of the government.

This was made possible following promulgation of an ordinance issued by the Indian President on Thursday night for the acquisition of the shares of Caltex Oil Refining (India) and transfer of the right, title and interest of the Caltex (India) limited in relations to its undertakings in the country.

Following promulgation of the ordinance, 450,000 shares of the American owned company, were tr-

ansferred to the government. The government has subsequently issued a notification transferring the right, title and interest of the Caltex India Limited in relations to its undertakings in India to the state owned Caltex Oil Refining (India) limited.

With the take-over of Caltex Oil Refining (India) Limited, nearly 26.9 million tons of refining capacity in the country out of the total 27.40 million tons would be in the public sector.

The only refinery which now remains outside government control is the small 500,000 tons unit of the

Assam Oil Company, in Eastern India and negotiations for its take-over are currently in progress.

Under the agreement reached earlier between the Government of India and the Caltex Petroleum Corporation, the U.S. a net sum of 130 million rupees (over 14 million dollars) is to be paid in US dollars to the company in five instalments for the acquisition of their refining and marketing assets and operation India.

On their part, Caltex has agreed to supply from Gulf countries annually 1.25 million tons of crude for the next five years on commercial terms.