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THE KABUL TIMES



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Dr. Seraj opens Public Health Directors seminar

KABUL, Dec. 5, (Bakhtar).—The fourth seminar of the public health directors from various provinces was opened Thursday morning by Public Health Minister Dr. Mohammad Ebrahim Majid Seraj.

Some 50 participants, including Public Health Ministry officials, and WHO and UNICEF experts are attending the seminar which will continue up to December 24.

The seminar is convened in the library of the Kabul Public Health Institute.

Topics on the agenda of the seminar include efficient operations of basic health centres, hospital management, health planning, campaign against communicable diseases such as trachoma, cholera, tuberculosis.

The public health directors will also present to the meeting a report on the year's work of their respective departments.

In his inaugural speech the Public Health Minister said it has been the objective of the Public Health Ministry to solve problems through consultation and exchange views.

These gatherings not only inform the Ministry authorities of your problems, but also serve to inform you of developments at the Ministry, and of new research, and scientific undertakings,

and developments, said Dr. Seraj.

He expressed the hope that the meeting will be able to devise ways of making the efforts undertaken for improvement of environmental health, and in the fields of preventive and curative medicine more efficient.

The Public Health Minister in his speech also thanked for the assistance provided to Afghanistan by the World Health Organisation and United Nations Children's Fund for carrying out of preventive and curative medicine plans, and expressed the hope for this assistance to be continued in the future, and on a larger scale.

Home - Briefs

KABUL, Dec. 5, (Bakhtar).—The Afghan Ambassador to Prague who is also accredited as Afghan envoy to Budapest has presented his credentials to the Chairman of the Presidential Council of the People's Republic of Hungary.

KABUL, Dec. 5, (Bakhtar).—The House of the People Committee on Development Planning and Basic Organisation met Thursday. The meeting discussed various ministries' answers to the committee questions on their current year development budgets.

KABUL, Dec. 5, (Bakhtar).—The Kabul Times Editor Shafiq Rahel left Kabul yesterday for Manila. He is to participate in a UNESCO seminar on mass media of communications.

CHARIKAR, Dec. 5, (Bakhtar).—During the last eight months 1300 tons of raisins has been cleaned and packed at Wazir Raisins Cleansing and Packing Plant, and exported to the Soviet Union.

The factory employs 300 persons, and has a capacity for cleaning and packing three tons per hour.

Some 1500 tons of raisins has been delivered now to the factory for processing.

HERAT, Dec. 5, (Bakhtar).—During the last two and half months the Herat Cotton Company has purchased 4600 tons of cotton from Herat and 2150 tons of cotton from Badghis cotton producers.

The company has paid nearly 67 million Afghans toward the cost of the cotton. Purchases this year are over 2000 tons more in comparison to last year.

UNDP team to

study proposed

int'l jute centre

NEW DELHI, Dec. 5, (AFP).—A United Nations Development Programme team has arrived in Calcutta to investigate the feasibility of an Indian suggestion made to the Food and Agricultural Organisation for an international jute centre which would coordinate the activities of the three main jute-producing countries—India, Pakistan and Thailand.

The four-man team is led by R. G. Lund, and also includes Doctor R. Kirby, and R. H. Morrison, a former chairman of the Indian jute mills association.

The proposed centre—reportedly welcomed by the countries concerned—would function like the International Wool Secretariat, and would organise joint research in jute farming and in jute industrial techniques. The team will meet all those concerned with the raw jute industry, will study the necessity and feasibility of the centre, and will then consult with other producing nations on the best location for the centre, as well as inviting suggestions on its structure and functions.

NATO tells USSR

Ready to talk over European security meeting

BRUSSELS, Dec. 5, (AFP).—The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation told the USSR and its allies its 15 members were ready to start multilateral contacts on a conference on European security "as soon as the talks on Berlin have reached a satisfactory conclusion".

But then foreign ministers of the NATO countries qualified this statement by stressing the link between "concrete progress" on Berlin, Germany and other issues and the prospects for better East-West relations.

"These prospects would be put in question failing a satisfactory outcome to the current Berlin negotiations", the ministers said in the statement issued after their two-day autumn Council session.

The statement said the ministers "welcomed" the resumption of the Soviet-American Strategic Arms Limitation talks in Helsinki, "noted with satisfaction" the conclusion of treaties by West Germany on the one hand and the USSR and Poland on the other.

But the communique noted that while "some progress" had been achieved in recent months in "important fields" of East-West relations the ministers had "ne-



A scene from the inaugural session of the Public Health Directors seminar.

U.S. to increase oil production, cut prices

NEW YORK, Dec. 5, (AFP).—President Nixon last night, announced two moves to increase oil production in the United States and to cut petrol prices.

He told the National Association of Managers that the federal government was removing from the coastal states authority to regulate production from off-shore oilfields. This would mean producing more oil while maintaining strict standards to protect the environment, he said.

The President also announced that firms importing crude oil would be able to use their overseas quotas to buy more Canadian oil, which was not subject to the same restrictions.

President Nixon said the measures he was taking should "help restrain the increase of oil and petrol prices."

B-52 planes bomb Viet Cong positions near Gulf of Siam

SAIGON, Dec. 5, (AFP).—Yesterday pounded "enemy" positions in an Xuyen province, the American command spokesman said here.

The bombing, between Thursday midday and Friday midday, was aimed at Viet Cong positions in an Xuyen province neighbouring Ki-ng Giang provinces. This is the first time since Monday that B-52s have bombed South Vietnamese territory, the spokesman said.

The South Vietnamese troops yesterday continued their mopping-up operation. Thursday afternoon, they killed 19 Viet Cong soldiers in a battle near Thoi Binh, 225 kms. (about 141 miles) southwest of Saigon, the South Vietnamese military spokesman said here Friday.

The South Vietnamese spokesman reported several battles in the delta region, and in the third military region around Saigon. These battles caused deaths of 52 communists and two government soldiers, he added.

One of these battles took place about 50 kms (31 miles) southwest of the capital in the Rung Sat region, where marshy planes and mangrove swamps stretch along the Saigon river a company of South Vietnamese regional forces supported by combat helicopters met an enemy force of indeterminate size the spokesman said.

A total of 15 Viet Cong soldiers died in this incident.

Prisons extend adequate medical care to inmates

KABUL, Dec. 5, (Bakhtar).—The men and women prisoners in the capital city receive medical treatment and necessary physical check ups within the prisons. The prisons in the city have three hospitals with a total of fifty beds.

Those inmates who are suffering from TB are hospitalised in the special ten-bed hospital in the prisons. Those sick inmates who cannot be treated in the hospitals within the prisons, are being allowed to receive medical treatment outside the prisons.

The Central Prison has an 18-bed hospital where inmates are treated. The chief of the public health of the central prisons Dr. Abdul Rahim in revealing this said that all equipment, medicine and personnel are provided by the Ministry of Public Health.

The hospital for women inmates is equipped with labs, dental clinic and is well equipped.

The last eight month reports of the central prisons hospital shows that some nine thousand inmates have visited various branches

of the hospital for necessary check up and medical treatment. In the women inmates hospital 2,300 have come for treatment. Also some 6,000 women and men inmates have received first aid kids help in the hospitals clinics, said Dr. Abdul Rahim.

Likewise during the same period 366 men inmates and 42 women inmates have been hospitalised and after receiving necessary treatment have left the hospitals, added Dr. Abdul Rahim.

HELSINKI, Dec. 5, (Reuter).—Soviet and American negotiators met here yesterday for another scale session of their talks to limit strategic arms and informed sources described the meeting as serious and constructive.

Both sides continue to probe each other's views and positions. Gerard Smith, of the U.S. Vladimir Semyonov, of the USSR and their delegations met yesterday at the American embassy. The next full-scale meeting will be held on Tuesday.

Iran expresses dissatisfaction with EEC trade ties

BRUSSELS, Dec. 5, (Reuter).—Iran is dissatisfied with its trade agreement with the EEC, which dates back to 1963 and has just been extended for a further year, does not now fully cover its needs.

The Iranian government would in particular like to obtain greater facilities for its recently developed exports of industrial and semi-industrial products, which are not covered under the original agreement, the sources said.

Commandos accuse Jordan for recent incident in Amman

BEIRUT, Dec. 5, (Reuter).—Palestinian commandos yesterday accused the Jordanian authorities of responsibility for killing or wounding 12 civilians in incidents in Amman Thursday night.

The Palestine National Liberation Movement (Fatah) said the authorities sent two security vehicles, equipped with machineguns and a half-track to a commando post at Jebel al-Marikh, in Amman.

The security men fired in the air and then at a crowd of civilians who gathered near the ve-

Soviet educational delegation visits Nangarhar Univ.

JALALABAD, Dec. 5, (Bakhtar).—The Soviet Deputy Minister for higher education and his accompanying delegation toured the Nangarhar Medical College, the Hadda farm, and the Naghlu power plant.

The college gave a luncheon to the deputy minister yesterday in Spinghar Hotel, Jalalabad, which was attended by the First Deputy Education Minister, Dr. Saifur Rahman Samadi, the Vice President of Kabul University Mir Amanuddin Ansari, and dean and professors of the college.

Afghan envoy in Peking meets

Chinese Premier

HONG KONG, Dec. 5, (Bakhtar).—The Afghan Ambassador to Peking Mohammad Osman Sidkey has met the Chinese Prime Minister Chou En-Lai.

Announcing the news in regard to the meeting Radio Peking said a high ranking official of the Asian Affairs Department of the Foreign Ministry and Chief of Protocol in the Ministry were also present at the meeting.

President Nixon

answers Israeli

premier's message

TEL AVIV, Dec. 5, (Reuter).—A note from President Nixon was delivered to Israeli Premier Golda Meir yesterday in answer to a message she sent him earlier this week, a government spokesman said here.

The contents of the note, delivered by U.S. ambassador Walworth Barbour, were not revealed, but it was the second time in two days Mrs. Meir had met the American envoy.

It was discussed at Thursday's meeting and observers assumed that Israeli conditions for a resumption of the Jarring talks were high on the agenda.

Mrs. Meir's note was delivered to President Nixon by Israeli Ambassador, General Yitzhak Rabin, on Tuesday when he returned to Washington after a short visit here.

Its existence was neither officially confirmed nor denied here but Israeli newspapers speculated that Mrs. Meir was seeking assurances of future political and material support from Washington before returning to the stalled Middle East peace talks.

hicles, Fatah said. Some militiamen fired back in self-defence, the commando statement said.

Army and security posts all over Amman then shelled commando posts which did not return the fire.

A Jordanian Interior Ministry statement said Thursday night that armed men opened fire on a public security car, wounding the driver.

Shots were fired at police in another area, wounding a sergeant, the ministry said.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Behind a frowning providence he hides a shining face.

William Cowpers

Home press at a glance

All the premier dailies on Thursday gave front page prominence to the festivities of Eid. Text of the messages sent by His Majesty the King and Prime Minister Nour Ahmad Etemadi issued on the occasion, were carried and photos showing His Majesty the King going into and coming out of the citadel mosque to say the Eid prayers were published.

Thursday's *Heywad* carried an editorial on the ECAFE Ministerial Council meeting in Kabul. For the past month activities have been going on in Kabul to prepare for the forthcoming ECAFE meeting. A commission specially appointed for this purpose is working full time.

The Afghan ambassador in New Delhi Dr. Abdul Hakim Tabibi who has attended the ECAFE conferences regularly for the past few years and is well versed in its meetings and deliberations had arrived in Kabul about a week ago to hold talks with

the authorities concerned as regards the forthcoming ECAFE meeting here.

In a press conference the ambassador shed light on the aims and objectives of the conference. As far as one can judge from the utterances of Dr. Tabibi the conference is one of the important ECAFE meetings which takes place in the capital of one of the member countries once every several years. The conference, according to Dr. Tabibi, is likely to concentrate more on the expansion of import-export trade between countries of the region and to search ways and means of increasing cooperation between their respective banking organizations.

The conference is also likely to deliberate on the operation manual prepared some two years ago by the ECAFE Ministerial Council in Bangkok in which cooperation between member countries was proposed in the fields of commerce, industry, agriculture, animal husbandry and mining.

Asian countries, said the editorial, have resorted to a series of measures during the past few years to improve their economic conditions. In this connection the establishment of the Asian Development Bank ought to be mentioned. However, despite these measures the economic and commercial condition of these countries remain unchanged. The first development decade led to no appreciable improvement in the economic conditions of the developing countries and regional trade fell by fifty per cent.

One of the objectives of the ECAFE meeting in Kabul will be to make currencies of member nations convertible in the regional trade. The problem of landlocked countries deserve special consideration in the development of regional trade. The transit rights of these countries should be made free from political stresses and strains.

We are certain, concluded the editorial that the forthcoming conference in Kabul will have positive effect in the promotion of cooperation between member countries and positively affect the development of regional trade.

Thursday's *Isleh* carried an article by the Bakhtar News Agency on the New Arab confederation. It said with the joining of Syria with the Confederation recently formed between the United Arab Republic, Libya and Sudan the eastern front against Israel will be further strengthened. This will also increase the chances of the resumption of Arab-Israeli talks under the auspices of the United Nations special representative Gunnar Jarring.

The joining of Syria with the confederation is important both from the political as well as the military point of view since it makes the Arab encirclement of Israel more unified and complete.

ECAFE MINISTERIAL MEETING

The fourth meeting of the ECAFE member nations' ministers, which in effect is a gathering of economic council of the region, will have on its agenda issues which are of far reaching significance.

The meeting which will be convened in Kabul on December 16 at the invitation of the government of Afghanistan is expected to devote great attention in chalking out plans for establishment of an Asian reserve bank, a clearance scheme to serve the region, and to coordinate monetary and trade policies of the member nations on the basis of the experiences of Common Market.

The need for a clearance scheme in the region is paramount. Presently all trade transactions are carried out on dollar and pound sterling basis. The countries of the region have lost heavily as a result of devaluations and revaluations outside the region. It happened when pound was devalued, and it will happen again if dollar parity changes. When ECAFE member nations' currencies become convertible in the region, on the one hand dependency on dollar and sterling will be lessened, and on the other, intra region trade will be greatly facilitated.

Similarly formation of a reserve bank to serve ECAFE region will give added bargaining power to the member nations.

Experts have proposed that member nations pool 10 per cent of their gold and dollar holdings reserved in foreign banks in this bank. This is expected to amount to over one billion dollars. Thus help for off-setting of deficits, and for debt servicing and repayment will become more readily available to member nations, and the economic situation in the region will be further stabilised.

The ministers will also seek ways to coordinate economies of the region so that the way for eventual formation of an institution resembling the European Common Market shall be opened.

Lowering customs tariffs, purchasing from the region, and not letting political differences stand on the way of trade, communication and transit and transportation in the region, are some of the objectives of the Kabul meeting.

While it is recommended that member countries should not contain their production to cater to their own small market, it is also proposed that they buy some 10 per cent of the products in which they are, or they can be, self-sufficient, from other nations in the region. This proposal is made to ensure efficiency in production, and improvement in the quality.

No doubt all member nations may not agree readily on all points, but the Kabul meeting is certain to usher in a new era of cooperation in the region.

Once such a beginning is made, as the experiences of Common Market, and those of the Latin American and Central American nations show, it will go further.

The ECAFE ministers meetings in Manila and Bangkok were greatly instrumental in getting the Asian Highway, the Asian Bank, the Mekong delta project, and the Coconut Committee off the ground. There is every hope that the meeting in Kabul will go far in realising its objectives.

Experts find faults with 500 DC-8 jets in service

Toronto. (Reuter).—Canadian government experts have submitted wide-ranging recommendations covering DC-8 jetliners to an enquiry into an Air Canada DC-8 crash which killed all 199 people on board the plane.

Federal transport department air accident specialists presented 15 recommendations to the enquiry dealing with structure, design and systems of the DC-8 of which there are more than 500 in service around the world.

Main target of the recommendations is the ground spoiler braking system on the aircraft.

On July 5 Air Canada's Los Angeles-bound flight 621 dropped 60 feet (18 metres) to a Toronto international airport runway when the spoiler system—10 panels which rise from the wings to slow and steady the plane after landing—was deployed prematurely, the enquiry was told.

When the jet hit the runway its right outer engine was ripped off by the impact but for two minutes captain Peter Hamilton flew the aircraft—in an attempt to circle and land again—without knowing he had lost an engine.

There are no cockpit instruments specifically indicating this and Toronto ground control did not tell him.

But explosions along the right wing blew the aircraft out of the sky.

The experts' recommendations will be considered by enquiry commissioner Justice Hugh Gibson before he issues a final report on the crash.

The recommendations made these points:

—The spoiler lever in the cockpit is a "potential hazard" because it is designed to allow spoilers to be deployed in the air although this should never happen. Another system with a fail-safe device is needed.

—There is a "clear need" for some sort of cockpit instrument that will indicate when an aircraft hits the runway too hard on landing and it should indicate the stress on the aircraft's structure.

—The flight deck should be equipped with "the absolute maximum in audio-visual stimulants" to indicate fires aboard a DC-8. The only thing that told Captain Amilton his wing was blowing off was a general caution light that could have indicated a number of things.

—Fuel lines and electrical cables along the wings of DC-8's should be separated and safeguarded separately. Live wires dangling in the spray from a ruptured fuel tank sparked explosions that knocked flight 621 out of the air.

—McDonnell Douglas, builders of the DC-8 which first entered airline service in 1959, should give serious consideration to improving the "fail-safe" device connecting engine pylons to lower wing surfaces.

The bolts holding the pylon and wing together were supposed to shear off cleanly, but when flight 621's engine came away it took chunks of wing plating with it, baring the wiring and rupturing the fuel tanks.

—The present United States Federal Aviation Administration requirement that aircraft be built to withstand impact at a drop rate of 10 feet per second (three metres) should be increased per second.

—The present United States Federal Aviation Administration requirement that aircraft be built to withstand impact at a drop rate of 10 feet per second (three metres) should be increased to 25 feet (7.2 metres). Flight 621 hit at 19 feet (5.8 metres) per second.

The FAA is already considering the proposal.



"A thousand quids worth of equipment, but not darn thing for a hangover!"

Dr. Anas:

Eighty tons of TNT per person in our time

Following the statement by Dr. Mohammad Anas of Afghanistan before the 1st Committee of the 25th session of the United Nations General Assembly, concerning the question of general and complete disarmament, November 11, 1970.

Mr. Chairman:

The magnitude of the items we are discussing in the First Committee under the heading of "disarmament" would give comfort to a fictitious visitor to our planet interested in our genuine concern regarding friendship, peace, and security. We are trying to persuade hominids not to fight on the seabed and in the subsoil thereof; not to fight underground; not to fight in outer-space. This would seem to presume that we have already attained conventional peace and friendship on the mainland, at home, in the streets, within each country, between nations, and among regions of the world.

Suppose this terrestrial outsider were to attend our committee as an observer. How would we face him? How we answer his queries? With a big question mark? Perhaps we would remain silent in the face of no justification no explanation of our attitude to offer him.

The outsider would observe that the whole world is preparing for its annihilation. An equivalent of 30 tons of TNT per each inhabitant of this planet is stored in the nuclear stockpiles of the two Super powers.

If we take into account conventional arms and also include the military might of other na-

tions, then our per capita investment in explosives reaches around 80 tons of TNT per person. The armament race is being conducted at such a pace that even the explosive world population increase is not reducing the ratio. There is another direct ratio between over-population and the armament race. As both armament expenditure and over-population increase, poverty, misery, and political tensions all over the world intensify.

Eighty tons of TNT per person. Do we think that we have to kill one person several times, over and over again? Who knows? Perhaps this could be carried out against our fictitious space visitor, but more mortals can be killed only once. We also can commit suicide only once in our lifetime—no more. So what is the use of this warfare machinery and such a huge stock of massive destruction? We cannot use all of it; we will perish before it is used up.

The outsider will find for himself that the war industry diverts income of the wage earners and makes them poor, hungry, sick, and miserable. The vast expenditure on weapons of mass destruction, even before their utilisation in warfare, crushes the economic backbone of a society, enhances misery, creates tensions, blocks development, and entertains cold war. This internal tension sporadically erupts here and there like volcanoes on the surface of the earth and produces lava which further inflames the world's hotbeds.

A monetary equivalent to the income of the poorer half of the world population is being wasted

not invested in armaments in the erroneous conviction that it will maintain peace and security.

Fear, hate, and suspicion are the factors which motivate highly developed countries to involve themselves in a neurotic armaments race. To quote Bertrand Russell:

"The present trouble is caused by vast mass emotion, of fear, hate, and suspicion, which each feels toward the other. If both sides were capable of thinking rationally about the danger, they would minimise the ground of conflict and open the way toward sincere negotiation on disarmament. If both parties were at least persuaded that the safety of each demands successful negotiations, many things would quickly become possible".

The United Nations Charter endeavours to save humanity from the scourge of future war. UNESCO endeavours to trace the origin of war in the mind of man, trying to purify, not brainwash, his mind. Both the United Nations and UNESCO strive to create such an international moral atmosphere as to dissolve dark clouds of suspicion, fear, and hatred from the minds and hearts of the peoples of the world. If only more emphasis could be given to heart and spirit—the ultimate remedies—to prevent and cure all these troubles, for there can be no remedies without mutual understanding and good-will between the parties involved.

The experience of the last 25 years has proved that the solution to disarmament problems relies more on the psychological and human elements than on scientific.

(Continued on page 4)

WORLD PRESS

The newspaper *Al-Hayat* said Wednesday there had been no clear indications so far to support the theory that Syria's accession of the tripartite federation of Egypt, Libya, and Sudan was meant to lead the conflict against Israel to a more effective stage.

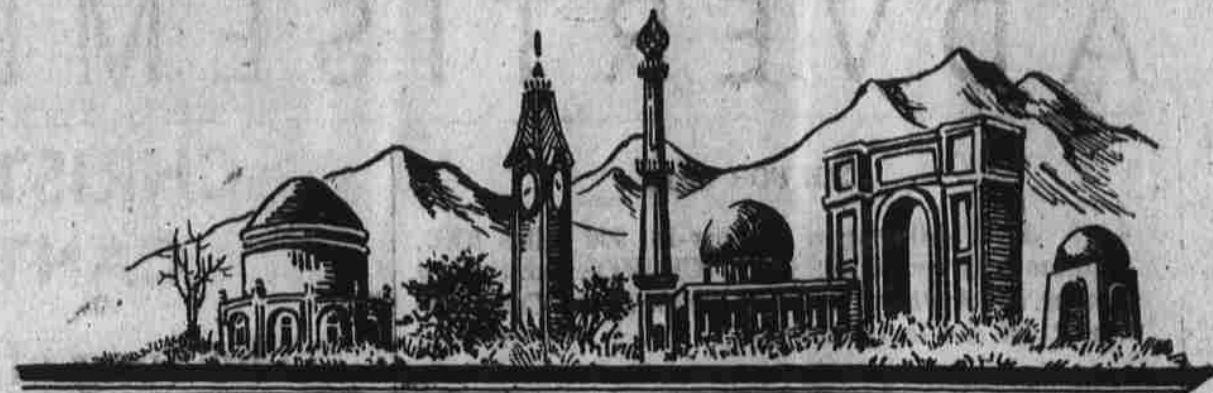
"If the accession of Hafez Assad's regime to the (tripartite federation) charter was meant to intensify the Arab side's defenses, this step would have been followed immediately by other

measures dealing first with Syrian-Jordanian relations, then with Jordanian-Iraqi relations and finally with defensive or offensive preparations on the eastern front" the newspaper said.

It added that reports that Egypt planned to establish closer relations with Jordan soon, that preparations were being made for the eastern front and that a summit conference was expected to be held soon had all been nipped in the bud.

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With N. R.

In And Around Town

UNLOCKING THE HEART, A TALE OF OLD KABUL

Surely there is more than one the citizens are also treated with cinema in Kabul now. Sometimes singing and dance groups, and apart from the slap-stick comedies of the private theatres sometimes they are also offered some worthwhile theatrical entertainment.

The new evening hangouts such as Marcopolo and 25 Hour Club, along with the relatively older one of Khyber, are also drawing some of the people, but mostly the younger ones, the new generation, and the transitory residents.

Most of the residents of Kabul however, live as they have lived in the past. There has been hardly any change as to how they spend their spare time.

During the winter it is tales and stories that occupy them in the long hours of the evening. The tales are almost invariably told by the older women in the family, grandmother, senior aunts and cousins etc. Many of the stories they tell are fairy tales to awe the young ones, with the powers of the supernatural. In some however facts and fantasy are mingled, mostly for driving home certain points.

One such tale was told to Abdul Ghaffour Breshna, the well-known Afghan painter, who also tries his hand in writing "by a very honourable woman". Breshna retells the story in the monthly Lemar, and as it throws some light on the life of Kabul's citizens about half a century ago we offer it to the readers of this page in English.

There was a rich man, who owned several sarais, public baths etc., living in Payan Chauk (near Jashen grounds, on the left of Jade Maiwand). (The man, his wife, his 12 year old son, and eight year old daughter dwelled in a house which was more like a hut, and austerity was the rule in this house.

The people referred to the man as Jalandar the miser, and his name to the people was synonymous with misery.

The family never visited friends and relatives because of their rugged appearance, and dreaded anybody coming to see them at their own home.

As his riches increased day by day, the man became stingier. One Friday afternoon Jalandar the miser was going to Shohodai Saleheen (the city's largest cemetery on the east of Kabul) to make a round of the shrines there.

Here and there he stood, and prayed for the soul of dead friends and relatives.

Once when he was praying he heard the aggravated whizzing of a snake. He looked and saw a frightened little snake, beautifully striped and with a small golden crown ornamenting its head, fleeing a monster of an ugly snake.

Inadvertently Jalandar picked up a heavy stone, and hit the big snake on the head. Saved, the little snake crept into the safety of a small hole. After a couple of hours Jalandar was home again, and forgot about the incident all together.

On his way home he bought five loaves of bread from the bakery, and a large radish from the grocery.

His wife, ordinarily a gentle patient, and tolerant woman could not take it anymore and burst out crying.

"Every day of the week I calmed the children by promising them meat, and a hot dinner on Friday", she said. "And here you are with four bread and radish

for a weekend festing". Jalandar was extremely annoyed. "This is probably the best, and tastiest money can buy. There is nothing to lament about. To economise is not to sin. It would be foolish to spend money on meat when leeks, radish, onions and the like are found", he said.

The family did have a hot meal on that day anyway. One of the neighbours had slaughtered a sheep, and sent some meat to Jalandar's house. The woman and the children thought that was a God send, the meat, to reward a tearful mother. Everybody went to sleep full, and content.

It was an hour past midnight, and the silence of the night was disturbed only by occasional howling of the dogs.

There was a knock on the door. The mother and the son were the first ones to awake. Frightened, they enquired "who is it?" "We are friends of Jalandar. We wish to discuss something with him. We want to talk about something with him which will have a profound effect on his, and the family's life".

Jalandar did not have the sort of friends who would be worried about his, and his family's well-being. At least not so much so that they will bother to come to see him so late at night.

He came down the steps in the courtyard, and inquired again "who is it?"

"His voice was trembling. "Brothers it is too late. What is it. Has anything happened. Can't you wait until tomorrow?"

The same voice again, kind and convincing. "Today you have done good. We are here to take you to ght, if it shall be your wish, so Jalandar did not know what compensation meant. He uttered a few more words without knowing what he says. "Please come tomorrow. I am not feeling well. It is too late at night.

But the voice had a force, and it was compelling. As soon as he heard the man saying, "You shall get as much gold and jewels as you like", Jalandar ran upstairs to get his chapar, and was down again in no time.

Two handsome, well dressed and courteous men greeted Jalandar as he opened the door. One of the men, held a hurricane lamp in his hand.

One two men expressed deep gratitude to Jalandar for taking the trouble to come with them.

After a while Jalandar noticed that the men were leading him towards Shohodai Saleheen.

The realisation started Jalandar, and cold sweat covered his forehead.

"Do not be alarmed", the two men said with deep sympathy. "We wish nothing, but your well being, your prosperity. Do not let your self be afraid", they pleaded.

The three men, walked in silence for a while. The man with the lamp said:

"Before we reach our destination. I wish to make a suggestion. Of course you are free to listen to me, or do as you please, but should you accept my advice, you will have ensured your own, and your family's well being, prosperity and happiness. Tonight, if it shall be your wish, so much gold and jewels will be given to you that it will be beyond your wildest imagination. But we are your friends. Pray you do not allow yourself to be overwhelmed with the glitter of gold, and glimmerings of diamonds. Do not ever stretch a hand to them. Only say that "Give me my own".

After saying this the two men held Jalandar by both arms and

bid him to recite the holy Kalamat, and keep his eyes closed until told to open them. "If you do otherwise, you will be perished", said the man with the lamp.

Jalandar trembled as strong winds shake willow trees. The two men heard the clattering of his teeth loud and clear.

Nevertheless he kept his eyes closed. The sound of exhilarating music came to his ears, and he sensed a most exquisite smell. "Open your eyes brother," we are there", one of the men said, shaking him gently.

As he opened his eyes he found himself in a vast garden full of flowers. There were streams of water running in every direction and fountains rose and poured silver over the water. There were singers, flute, chang, and organ, players of unmatched skill, and there were dancers of breathtaking beauty.

The colour of lighting changed one beside Shahbalshah. His face was colourless like that of a corpse.

and the steps of the dancers. The macadamised corridor leading to the terraces up front was covered with silken rugs. The terrace was made of marble and asbestos, and in the middle of it stood a golden stand.

There sat an old man, wearing garments of gold, and a crown of diamonds. He was surrounded by a number of courtiers, also wearing golden raiments.

The two men led Jalandar, who thought it is all a dream, to the terrace. Near the stand they bowed low and said, "The man who has saved our young mistress".

Shahbalshah's lips were parted by an affectionate smile. In a voice swelling with gratitude he bid the men to bring Jalandar yet nearer, seat him beside the throne so that "I may repay him for his action".

Jalandar was almost awestricken. He was seated on the throne beside Shahbalshah. His face

The Shahbalshah kissed him like a dear brother. "Friend, you have done my wife and I a great favour. We do not know how to pay you back for this kindness. if it can be paid for at all", the Shahbalshah said.

"Firstly", he added, "you must know at the outset that we are not of human race as you are. We are genies. But we are of the Moslem of the believer genies. My wife and I have only one daughter, who is the essence of our lives.

One day son of Shahbalshah of the genies who reign over darkness and who is extremely proud and adamant, saw my daughter and fell in love with her. My daughter however can not stand him.

The Shahbalshah sent precious gifts and men soliciting the hand of my daughter in marriage for his son, but my daughter kept rejecting.

The scheming prince did not rest. He was constantly cooking schemes to trap my daughter. Yesterday my daughter took the fancy of your world. She turned herself into a snake and crept out. It is not clear to me how the prince of darkness learned of this, but he was there, as a monster, and harassed my daughter. My daughter was extremely distressed and was almost caught by him. If it weren't for you, who took his life, I would have lost my only dear daughter.

After finishing this narrative, the Shahbalshah ordered for the presents to be brought over. Ten large trays of gold coins were put at the feet of Jalandar in the next moment.

Jalandar could hardly breathe. Greed swelled in his chest, and the desire to cry out this is all mine choked him. His eyes caught those of the two guides who were pleading not to forget their advice. Jalandar shook his head and said, "Thank you, I do not want them".

The Shahbalshah again ordered his men out. They were back in an instance with 10 huge trays piled with precious stones, mostly diamonds. With the two men constantly beckoning, Jalandar declined again.

For a third time the Shahbalshah's men brought 10 trays. These were full of jewelry of unmatched craftsmanship and value. Jalandar was almost out of his mind. He cried, "I do not want them".

The Shahbalshah smiled most tenderly. "But what do you andar.

"Please give me my own," Jalandar howled almost crying. The Shahbalshah looked at an old man standing beside him. The man produced a small ornamented box and took out of it a small crimson velvet bag. The Shahbalshah opened the bag, to

(Continued on page 4)

Bones for sale

Making a round of the butcher's shops, purchasing sheep, calf and cow hides, is among the older professions in Kabul.

Sheep hides are bought for Af 35 to 70 depending on the size of the hide, and whether it has any holes in it, and cow hides are bought up to Af. 400 to 500. These are then sold with a profit to tanners and to exporters of hides.

Hides are among the traditional exports items of Afghanistan. But exports of casings and bones started in relatively recent times, especially bones were of no use only a few years ago.

Casings were bought for only Af. six to 10 some ten years ago. They are now bought for up to Af. 40 bones are still cheap.

However those who sell bones for exporters or for the plant in Charikar which crushes them to make fertilizer need make no or initial investment.

The business is dominated by children. Children in every village gather bones discarded by the families and sell them to the agents of exports for Af. 2 to 3 per kilogram.

While this may be a good pastime, and a relatively lucrative one, it may be necessary for the Health Ministry authorities to look into it whether it is hazardous for the children to go through the rubbish to collect bones.



British diplomat Cross released by abductors

LONDON, Dec 5, (DPA).—Britain was relieved and jubilant yesterday with the news that British diplomat James Cross had been freed.

The Cross story made such an impact that the release and exit of his abductors from Canada took top play in news media, pushing the all-important domestic issue of the government's trades union reform bill to second place.

Prime Minister Edward Heath, informed of the release by Canadian Premier Pierre Trudeau, had already cabled his colleague thanking him and the Canadian government for their efforts.

Heath also asked Trudeau to relay his special thanks and complements to Canadian police for their superb handling of all that went into securing a bloodless release of the diplomat.

Meanwhile from Geneva it was learnt that Barbara Cross, the diplomat's wife, expects to "embrace her husband in London" Saturday.

In a news conference in Bern, where she had spent the past four weeks, she told newsmen that all she wants now "is to have a wonderful holiday" most likely in Switzerland.

Asked by a reporter whether she at any time had given up hope of ever seeing her husband again she replied "not for one

moment. News was relayed to Mrs. Cross by British Ambassador to Switzerland Eric A. Midgley, a family friend.

"We celebrated with champagne" Mrs. Cross added with a broad smile.

World brief

TOKYO, Dec. 5, (Reuter).—A 20-man top level Japanese economic mission will visit Gulf coast countries next month to study possible cooperation in their social and economic development, the Japan productivity centre announced yesterday.

Sohei Namayama advisor to the industrial bank of Japan, leads the mission of business executives and scholars, which will visit Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Qatar and Dhufai for about 20 days from January 10.

The Arab nations supply about half Japan's crude oil import needs totalling 180 million tons a year.

A tale of old Kabul

(Continued from page 3)

ok out a finely curved gold key, put it back in, and hang the bag on Jalandar's chest.

"Congratulations," said the Shahbalsah, "and peace be on you." The sound of music became so pleasing, so delicate that Jalandar was in an ecstasy.

Jalandar opened his eyes. The sun was high up, its rays giving some colour to the dilapidated rug covering the floor of the family sleeping room.

For a time he thought all that he saw, heard, and did was in a dream. His wife entered the room and said the tea is ready.

For the first time in his life he noticed the sorrow, and suffering and discontent on his wife's face. He said to himself "Why should I do this to my family. I am not poor. I have shops and sarais in Kabul, in Ma-

zare Sharif, in Herat and in Kandahar.

Caravans are taking my trade-ware to Bokhara and Meshed, and Peshawar, making me richer with every trip. But what do I do with all this. What do my children, and my wife gain out of it.

He got up from his bed and went to the other room. The children were sitting around a worn out dirty table cloth, with some pieces of cold bread on it and a single teapot with four cups on a tray. There wasn't even any sugar.

The children looked at their father, and noticed his distress but, would not dare say anything.

Finally Jalandar said to his son:

"Son take this five rupee gold, bring hot bread, cheese, sugar, and whatever else you like for breakfast. Tell them at Shurebazaar sarai to expect me today. I want to purchase some clothes and shoes for you all today."

His son who could not believe his ears, snatched the gold piece and hurried out of the house.

The wife put her hand on her daughter's shoulder and looked at her husband with awe and expectation.

Jalandar was smiling and played with the little key under his shirt. He was thanking God that his heart was unlocked.

From that time on Jalandar's family lived in happiness and he became so openhanded that his generosity became proverbial.

Dr. Anas

(Continued from page 2)

fic and technological processes of control and limitation. Wisdom and sanity should be our principal guidelines if we genuinely want to achieve general and complete disarmament. During every step of our negotiations we should keep in mind and listen to the voices of wisdom and sanity. Only then will it be possible to conclude meaningful agreements and treaties and respect them.

Concurrently with the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the United Nations, we observe the first year of the Disarmament Decade time to be conscious of our failure and limitation regarding our achievement in disarmament during the past 25 years. "Disarmament Decade" does not mean that the United Nations was not responsible for disarmament during the 25 years of its existence. On the contrary, it was highly and basically responsible, but member nations failed to restrain themselves from involvement in the armament situation.

Thus far, no effective action on general and complete disarmament has been taken; no international treaty has been signed in this regard. If we did not succeed in general disarmament, we should at least have taken action on reduction of armaments. But no result has been obtained. Only recently has the United Nations and its agencies succeeded in concluding certain international agreements on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Armament. This is neither complete disarmament nor reduction in the existing armaments, but a limitation of one kind, although very important kind, of armament. Conventional armaments, with which people are currently fighting have not received much attention.

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Contact: Editor

European security

(Continued from page 1)

and in, so far as the other on-going talks are proceeding favourably, to enter into multilateral contacts with all interested governments to explore when it would be possible to convene a conference, or a series of conferences, on security and cooperation in Europe."

Permanent representatives of the NATO countries would keep a constant watch on developments in this field and member countries would continue their bilateral contacts.

DAMASCUS, Dec. 5, (Reuter)

—Lebanon's Prime Minister Saeb Salam arrived here yesterday for an official visit to Syria and immediately began formal talks with Syrian leaders on strengthening relations between the two countries.

He was greeted on his arrival at the guest palace here by Lieutenant-General Hafez al-Assad, the Syrian Prime Minister.

Earlier, the Lebanese Premier was received at the Syrian-Lebanese frontier by several Syrian ministers, including Abdel-Halim Khaddam, the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The Song of Christmas

By

Ringwald

25-voice choir

Also:

singing of favourite Christmas Carols by the audience

Also:

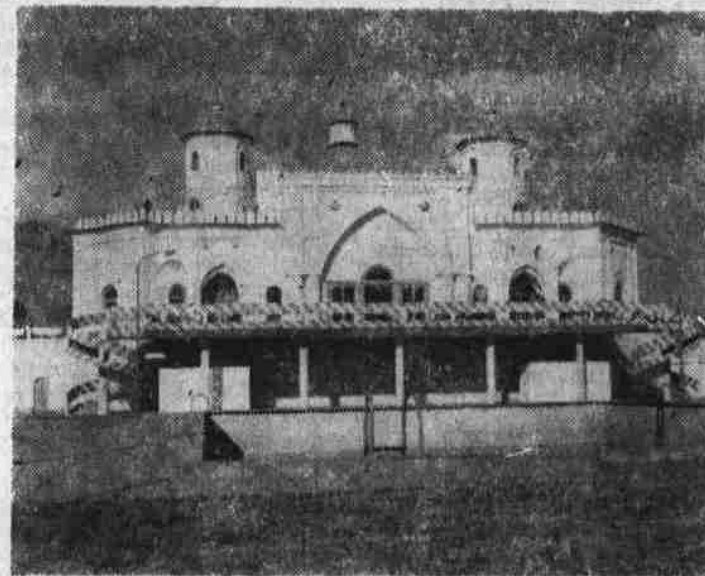
Christmas Medley piano

Jeffy Shumway

Inter-Continental Hotel Ballroom
Sunday, December 6, 7:30 p.m.

Admission-Free

DINE ON THE ROOF OF KABUL



THE BAGH-I-BALA RESTAURANT
THE RESTAURANT IN THE OLD
PALACE:
DINE MAJESTICALLY.

BIDS WANTED

Bakhtar News Agency has received an offer from

a foreign firm through the Pashtany Tejaraty Bank

for nine thousand reels of three ply paper, 90 metres

long, outer diameter 120 mm and inner diameter 25

mm each reel weighing four lb, at the cost of Af. 74

per reel. Local and foreign firms with better offers

should submit their tenders to the Bakhtar News

Agency on December 7 at 2 p.m. which is the last bid-

ding day and be present with their applications. The

samples can be examined at the Agency.

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published under the slogan of God, country, and the King.

The magazine which is published by the Information and Culture Ministry

to strengthen the spirit of national crusade against Social evils, is available

on all newsstands, and the Ebne Sina book shop.

Price Af. 5 (the 7th issue has just been published).