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CHT peace talks cluding the authority regarding

transfer of land, a rallying cry

for the Shantibahini, which

had remained officially in

ment had proposed granting of

limited autonomy to the hill

councils that included the au-

thority to levy and collect taxes

and appoint police officers at sub-inspectors' level. But the

PCJSS had rejected those. The BNP government th a

bid to appease them also re-

moved some settlers from tribal

lands along the frontier and

pursued the PCJSS for a per-

that the peace talks with the

PCJSS is likely to continue fur-

ther instead of ending today. In

the event of an accord, Shantu

Larma and his entourage are

likely to meet Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina, the sources

hour after arrival of the PCJSS

delegation at Meghna at 12:33

pm. Talks will resume at 10 am

talks yesterday included Engi-

neer Mosharraf Hossain, MP

Kalparanjan Chakma, MP. Di-

pankar Chakma, MP, Bir Ba-

hadur, MP, Ataur Rahman

Khan Kaiser, financial affairs

secretary of AL and Ali Haider

Khan, former deputy commis-

sioner of Khagrachhari, who

had attended previous negotia-

tions with the PCJSS. They

were assisted by Kazi Golam

Larma was assisted by Rupayan

Dewan. Dr Rakta Utpal

Chakma and Gautam Chakma.

delegation, Sudhasindhu Chak-

ma, stayed back at Dudukchara

for unknown reasons. Hansd-haj Chakma, convenor of the

Liaison Committee which

maintains communication be-

tween the government and the

PCJSS, also failed to attend the

talks for 'indisposition.' But his

assistants Keschang Marma

and Biswajit Chakma, along

with two volunteers. Shakti-pada and Ashish, attended the

On the PCJSS side, Shantu

An important member of the

Rahman and other officials.

The government side at the

Yesterday's talks began an

Meanwhile, sources said

manent ceasefire.

today.

talks.

Earlier in 1989, the govern-

tagong in south-eastern

Bangladesh.
The PCJSS delegation was flown to the city from Dudukchhara in Khagrachhari district in a military helicopter.

Abdullah and Chittagong City Corporation Mayor Mohiuddin Choudhury escorted Shantu Larma from the helipad at Bashar air base to the official limousine of the CW, flying the National Flag.

Larma sat in between the two, donning black Mujib coats, on the back of the car after he alighted from the MI 17 helicopter of the BAF at 12-14 pm, accompanied by Mohiuddin

Choudhury. Dhaka Metropolitan Police threw a security cordon around the air base. A small detachment of BAF provosts also maintained security at the base.

Journalists were driven out of the helipad by police and provosts when Secretary of the Special Affairs Division, Kazi Golam Rahman hissed a throngs of newsmen saying, "Their presence will spoil the peace for which I tried so much". Rahman a career police officer had recently joined the Special Affairs Division after working as Chairman of the Power Development Board

Even Abdullah denied the newsmen their right to cover the arrival of the PCJSS leaders, making their first sojourn to the capital for peace talks af ter attending the past five years negotiations at Khagrachhari.

Jittery officials also barred newsmen at Meghna's entrance. Kazi Golam Rahman warned public relations officials not to talk to newsmen who were baf fled after a haphazard and mostly maudible press briefing at 6-30 pm failed to meet their queries.

There had been clumsy efforts by the officials again to prevent Shantu Larma and his entourage from chatting with two reporters who managed to sneak into the guest house's conference hall after the briefing had ended in a mess. The briefing was held on the stairs of the guest house without any microphone under dim lights of the porch.

Despite repeated questions the officials failed **respond on what had been discussed Newsmen asked whether sensitive issues like withdrawal of the military from their bases in the hills, expulsion of settlers. total authority on land transfer and ownership along with granting of self-rule in the 14.200 sq km hill region were discussed.

These issues along with formation of a regional council virtually a parliament with powers to legislate and run the day-to-day affairs in the CHT under a chairman enjoying the status of a minister that had been put in a five-point charter or compassing 49-issues, were formally placed for discussion by Shantu Larma yesterday.

The government side reportedly argued that such complex issues would require constitutional amendments, which were unlikely to be approved by parliament without the support of BNP, whose two members in the reconstituted parliamentary National Committee on the CHT failed to attend vesterday's meeting.

The Committee, reconstituted after Awami League came to power, included two BNP MPs and a JP MP. But the two BNP MPs, Wahidul Alam and Amir Khasru Mahmud Choudhury, did not attend the past two meetings preceding yesterday's talks. Advocate Fazle Rabbi, the JP MP, was neither seen during the briefing nor anyone bothered to inform whether he at-

Sources said policy makers are split on the extent of concessions to the PCJSS. But there is a consensus that the hill district councils which were elected in 1989 and have been on extension since then should be given more authority, in-

Review meet

From Page 1

nance, transparency and accountability would also likely to be raised in the meeting, the sources said, specially in the light of the WB's decision to cancel project agreements in case of any proven corruption. The government would highlight the steps taken regarding reforms in public administra-

The meeting would also review the progress in banking sector reforms specially the Japanese co-financed reform project under the Policy and Human Resources Development (PHRD) grant. The government will take credit in its placement of Bankruptcy Act and Artha Rin Adalat Ain bills in parlia-

The WB is likely to press the government to speed up its privatisation programme which is yet to make any headway, the sources hinted. Emphasis will be placed on speedy off-loading of state-owned enterprises and reorganisation of the Privatisation Board. The government will highlight the progress in opening up some vital sectors

like telecommunications and energy to the private sector. The government will also highlight its steps to privatise marketing of agricultural in-

Local Govt Council Bill in final stage

The Local Government Council Bill, being prepared by the Local Government Commission, is now in its final stage and soon it will be submitted for the Prime Minister's approval, official sources said yesterday, reports BSS.

They said a meeting of the Commission, held at the office of the Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Advisor, yesterday gave the Bill its final

Chairman of the Commission Advocate Rahmat Ali MP. members Suranjit Sengupta (Parliamentary Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister), Kazi Azhar Ali (former secretary) Begum Taherunnesa Abdullah (Chairman of Shishu Academy), ATM Shamsul Haq (former secretary), Secretary of Local Government Division AHM Abdul Hve and officials concerned attended the meet

One killed in clash over fertiliser price hike

RAJSHAHI, Jan 25: One person was killed and nine others were injured today as villagers fought with guns and lethal weapons over fertiliser price hike in Puthia thana, reports

Today's clash was sequel to vesterday's gunfight. Local people and police said a gunfight began Friday after-

noon between two rival groups over fertiliser price manipulation by three dealers. The victim, Ilufar Rahman,

35, was struck with spear in the chest during a one-hour fighting as the clash erupted at 10 am today. He succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital. Three others injured today

were admitted to Rajshahi Med ical College Hospital (RMCH). On Friday, six of the injured received bullets in either their head, chest or thigh and were admitted to the RMCH.

Of them, the condition of Tuhin, Masud and Mamun of Jamira village was said to be critical.

CP wins 2 seats in by-polls

No-trust motion against Nepali PM likely

KATHMANDU, Jan 25: Nepal's main Communist party moved closer to its goal of unseating the ruling Nepalese Congress (NC) today by winning two seats in crucial by-elections and leading in the race for a third, reports AFP.

The Nepal Communist Party United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) won seats in Kathmandu and in Sunsari district, known to be an NC stronghold, and was leading in Rupandehi district south of here, state-run radio said.

Five seats were contested in Friday's by-elections, with the counting for the two others to begin tomorrow. The NCP-UML has vowed to call a no-confidence vote against the government if it wins four of the seats. Its no-confidence motion in

ment failed by two votes. "Sunsari is a stronghold of the NC and it should have won but the victory by the Communists shows that the ruling party may be faltering now," political analyst Hari Shrestha

December against the govern-

said today. The by-election was largely seen as a litmus test for Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba as well as for the NCP-UML

"If everything goes according to the plan, the Communists may soon table the no-trust motion against the beleaguered Deuba." Shrestha said. Election officials said voting

was mostly peaceful "excepting for minor incidents during voting outside Kathmandu." In Rauthat, south of here.

three booths were captured by ruling party activists while police resorted to firing blanks to disperse crowds, reports said.

Voting was postponed until tomorrow at two polling centres

Woman robbed of TK 15,000 in city

A woman was robbed of Taka 15,000 at Sir Sayed Road under Mohammadpur thana in the city yesterday, reports BSS. The woman identified as Miss Nazia Khan, was return-

ing home at Sir Sayed Road af-

ter withdrawing the money from the Sonali Bank, Mohammadpur branch. Four muggers stopped her in front of her residence and snatched the money at dagger

A case was registered with Mohammadpur police.

in Rauthat due to reports of massive rigging and widespread electoral malpractice by ruling NC party activists, they said.

In the last no-confidence motion, the opposition managed to get only 101 votes as against the required 103. "The Communists failed to remove Deuba on December 24

by just two votes because two of its lawmakers deceived it by crossing over to the NC camp. political analyst Sharda Baidya said. As a reward, Deuba included the two "deserters," rebel members of the Opposition national

newly-reshuffled cabinet and also reinducted five other NDP members against the wishes of his party colleagues. But now, the NCP-UML has won two seats it desperately needed and could lure back the rebel NDP legislators to call the

Democratic Party (NDP), in his

Shrestha said. Thakurgaon by polls Four withdraw candidature

"no-trust motion" once again,

Three candidates will finally contest the by-election in the Thakurgaon-l parliamentary constituency as four others withdrew their candidature yesterday, reports BSS.

Yesterday was the last date for withdrawal of candidature. An Election Commission press release said three candidates - Md Z H N Islam, Krishak Mohammad Sadek and Romesh Chandra Sen — are now in the race after four candidates withdrew their candidature. The by-election is scheduled to be held on February 18.

The election symbols will be allotted to the candidates in the same way as was followed in the general elections.

Judicial From Page 1

and Justice yesterday after noon, said a Bangabhaban source.

The composition of the Judicial Commission now stands as: Chief Justice of the Supreme Court heading the body with two senior-most judges of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, the senior-most High Court Judge, the Attorney General and the Minister in charge of the Ministry of Law and Justice.



Star photo Make parliamentary bodies effective

 From Page 1 Kamran Chowdhury, and Dr Hamida Hossain. Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam moderated the round table discussion.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khashru noted that the parliamentary standing committees are going to be headed by non-minister MPs "With the non-minister MPs heading the committees, the accountability of the government to Parliament will be ensured," the minister said adding that the standing committees were like mini-Parliaments and while working on the committees, the legislators never persuaded any partisan attitudes. "So, if we can make

the committee system effective,

parliamentary democracy is

bound to get institutionalised

in the country. The minister, however, stressed the need for bringing about an overall change in the existing political culture that fails to uphold mutual respect for opposing political camps. For a truly representative parliament, the minister also felt the need for adequate reforms in the electoral laws that would allow the true representatives of the people to get elected to the Jatiya Sangsad.

Khandaker Delwar Hossain of the BNP also observed that the prospect of our parliamentary democracy largely depended on the effective functioning of the committee system. "If we could make the parliamentary standing committees function effectively, we would definitely have an effec-

tive parliamentary democracy." The BNP leader, however, pointed out that for an effective democracy the nation would need to bring about some major changes in the Rules of Procedure of Jatiya Sangsad. "Some of the rules are rather consistent with a presidential system of governance," Delwar Hossain

On top of all, the present political culture of intolerance must be changed for a sound growth of parliamentary democracy, he added.

Underlining the need for a culture of tolerance for opposing views. Tofael Ahmed said, the government might make some mistakes in running the affairs of the state and it is the responsibility of the Opposition to point out the mistakes. "If we can consider the interest of the country beyond that of our par-

tomatically be resolved. On the parliamentary committees, he said that in all democracies most of the work is done in the standing commit-

ties, many problems would au-

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan of BNP said an increase in parliamentary debates on various national issues could effectively help remove differences of opinion between the Treasury and Opposition benches.

The BNP leader also felt the need for further reforms in the electoral system to free the polling process from money and muscle power. "Without paving the way for honest people to get elected to parliament, one cannot expect an effectively representative legislature."

Bhuiyan also added that for effective functioning of parliament the neutrality of the Speaker in running the business of the House was very important. He said it is important to find out a mechanism in which the Speaker could work independent of the influence of the ruling party.

Mohammad Nasim said that there was no reason for getting pessimistic about the future of the country's democracy. "With the provision for general elections under a non-party caretaker government, the nation has already achieved something substantive that would ensure peaceful transfer of power through constitutional means.

Nasim further added: "What we now need for a sound growth of democracy is to make the committee system effective and develop a culture of political tolerance towards opposing views."

Barrister Nazmul Huda of

BNP argued that national con-

sensus on ways to resolve na-

tional problems was necessary

to really serve the nation.

For an effective parliamentary democracy. Huda said that there was no alternative to reforming the electoral rules. "A parliament consisting of the true representatives of the people can offer an effective democracy," he said adding the electoral process must be free from black money and muscle

Earlier, Nazma Chowdhury pointed out that there are some positive aspects of making the non-minister MPs to be the heads of standing committees. "But it could create a problem in getting government documents for scrutiny.

Rashed Khan Menon said that even certain rules of the present Sangsad Rules of Procedure do not allow the committee members to summon government documents for examina-Quoting a particular rule, he

said if any question arises about the relevance of summoning a particular document, it was the Speaker who can decide whether it was necessary to ask for the documents concerned or

Menon felt for repealing such provisions and Delwar Hossain supported the view. They also agreed that there should be a binding on the government that it has to implement the decisions of the standing committees.

Barrister Amirul Islam, however, refused to admit any "inadequacy in the rules."

"The lack of will of the political parties is the impediment to the effective functioning of parliament," Barrister Islam said adding, "in the past the decision making role of Jatiya Sangsad had been ignored." Another problem of democ-

racy in the country was that the governments were not run as per the aspiration of the people. he said. He stressed on the need of developing a parliamentary mechanism for not working with various professionals of the society so that the legislators could get inputs from them while making important legislations. "It would help the legislators lessen their dependencies on the bureaucrats.'

Dr Hamida Hossain suggested that the standing committees, while scrutinising proposed laws, should invite relevant people outside parliament to give opinions on the bills.

Nazim Kamran Chowdhury said that the problem of democracy in the country was that the government, not parliament, enjoyed the sole authority to formulate various policies. "There is no binding on a minister that she/he has to discuss a policy in the House before implementing it."

Manzur Elahi urged upon the politicians concerned to play their respective roles of Treasury and Opposition benches for the mandated time of five years. "A parliament is elected for five years, let the parliamentarians exhaust their full tenure for the sake of political stability, which is very important for the economic growth of the country," he said.

Dr Abul Kalam Azad Chowdhury observed that as long as there would be acrimony among the politicians, the parliament would not be able to function effectively. "The most important thing for making the parliament effective is that the ruling party and the opposition have to have consensus on certain basic issues including education, health and so on," he said.

Mahabbat Khan said the politicians of the country operated from a very narrow partisan perspective which was a big deterrent to the growth of a sound parliamentary democracy in the country.

He also argued that while talking about the development of democracy, we need to discuss about the reforming the bureaucracy Dr Igbal Mahmud suggested

that the question-answer ses-

sion should be a little longer than now. Others who spoke on the occasion included. Attorney General KS Nabi. Mujibul Huq of UNICEF and Mahbub Jamil of

SINGER, Bangladesh.

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Let's make things better

Young man shot dead in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Jan 25: A young man identified as Saiful Islam was shot dead here last night.

Police said, Atar Ali, a businessman of 67 Evergreen, Jheriheripara of Sylhet town, shot Saiful at about 1 am when he, along with two others, allegedly went to his house for robbery.

The deceased aged about 30, hailed from village Rampasha under Biswanath thana. Saiful breathed his last in the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College.

Admission From Page 1

Four per cent of the SSC marks and six per cent of the HSC marks will now be added to the total marks secured in the written test. It was earlier five per cent for each of the exami-

nations. The students who obtained 1300 marks in the SSC and HSC examinations will be eligible to appear in the admission test. Those who passed the SSC and HSC examinations in 1993 and 1995 can also apply for the admission along with the regular students. No number will be deducted in case of such irregular students. There is a total of 1450 seats

in the 13 government medical colleges. The old eight collages have 1200 seats, each having 150, while the five new ones have 250 seats, each having 50.

Khurram Khan Panni dead

Former legislator and ambassador Khurram Khan Panni died in Seattle, USA, yesterday. He was 76, reports UNB.

Wajed Ali Khan Panni of Karatia, he was born in Karatia, Tangail, and educated at the Presidency College, Calcutta says a press release. In 1963, Khurram was appointed High Commissioner of Pakistan to Kenya, and subse-

quently served as Ambassador

A grandson of illustrious

to Argentina and the Philippines. While in the Philippines. he joined the Bangladesh freedom movement and formally defected in August 1971. After joining the Foreign Office of Bangladesh government in exile, he served as Ambassador at large to South and Southeast Asian countries and

tion to press global recognition of the country at the UN forum. His Qul Khwani will be held at the residence of his eldest son, Wajid Ali Khan Panni, on Monday after Asr prayers at House No 1C, Road No 35, Gul-

a member of Bangladesh delega-

ULFA calls strike in Assam today

GUWAHATI, India, Jan 25 Separatist guerillas in India's remote north-east have called for protest shutdown in the region tomorrow to mark the country's Republic Day, officials said here, reports AFP.

The United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) has called a 12-hour strike in Assam, an oil-rich state, to protest 'the continuing oppression' by Indian troops.

Hingis From Page 1

of shots, the 16-year-old named after Martina Navratilova fulfilled a lifetime of expectations and training by overwhelming the 1995 champion.

At 16 years, three months and 26 days, Hingis becomes the youngest singles champion at a major championships since amateur Lottie Dod won Wimbledon at 15 years and 10 months in 1887 - before Grand Slams were invented.

Hingis had already claimed the honour of youngest Grand Slam champion by winning the women's doubles at Wimbledon last year. (Details on page 11)

Sewerage blast: Body of missing girl found

The explosion inside the recently built storm sewerage in the city on Friday morning, which killed a three-year old girl, originated from the gas formed inside the sewerage, sources at the Dhaka WASA said.

Nargis, who fell into the Ramna thana. The impact of the explosion

ripped open two slabs weighing upto one tonne each, WASA sources said. "The work on the away from the site of the explosion as a case over the owner-WASA said.

There was hardly any flow of water inside the sewerage and all the rubbish accumulated there forming the deadly methane gas, the source said. He claimed that in the early hours some children of the nearby slum assembled on the manhole covers and lit a fire to warm themselves. The fire ignited the

It was reported in The Daily Star of October 10 that many slabs of the city's Tk 158 crore under construction storm sewerage had got jackedup as the original design of the storm sewerage did not have 'adequate gas ventilation system'.

Faulty bldgs

From Page 1 plan may get final approval in the forthcoming board meeting of Rajuk," an official said.

Following collapse of the building the Chairman had also told The Daily Star that several Rajuk officials including some Authorised Officers and Assistant Authorised Officers would face departmental action. It was learnt from sources in Rajuk that none of those officials faced any such action as the "matter cooled down within a week."

Prisoner dies in RMCH

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 25: A prisoner of Rajshahi central jail died of heart attack at the Raishahi Medical College Hospital vesterday

Azizur Rahman, 28, an Indian citizen, was admitted to the hospital on January 23 with severe pain in his chest

He was a resident of Lalgula under Murshidabad district of West Bengal. An unnatural death case has been filed with Rajpara thana.

Amnesty

From Page 1 der Special Powers Act, Army Act or drug or corruption related offences.

"All previous orders of Amnesty will stand cancelled following issuance of this order." it added.

The amnesty order issued by

the government of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed said, "all those convicted till 6.12.90 and have spent half of their prison term including remission shall immediately be released." It also said that all those convicted till 6.12.90 and did

not complete half of their prison sentence would be entitled to the remission on completion of half of their prison However, those convicted

under Arms Act were kept out of the purview of the remission of sentence awarded by the caretaker government of Shahabuddin Ahmed. A prisoner of Comilla Central Jail. Mustafa Patwari, was

released on January 23 follow-

ing a High Court order to grant

him amnesty under the order

issued by the caretaker government of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed in 1991. Mustafa Patwari, who was serving 30 years' sentence, was given remission of sentence under the Amnesty granted in 1991. But the remission was

The DIG (Prison) of Comilla

PM at Tungipara

From Page 1 formed at a Bunglow. After

Addressing the gathering Hasina recalled the contribution of the people of the area for upholding the ideals of Bangabandhu and their sacrifice for

In an emotion-choked voice, she said this land (Tungipara) and the people of this land had given her the chance to serve

the nation as prime minister. "It is this soil that created the father of the nation and again this soils sheltered him in an eternal rest," she said announcing that the grave of Bangabandhu would never be

ter the brutal killing of Bangabandhu the anti-liberation forces had tried time and again to erase the name of the father of the nation. "But the people preserved Bangabandhu's name

village to ensure education for all. The government will also take steps to reach healthcare facilities to everyone in the

Referring to the problems of the police personnel, Hasina said the government would take steps on priority basis to resolve the problem of the police and for improvement of their

"The government wants to

besides police, the people also have the same responsibility of maintaining peace and stability of an area. She said Tungipara has a special significance in the

order, the Prime Minister said

country and the whole nation has an attention to this area. "People of other areas will learn from this soil. So responsibility of the people of this area is also greater."

Row over girlfriend Schoolboy killed

by classmate RAJSHAHI, Jan 25: A schoolboy was stabbed to death allegedly by a classmate in the city today following conflict over a girlfriend, police said,

reports UNB.

Satellite School and son of Gholam Mostafa of Ambagan area, was stabbed in Simla Park of Rajpara thana. Local people found him groaning in the park at noon

Moniruzzaman Jewel, 17, a

Class X student of Suburban

and sent him to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead. Police said Jewel and his classmate Mahbub Alam Ratan,

morning. Both of them were reportedly interested in one girl. Boalia police arrested Ratan when he went to the thana to file a case accusing Jewel of attempting to kill him. He was

the killing.

QULKHANI



The Qulkhani of our beloved father Al-Haj Mosharraf Husain, Chairman, Apex Foam Industry who died after prolonged illness (Inna Rajeun) on 24th January '97 at 5.30 p.m. will be held on Monday the 27th January 1997 after Asar Prayer at his residence House No. 12, Road No. 69, Block-NW(A) Gulshan, Dhaka (Northern side of American Club). His relatives, friends and admirers' are requested to attend the Qulkhani.



Moazzem Husain Zakir Husain Shahnaz Begum

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Hostess

PHILIPS

By Staff Correspondent

sewerage at the time of explosion was missing. Her body was found yesterday afternoon by the local people who handed it over to the police. An unnatural death case has been filed with

sewerage stopped only sixty feet ship of the land is pending with the court," an official of the

gas underneath, he said.

cancelled by the order of Habibur Rahman's government in 1996.

Central Jail, talking to The Daily Star last night said that Patwari challenged the cancellation of the remission in the High Court. The High Court ordered his release, he said.

About maintaining law and

nearly 23 years a new building is rising there.

the father of the nation.

shifted from here. The Prime Minister said af-

in their heart." She said a Resthouse and a Paraton motel would be established in the thana while primary schools be set up at every

lifestyle. build, a corruption-free society and will take steps so that one can live on his honest earnings," she said.

accompanied by two girlfriends, went to the park in the

sent to Rajpara thana. A case was lodged with Rajpara thana in connection with

