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## BLUE DART

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Convenor of the National Committee on CHT Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah and PCJSS leader Jyotirindra Bodipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma talking to newsmen before -Star photo the delegation left the capital yesterday.

## CHT peace talks

From Page 1 times, is holding until March

During the three-day talks. split into several sessions, at the state guest house Meghna since their arrival on Saturday.

the PCJSS leaders formally placed their five-point charter. encompassing 49 demands, to end insurgency by its armed wing. Shantibahini. The sources said that accords

had been reached on major issues like strengthening the local government councils and formation of a 'central council' enjoying more autonomy than granted previously, with majority of its elected members to be drawn from the tribespeople.

But the talks entered into rough waters when the PCJSS insisted on granting land rights to the tribespeople, which would literally leave the settlers from the plains without their prime farm lands which they had curved out diligently in the

forests. The government side said the laws regarding the land rights would have to be as per the country's existing law. Those who were "evicted" or "lost" their lands would be returned their property on the basis of documents, they said.

But the PCJSS stressed that the settlers should be 'evicted' and their lands returned to the tribespeople. They also said those who had settled in the hilldistricts since 1974 falls

under this category Despite the last minute effort by the government side.

which included three tribal MPs from the three hill districts, the talks which resumed at 11-30 am vesterday, however, failed to match the drafts of each side. A Bangla typewriter and a

stenographer was rushed to the guest house in anticipation of an agreed draft, sources said.

The dialogue stumbled on the vexed issue of land rights. made complex by the traditional 'jhum' or slash-and-burn farming style of the tribespeople, leaving them hop-stepping around the hills, from one clearing to another. As their nomadic nature of farming style leaves them with no permanent farms, they have no

documents of land rights. Finally, at 2-35 pm, the Chief Whip escorted them out. But they faced newsmen waiting at the entrance of the guest house. After a very brief chat they hurried to the air base.

Our staff correspondent Nurul Alam reported from Chittagong last night that Ataur Rahman Kaiser, financial atfairs secretary of the Awami League, who is a member of the National Committee on CHT escorted the PCJSS delegation back to Dudukchara.

As the MI-17 helicopter, carrying the PCJSS delegation back to their 'temporary headquarter, landed at the tiny frontier, hamlet of Dudukchara at 4-45 pm about 200 tribespeople received them with cheers.

Meanwhile, the security forces are going back to eight camps in the next three days. They had vacated the camps in and around Dudukchara along the border with Tripura state of India. Five other camps were kept neutralised also under an agreement with the PCJSS reached earlier when talks began in 1992.

UNB adds from Khagrach hari: Alighting from the chopper, the PCJSS leaders went straight to a hill-top from where they addressed a spontaneous gathering of over 1,000 tribal people.

Addressing the gathering the PCJSS leaders said they had talks with the government in a friendly and cordial atmosphere for three days.

PCJSS chief Shantu Larma. in his speech, called upon all the tribal people for unity and patience to maintain a peaceful co-existence in the CHT until a permanent solution is reached on the basis of the five-point demand placed by the PCJSS.

"We have thoroughly discussed the five-point demand and already reached consensus on a number of issues ... we'll sit again on March 12." Larma told the cheering tribal men and

Speaking in their own dialect, the tribal Chakma leader, however, asked them not to be misguided by any quarter. He also sought their allout cooperation to continue the next round of the peace talks.

## been incorporated in the Constitution to limit the power of a technocrat minister and also to

ensure the accountability of

Referring to the Deputy

Speaker's ruling on Sunday re-

jecting the opposition's allega-

tion, Prof Chowdhury said: "We

do not want to disobey the rul-

ing, but we cannot accept it

also.... he should revise his

position said M K Anwar and

Ziaur Rahman Khan have sub-

mitted two notices seeking

The opposition could have

Ziaur Rahman Khan said the

cannot overrule the Constitu-

remedies on the ruling.

The deputy leader of the op-

The House witnessed a row over the Prime Minister's authorisation to State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir to answer questions in parliament relating to the ministers which he does not

liament, Prof B Chowdhury re-Prime Minister's notification vesting additional responsibil-

The article says every minispart in the proceedings of partled to vote or to speak any mat-

Prof Chowdhury said any law or notification inconsistent with the Constitution which is the supreme law as per Article 7 (2) of the Constitution

will be void. He said Article 73 (A) has

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## BJP to seek no-confidence motion against Gowda

NEW DELHI, Jan 27: India's main opposition Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will seek a no-confidence vote against Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda in parliament next month, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported today, says

Reuter. The agency quoted former BJP prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee as saying in the northern town of Lucknow that he expects some deputies of the Congress Party, Deve Gowda's reluctant make-or-break ally, to vote for the BJP's motion.

The BJP commands 195 votes in the 545-seat Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament). The Congress Party, with 140 seats, is shoring up Deve Gowda's seven-month old government which has fewer than 200 deputies of its own.

PTI quoted Vajpayee as say-ing the BJP would encourage the Congress also to move a simultaneous no-confidence motion, saying: "The BJP will support such a motion if it is brought by the Congress."

## Lalmonirhat Rly Divisional HQs

gheraoed LALMONIRHAT, Jan 27: Railway employees today gheraoed the Divisional HQ of

Bangladesh Railway, Western Zone, here protesting the move to relocate the HQ building, reports UNB. They also demanded reinstatement of two trade union

leaders suspended for spearheading the movement. The employees have been waging movement for last two months to resist the move to shift the zonal head office to

another railway building. Meanwhile, the railway authorities floated a tender for renovation of the office building on January 20. But the tender box was snatched away on

the day. Chowdhury Shahidul Kabir, president of local unit of Railway Sramik League, and its joint secretary Zahirul Huq Patwari were suspended on Thursday following the inci-

### Taxi drivers

From Page 1 over. An altercation began after the Ansar have asked the driver not to carry any person in the area without pass or valid document

The driver, reportedly a member of an association of taxi drivers in the airport. drove his vehicle fast and tried to hit Ansar Afzal.

Later, the Ansars and security personnel caught the driver. After this some 30 taxi drivers brought out a procession and attacked some other Ansars on duty.

Political analysts said earlier today that the Congress did not appear ready to withdraw it support for Deve Gowda's United Front alliance in next month's budget session of par-

Indian media reports have said Deve Gowda and Congress Party president Sitaram Kesri have been sending signals of mounting displeasure to each other over social invitations.

## 3 muggers held from Botanical Garden

Police arrested three mug-

gers from the Botanical Garden at Mirpur in the city yesterday afternoon, reports BSS. The arrested were identified

as Mohammad Mahbub Hossain, Mohammad Rassel and Mohammad Alamgir . The snatched money and valuables from some people who came to

visit the garden, police said. Hearing hue and cry of the victims, a police patrol team chased the muggers and arrested three of them. Two other muggers. Shah Alam and Taposh Kumar, however, managed to escape.

## IWTA Bill sent to spl committee

The Inland Water Transport Authority (Amendment) Bill 1997, was sent to the special committee yesterday, reports

The committee, constituted on the advice of the Prime Minister, has been asked to report back after scrutiny within four

Shipping Minister ASM Ab dur Rob moved the Bill for sending it to the special committee and the House accepted the proposal by voice vote.

### Legal steps against manpower agency

The government yesterday advised members of the public not to make any contact or strike financial deals with M/S Kajimun International which published an advertisement in a national daily on January 22 for recruiting manpower in South Korea, reports BSS.

An official handout said that the advertisement of Kajimun International (Pvt) Limited was given without government permission. It also said that legal steps were underway against the recruiting agency.

## ALEC meets today

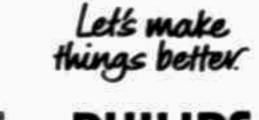
An executive committee meeting of the Bangladesh Awami League will be held at Ganobhaban today at 3:30 pm. reports UNB.

Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting. said a party release yesterday.



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PHILIPS

## Police hunt for kidnapped schoolgirl

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Jan 27: Police have begun a hunt for a kidnapped schoolgirl. Farjana Afroz (Tania). at Noajishpur village under Raozan thana.

Police said Tania was abducted on the night of January 24 from her house at the village. Tania's father, Habibul Islam Chowdhury filed a case with Raozan thana. The girl is a can-didate for the next SSC examination.

Meanwhile, the Wadud Smriti Sangha, an organisation named after the grandfather of Tania, in a memorandum submitted to the Thana Nirbahi Officer of Raozan said, they would start an agitation programme if the girl was not rescued and the kidnappers were not arrested immediately

### Memoranda to PM Roads & Highways staff continue agitation

By Staff Correspondent The engineers and workers of the Roads and Highways department held a rally in the city vesterday protesting the contractual appointment of its Chief Engineer Mahtab Uddin Ahmed.

Presided over by Engineers Samity vice president Shafiqur Rahman, the rally held in the Sarak Bhaban premises, was addressed by leaders of different engineers groups, including chairman of Prokichi-BCS Samonnov Parishad M A K Azad, Secretary General of Bangladesh Engineers Institution Nurul Huda, president of water and power engineers samity Abul Kashem, vice president Akhter Hossain. Kamruzzaman. M A Kashem Mian and Faruq Hossain.

Protesting the contractual appointment of the chief engineer, the speakers said they would to continue their agitation programme till the cancellation of the appointment.

After the rally, they marched towards the Prime Minister's office but police intercepted them at the Bangla Motor crossing. Then leaders of different engineers association's later submitted memorandums on behalf of their organisations.

## JWG meet in Delhi

From Page 1 ister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart H D Deve Gowda during the latter's official visit to Dhaka in January.

The Bangladesh team led by Joint Secretary of the Home Ministry, Syed Anwarul Islam, includes Shamim Ahmed, Director General, South Asia in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Deputy Director General of the Bangladesh Rifles Brigadier Abdur Rab.

The Indian team led by a Joint Secretary of the Home Ministry would include a similar composition.

The Bangladesh team is likely to meet high officials of the Indian External Affairs Ministry and Home Ministry including the Indian External Affairs Secretary and the Home Secretary during their stay in the Indian capital.

It was announced during Deve Gowda's visit to Bangla-'desh that the two countries would immediately re-activate the meetings of the Joint Working Group (JWG). The premiers of both countries at a joint press conference during the departure of Deve Gowda also mentioned that the first meeting of 're-activated' Joint Working Group(JWG) would take place at the end of Jan-

Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, in his briefing after the Hasina-Gowda summit, said that the Joint Working Group (JWG)meetings will also make detailed follow-up on eliminating insurgencies like those of the ULFA, NSCN, Bodos in the seven eastern states of India and the Shantibahini in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.The

#### Y asmın From Page 1

she returned from village home, police arrested her and sent her to jail, the witness said.

The other witnesses included the Dinajpur Sadar thana OC Emdadul Haq, Amir Ali, a union parishad member and Sultana Begum, another prostitute. The three main accused were

on the dock. The court will again sit on January 29.

#### Raphel From Page 1

Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, principal secretary to the Prime Minister Dr S A Samad, ERD secretary Dr Mashiur Rahman and US ambassador to Bangladesh David N Merril were present

UNB adds: Robin Raphel in a meeting with Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad reviewed various aspects of Dhaka-Washington relationship in the changed political context. During the 45-minute meet-

ing yesterday, the Foreign Minister briefed the senior US official about the success of the present government in various fields in its seven months in of-Officials said Azad also apprised Raphel of various poli-

cies of the government for attaining development in different sectors. He particularly gave a brief outline of government's liberalised investment and open

market policies which were appreciated by Raphel. The Foreign Minister invited American traders and industrialists to invest in a mas-

sive way in Bangladesh to the mutual benefit of the two coun-They also exchanged views on the forthcoming visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Washington to attend the

World Micro Credit Summit. The three-day global conference begins in the American capital on Sunday (February 2). Azad explained to the American official the necessity of the

planned sub-regional cooperation with the SAARC countries. Raphel will address a press conference today at 11 am at the

American Club at Gulshan before departure, ending her sixday visit to Bangladesh.

sources indicated that the repatriation of Chakmas, who are staying in camps in the Indian state of Tripura, would be discussed and steps would be taken for intensifying their return'. Besides cross-border insur-

gency, the JWG meeting is also expected to deal with the problems related to smuggling and those centering border check-India and Bangladesh had agreed to set up the Joint

Working Group (JWG) in October, 1993 to solve the outstanding bilateral problems related to their borders. Headed by a Joint Secretary. JWG was meant to be a functional forum comprising offi-

cials of the foreign and home ministries of the two countries and the representatives of the BDR and the BSF. It was originally intended to hold meetings in the two capi-

tals by rotation every six months. Two meetings of the JWG were held, the first in March

1994 in Delhi and the second and last one in April 1995 in Mobin Chowdhury

## denies press reports

By Staff Correspondent Bangladesh ambassador to Germany Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury, Bir Bikram, yesterday denied that he was detained or taken into custody as reported by a Bangla newspaper yesterday.

home leave." he said while talking to The Daily Star last night. He said that during his stay he met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and apprised her about the existing bilateral relations

A freedom fighter, ambassador Chowdhury said he is on home leave since December 25 and is due to return to Germany in mid-February.

between Bangladesh and Ger-

planning to test-fire a mediumrange missile which has sparked a war of words with the United States, the United News of India (UNI) said today, reports AFP.

(earth) would be launched in the eastern state of Orissa between February 8 and 15.

From Page 1

Indo-Bangladesh water sharing accord, reviewed the technical aspects and details of water monitoring.

with the method of monitoring. About the quantum of water flow at the Hardinge Bridge site, Water Resources Secretary Dr Shamsul Huda said, it was in

Bangladesh is to receive a share of minimum of 50,154 cusec water from Farakka during the current third cycle from

### Lalbagh victims

From Page 1

meeting with family members of victims of Lalbagh carnage. Sheikh Hasina handed over a cheque for Tk 100,000 to him.

"I am proud of my son who sacrificed himself in the anti-Ayub movement. I have not got anything in the last 28 years . . . I am grateful to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," he said receiv-

health and long life of the Prime Minister.

#### Sangsad tidbits would be taken against his min-From Page 1

"You're dead straight to my forehead, not my nose," responded the Chair.

"It's my pleasure to be straight to your forehead.' Choudhury retorted. As the JP legislator asked a supplementary on a yet-to-be

raised question, Abdul Hamid remarked. "I see you've risen above my forehead." Given the floor to ask a supplementary on a question relating to an issue of Kushtia dis-

trict. Treasury Bench member

Sheikh Nurul Haq asked something about Khulna dis-Interrupting him, the Deputy Speaker said. The original question was on Kushtia... you've gone to Khulna ... you

Khulna in this way. Soon after, the Chair stopped the microphone of the ruling party MP for speaking on

an irrelevant issue.

Despite repetition of the

the minister failed to understand the error by the questioner. Rather, the seemingly non-attentive minister reiterated that action would be taken against the persons responsible.

words - against the ministry -

Rising on a point of order. BNP deputy Shahidul Islam said that there was power failure at the MP Hostel during Sehri last night.

Elaborating, he said that he had to lit the gas burner to take Sehri as he had no candle at that time

In reply, the Deputy Speaker blamed the Opposition MP and another BNP MP. Mashiur Rahman, for raising personal problems in the House. "Raising issues of personal

problems may cause adverse reactions among the people who elected you to speak about their problems," commented the Chair. Taking the floor, Mashiur

Rahman retorted. 'I totally share your view. Mr Speaker. But you didn't accept my notices on matters of public interests.

# B Chy: Revise ruling

parliament.

ter, reports UNB.

Briefing newsmen in parferred to article 73 (A) of the Constitution and said the ity to Dr Alamgir was violative of the Constitution.

ters shall have the right to walked out of the House to speak in and otherwise to take protest the violation of the Constitution, but they refrained liament, but shall not be entifrom doing so as they want to make parliament effective, he ter not related to his ministry unless he is a member of parliament also. Prime Minister's notification

> Referring to the Deputy Speaker's ruling, the BNP lawmaker said "if the ruling is final, the violation of the Constitution is also final."

DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Email: dstar@bangla.net

## 3 CHT bills

Dhaka may join

Amsterdam confce

on child labour

Bangladesh is expected to par-

ticipate in the child labour

conference to be held in Ams-

terdam on February 26 and 27

will be headed by the State Min-

ister for Labour and Manpower

handed over a letter of accep-

tance from Bangladesh minis-

Affairs, APW Malkert. The am-

bassador told him the initia

tives taken in Bangladesh to

Bypass road

From Page 1

the Communication Ministry's

development budget for trans-

port by 50 million US dollars

involved in infrastructure de-

velopment however have differ-

ent opinions about involving

the private sector in building

opined that the by-pass project

could easily be merged with the

World Bank financed Greater

Dhaka Integrated Township

Scheme instead of making it a

any party to realise their ex-

penditure through the toll sys-

tem in such a small run of the

highway," said a top official of

the RAJUK. "Moreover, in the

context of our road users, the

idea of toll collection may not

For recovering the expenses.

the RAJUK official suggested

that roadside lands could easily

be developed as commercial

sites to ensure the returns. If

this is agreed upon, the RAJUK

itself can finance this scheme

suggested that if the govern-

ment is serious about introduc-

ing the toll collection system in

the proposed by-pass, it will

have to protect the highway so

that nobody can build link

istry of Communications ob-

served that since the invest-

ment was huge, toll collection

might not ensure return of the

investment within a short span

of time. Therefore the private

sector might not participate in

Some officials of the Min-

Some other town planners

under BOT terms, he said.

roads haphazardly.

this scheme at all.

"It will be very difficult for

Some RAJUK officials

such an important road.

stand-alone scheme.

work well."

Different government bodies

ter to Dutch Minister for Social

The Bangladesh delegation

Ambassador Dr Toufiq Ali

reports BSS.

MA Mannan.

curb child labour.

per year.

THE HAGUE, Jan 27

From Page 1 Abdul Mannan and Dr Mizanul

Haq attended the meeting. Acting Law Secretary Aminullah, Special Affairs Division Secretary Kazi Golam Rahman, Additional Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat Khandaker Abdul Haq and con-

## cerned officials were present.

From Page 1 government, the sources added. Most of the cabinet members shared the grievances of the

Telecommunications Minister. In another development, the cabinet also decided to constitute a consultative committee so that the government and the NGOs can work in a friendly atmosphere. The composition and terms of reference of the committee would be decided later, cabinet sources said.

The cabinet also approved a proposal for setting up a Land Port Authority for the proper management of the country's land ports. The proposal coming from the Shipping Ministry said that the country's land ports on the border points with India should be managed under the proposed Land Ports Authority.

The cabinet members ac-

Executive Director.

corded farewell to outgoing Cabtion said. inet Secretary Syed Ahmed who A number of BNP lawmakers argued that a technocrat minishas been assigned to join the World Bank as its Alternative ter's answering question no relating to his ministry violated

the mistake."

Article 73(A) of the Constitu-

Officials of Bangladesh Roads and Highways holding a rally yesterday at their office

Mohiuddin Alamgir's role

premises protesting appointment on contract basis.

From Page 1

legislator then referred to Arti-

cle 7 of the Constitution that

reads: "This Constitution is, as

the solemn expression of the

will of the people, the supreme

law of the Republic, and if any

other law is inconsistent with

this Constitution that other law

shall, to the extent of the incon-

Zia to submit his contention in

Opposition took floor to request

the Chair to allow Zia conclude

his argument and said, "We

have accepted your ruling but.

give Zia a chance to speak". But,

said, "I was not present in the

House yesterday but, read news-

paper reports today. What hap-

pened here yesterday was con-

making laws, not for violating

laws. Making mistakes is noth-

ing wrong but, why should we be

deprived of our right to correct

legitimacy to deeds contrary to

rules. If our members are not al-

lowed to speak, then we have to

think again whether we will

remain present in the parlia-

ment," the Leader of the Opposi-

"In this House we can't give

She said, "This House is for

trary to the Constitution."

Begum Khaleda Zia then

But, the Chair advised the

At this stage, Leader of the

sistency, be void".

the Chair regretted.

writing.

Article 73 A(1) reads: "Every Minister shall have the right to speak in, and otherwise to take part in the proceedings of, Parliament, but shall not be entitled to vote [or to speak on any matter not related to his Ministry] unless he is a member of Parliament also". Here the words within square brackets were inserted by Act XXVIII of

Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia also requested the Chair to hold a discussion in the House on the present situation in the share market. The Chair assured the Leader

of the Opposition that a discussion on the share market situation would be held soon in the parliament. The House yesterday sent the Inland Water Transport Authority (Amendment) Bill, 1997

to the Special Committee for

submitting its report on it after

necessary scrutiny within four days. The decision was approved in a voice-vote. Shipping Minister A S M Rob placed the bill in the House on January 20. Five lawmakers took part in the discussions on a thanksgiving motion on the presidential address yesterday. Presi-

dent Justice Shahabuddin

Ahmed addressed the House on

January 15. Yesterday's discussants were Dr Mohammad Selim and Be-

Awami League, Alhaj Shamsuddin and Nazimuddin Alam of BNP and Noor Md Mondol of Jatiya Party. Congratulating the President for his speech. Dr Md Selim

gum Razia Motin Chowdhury of

-Star photo

said that all should reach a consensus on various national issues for the greater interest of the people. Alhai Shamsuddin mentioned that the president had spoken of a better management in fertilizer distribution. But

Razia Motin said the government has given special focus on issues relating to well-being of women and children.

the situation is 'dismal' now, he

Nazimuddin Alam said what Sheikh Mujibur Rahman failed to do. late president Ziaur Rahman succeeded by inserting 'Bismillah' in the Constitution. Alam was critical of the government for what he called its failure in maintaining law and order in the country. Noor Md Mondol regretted

"a leader who made a world record by handing over power to a caretaker government in Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury who was in the chair during discussions on the presidential address adjourned

the House at 3:55 pm till 11 am

that the President showed respect to Bangabandhu by mencannot go from Kushtia to tioning his name in the address but did not mention the name of

Alleging non-availability of

doctors at the government hospitals. AL lawmaker Mohammad Selim asked Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf if action

"I was never detained or taken into custody. I am on

India plans to test-fire Prithvi NEW DELHI, Jan 27: India is

The news agency quoted defence officials as saying that the surface-to-surface "Prithvi"

## Joint monitoring

Talking to The Daily Star, Water Ministry and JRC officials said, they were satisfied

conformity with the water sharing accord.

## January 21 to 31.

Prime Minister during her

ing the cheque. Mallik also prayed for good