

NCCHT meets today to review draft accord

By Special Correspondent
The National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts (NCCHT) is meeting in Dhaka today to take stock of the negotiations so far with the Parbatty Chattogram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) on a proposed accord to end decades of insurgency in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Highly placed sources said that the NCCHT will review the draft of the agreement to remove some 'thorny issues' that so far delayed the progress of the negotiations.

The draft, with amendments to the one agreed earlier by PCJSS supremo Jyotindriyo Bodhipriyo Larma alias Shantu Larma during the last meeting between the NCCHT and the PCJSS, is expected to be sent to the PCJSS high command by October 31. The last meeting ended in Dhaka on September 17.

The NCCHT yesterday sent a

See Page 12 Col 3

Nov 7 incident
Ex-armyman held on charge of killing 4 TV officials

Police yesterday arrested a retired armyman on charge of killing four officials of Bangladesh Television amidst an upheaval in the capital in 1975, reports UNB.

Retired Honorary Lieutenant Altaf Hossain, now security officer of Philips, was arrested after about 22 years of the incident from Philips factory at Mohakhali in the evening.

Police sources said Programme Director Munirul Alam, Chief Accounts Officer Akmal Khan, Administrative Officer AM Siddique and Assistant Photographer Feroz Qaiyum were killed by an army contingent on duty at BTV on November 7, 1975.

The army contingent of Engineering Corps first confined Munirul Alam, Akmal Khan and AM Siddique to a room at

See Page 12 Col 3

One shot dead in city slum

By Staff Correspondent

A young man was shot dead in a slum in Kawran Bazar area of the city yesterday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Saber Ali, 28, a resident of Shiyamoli. He worked as a butcher in a shop in Kawran Bazar area.

Saber sustained wounds in his chest and head when two gunmen fired on him in the slum behind Sonargaon Hotel at about 4 pm. He died soon after he was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Sources said the killing was a sequel to conflict over gaining control of the slum.

The body was sent to morgue for autopsy. A case has been lodged. However, none was arrested till last night.

The Daily Star
on the Internet
<http://www.dailystarnews.com>

Inside Today

Article

President's speech at FEMA workshop

How about Introduction of Public

Financing for Parliamentary Elections?

Column :
Crosscurrents
by CAF Dowlah
Page 4

International

BJP wins crucial vote of confidence in UP

Page 5

Business

Licences expected by next month. Three EPZs see Tk 2000 cr in investment

DSE index continues to decline

Pages 6,7

Supplement

One and a half page supplement on National Day of Holy See

Pages 8&9

AL, BNP meet today to prepare 'grounds for formal talks'

By Nazmul Ashraf and Reaz Ahmad

Key leaders of the Awami League and the BNP are likely to meet at an 'undisclosed' venue sometime today, in an apparent bid to create 'grounds for a formal dialogue'.

Today's "informal" meeting was termed crucial by sources in fixing a time-table for talks to end the long-drawn political stand-off ahead of the Jatiya Sangsad winter session starting November 2.

Leaders of both parties were found elusive yesterday to an unprecedented extent. Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim will repre-

sent the AL at 'pre-dialogue' meeting with BNP, whose members had walked out of the House August 30, the opening day of the previous session, and had not since gone back.

Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and the Opposition Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain have been named to represent BNP at the meeting.

The decision to talk face-to-face followed Nasim's phone call two days ago (Sunday) to the two BNP leaders who came out with a positive response yesterday.

See Page 12 Col 3

Leaders of both parties became incommunicado yesterday, after BNP's disclosure that Nasim had disclosed to press his plans for such a move.

The two belligerent groups are likely to discuss their proposed strength on the JS standing committees, which has been at the core of the dispute.

The BNP, according to some party sources, is unlikely to withdraw its key charge against the AL that its party leaders and workers have been victims of the ruling party wrath.

See Page 12 Col 3

PM for formation of local coordination bodies to solve city problems

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday suggested formation of local coordination committees headed by MPs and comprising ward commissioners, elderly people and others in the community for solving problems of the localities, reports UNB.

Problems like traffic jam, terrorism and of cleanliness can be solved locally through sincere work of such coordination bodies, she said addressing a meeting of the city ward commissioners and MPs at the International Conference Centre in the afternoon.

Hasina told them that the government had taken steps for solving all the problems of the capital city.

For removing traffic jam steps have been taken to construct roads, flyovers and ring-roads, said the Prime Minister.

"But all this needs involvement of huge money and we

See Page 12 Col 1

BNP men asked to prepare for allout agitation

By Staff Correspondent

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP, has asked the party workers to prepare for an allout agitation against "government tyranny" saying, "the more there will be repression, the more intensified will be the agitation".

Addressing a meeting of city BNP leaders at the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, Mannan Bhuiyan alleged that the government after "losing ground" has now opted for political persecution to cling to power.

"In its 16 months in power, the Awami League government failed to do anything good to the people. It acted as a stooge and tried to contain public agitation against its misdeeds", he said.

The BNP leader also accused the ruling party of making the Jatiya Sangsad inoperative by obstructing the Opposition from speaking in the House and violating parliamentary rules.

See Page 12 Col 6

BNP demonstration in cities, dist hqs today

By Staff Correspondent

BNP will organise street demonstrations at the metropolitan cities and the district towns today to press home its various demands.

With its programme, the 17-day nationwide demonstration programme of the BNP will come to an end. The programmes were announced after the party enforced a rail-road barricade across the country on October 5.

The demands include cessation of the "conspiracy" on the CHT, "making" the Jatiya Sangsad effective and centre of all national activities, fixation of due price at Tk 500 per maund, withdrawal of political cases against the BNP leaders

See Page 12 Col 2

PW-26 tells court

Maj Rashid took away huge ammunition

Major Khandakar Abdur Rashid took away huge ammunition from Artillery store some six hours before the assassination of President Sheikh Mujib on August 15, 1975, reports UNB.

This was stated yesterday by the 26th prosecution witness in Bangabandhu murder case Naik Gunner (retd) Jamrul Islam who was in charge of the store during the August carnage.

He made his deposition at the special ejash of Court of Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Kazi Golam Rasul at Nazimuddin Road.

After taking the bullets and shells without leaving any document, Jamrul said, Major Rashid, the Commanding Offi-

cer of 2 Field Artillery, asked him to stay at unit line on that night as "he might need more ammunition."

Jamrul was later cross-examined by state defence for absconding Rashid, advocate Gazi Zillur Rahman, and principal accused Farooq's lawyer advocate Khan Afzal Rahman.

Earlier, prosecution lawyer

advocate Ramjan Ali Khan introduced Jamrul Ali Khan to the court after cross-examination of PW-25 Naik (retd) M Yasin was completed.

The witness, who was in 2 Field Artillery in 1975, also identified Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooq Rahman and a Battery Commander of his regi-

See Page 12 Col 7



Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad receiving Chinese Vice Prime Minister Wu Bangguo at Zia International Airport yesterday.

— PID photo

See Page 12 Col 6

Accord for Tk 105.2cr loan signed

Dhaka, Beijing to boost economic cooperation

Planning Commission Ye Qing and other members of his en-

tourage.

The Foreign Minister, who headed a 13-member home team at the meeting, was aided by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury.

Foreign Secretary Mostafizur Rahman, Secretary (Economic Affairs) at the foreign office M Aminul Islam and Director General (Pacific) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nazrul Islam.

The talks were followed by signing of two agreements providing Bangladesh with an interest subsidized preferential loan of Yuan 200 million, equivalent to 24.15 million US dollars (Tk 105.20 crore) and commodity grant of Yuan 2 million (Tk 1.05 crore).

Chinese Assistant Minister

See Page 12 Col 1

12 Bangladeshis hurt in BSF attack in Naogaon

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 21: Twelve Bangladeshis were injured, three with bullet in the head, in an attack by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) personnel at Talukpur village in Dhamoirhat union under Naogaon district yesterday. BDR sources said today.

The bullet-hit persons have been admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. They are local Union Parishad member Nurul Islam, 43, Jalaluddin, 60, and Atoor Rahman, 17.

According to the sources, BSF personnel had beat Nurul Islam on Oct 17. Some people went to the border area to mitigate the matter. But BSF personnel of Shanpara border outpost in West Dinajpur of India attacked them with firearms and bayonets.

Other injured persons include Sultan, 25, Ahmed, 26, Haider, 30, Latif, 30 and Abdul Hakim, 32. They were admitted to Dhamoirhat thana health

See Page 12 Col 6

PM leaves for Edinburgh tonight

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka tonight for Edinburgh to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, reports UNB.

The four-day conference of the heads of government of 54 Commonwealth countries begins Friday in Edinburgh to focus on winds of democracy sweeping the world.

Queen Elizabeth, as head of the Commonwealth, will inaugurate the conference of the loose confederation of the former British colonies.

The main themes of the CHOGM are good governance and human rights as well as trade development and investment.

Hasina will be accompanied by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Foreign Secretary Mostafizur Rahman and Director General (IO) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Muhammed Ziauddin.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad will join the Bangladesh delegation in Edinburgh on Saturday.

3 Biman flights to carry deportees from Jeddah

The BG-012 aircraft of Bangladesh Biman will operate two flights on New York-Dhaka route via Jeddah on October 22 and 23, reports UNB.

The two flights will carry about 350 Bangladeshi deportees in addition to its regular passengers from Jeddah to Dhaka.

Besides, a DC-10 aircraft, now in Italy, will also carry Bangladeshi deportees from Jeddah to Dhaka, official sources said last night.

The arrangements have been made in the wake of shortage of aircraft.



— Star photo

Voters' ID card project remains suspended

By Morshed Ali Khan

After a series of problems and repeated extension of time, the project faced its first major hurdle when it was placed before the Planning Commission for further extension of its time limit upto June, 1997.

Originally, the project was scheduled to be completed by December, 1995. On December 13, the ECNEC extended the time limit upto June 30, 1996, with a revised budget of Tk 180 crore instead of the original Tk 300 crore.

According to documents obtained, with the latest EC request for extension of the project and those must be investigated.

See Page 12 Col 1

The participants in a dialogue yesterday highlighted the crisis in governance in the country's economic front that resulted in a weak banking system apart from other problems, calling for effective steps to address the issue, reports UNB.

The current state of affairs in the financial sector of Bangladesh is imposing a serious constraint on economic growth and structural transformation of the country's economy, said Debapriya Bhattacharya.

Presenting a paper on the "Governance of the Financial Sector", he focused on the reform programmes and said Bangladesh' experience with the banking sector reform suggests that great care is needed in consolidating and moving the process forward.

Pierre Landell-Mills, the Country Director of the World



The baby Gharial

State of financial sector serious constraint on growth'