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Landmark CHT peace accord signed

By Special Correspondent

A landmark peace accord aimed at ending the decades-old insurgency in Chittagong Hill Tracts was signed in the capital yesterday.

The accord provides wide-ranging powers to a proposed Regional Council to "coordinate and supervise general administration, law and order and development" in the three hill districts.

The agreement comes into force with its signing.

The 68-point accord was signed at 10:26 am by Chief Whip of Parliament and Convenor of the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts (NCCHT) Abul Hasnat Abdullah on behalf of the government and Jyotirindriyo Bodhipriyo Larma alias Shantu Larma, Chairman of Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), at a simple ceremony at the International Conference Centre in the city.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, members of the Cabinet, chiefs of the three services, high civil and military officials were present at the ICC, adjacent to the PM's office.

Later the Prime Minister had an exclusive meeting with the PCJSS chief at her office before he left for Dudukchhara in Khagrachhari with his delegation by a military helicopter. He will join his colleagues, camping there since November 11.

The accord stipulates that the BDR camps, cantonments in the three district headquarters and three cantonments at Ali Kadam, Ruma and Dighinala will remain in their present position and strength.

All temporary camps of the Armed Forces, Ansar and Village Defence Party will be rolled back gradually to their permanent bases as the situation improves. There will be a time frame in this regard.

But the Army can be deployed in any area of CHT in case of deterioration of law and order, natural disaster and other purpose like elsewhere in the country under the civilian administration as per rules. The Regional Council can make a request to the proper authorities in such cases.

The agreement provides for a general amnesty to the Shantibahini. The PCJSS will place before the government a list of its armed and non-armed cadres, arms and ammunition within 45 days of signing of the accord.

During the period, the government and the PCJSS

Text of accord on pages 8 & 9

will jointly set the date and place for surrender of arms. The government will ensure security to the PCJSS cadres and their families. Those surrendering their arms and ammunition will be entitled to amnesty, which will also cover the non-armed cadres and supporters of the PCJSS.

Cases, warrants and convictions in absentia against them will be lifted. Those serving prison terms will be freed. They will also be granted Tk 50,000 to restart normal life.

Charges cannot be made against those after surrender, simply because they were members of PCJSS.

In case of their previous bank loans, interest will be waived. They will be reinstated in their jobs in government and autonomous bodies. Their family members will be employed in jobs on the basis of qualifications. Age bar will be relaxed in their cases.

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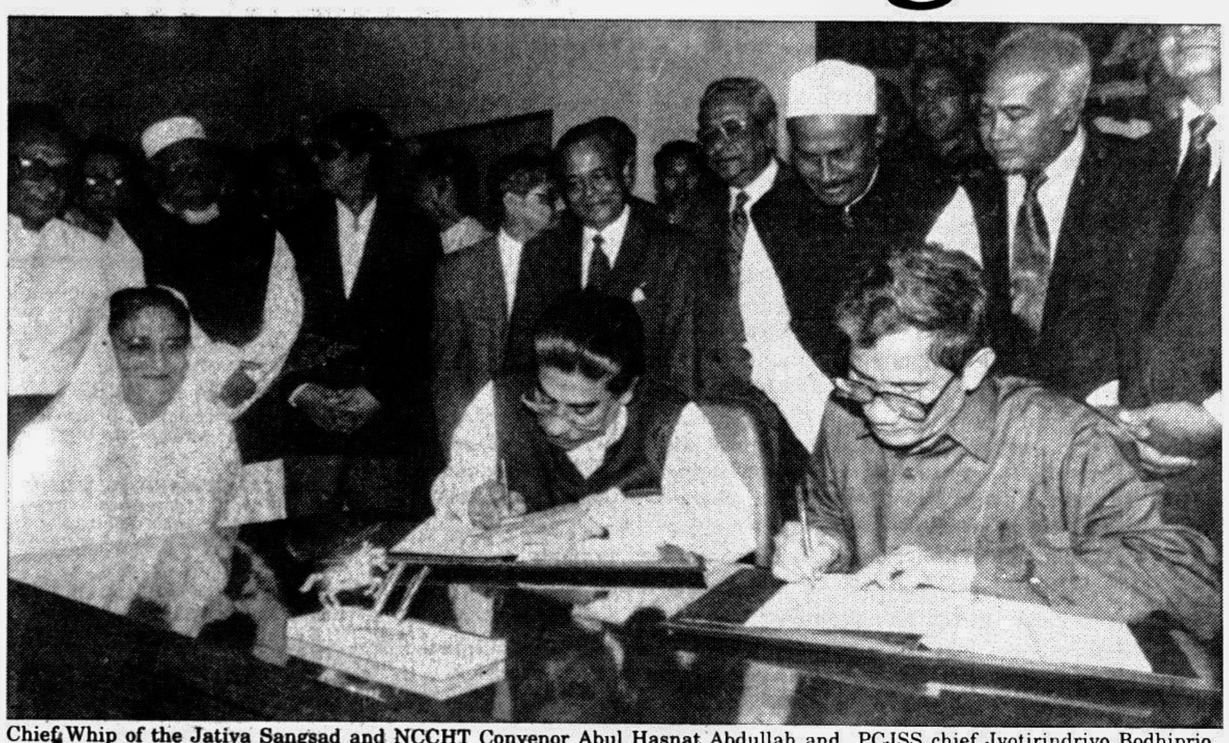

Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad and NCCHT Convenor Abul Hasnat Abdullah and PCJSS chief Jyotirindriyo Bodhiprio Larma signing the CHT peace accord in the city yesterday as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina looks on. — Star photo

Khaleda's press confce today

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia will address a press conference at her Minto Road official residence at 7 pm today, reports UNB.

In the press conference, Begum Zia will announce her party's formal reaction to the just-signed CHT peace agreement between the government and the Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) said a press release last night.

2 killed, 50 shot in polls violence

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons have been killed and at least 50 injured in polls violence in Bhola, Barguna and Gopalganj districts.

Afzan, a seven year-old girl, who accompanied her mother to a polling centre at Ushakandi under Sadar thana of Bhola on Monday, was fatally injured in a bomb explosion. She died at Bhola hospital yesterday, our Barisal correspondent reported.

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PM urges BNP to join peace process

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said signing of the CHT accord will bring to an end a long period of conflict, restore peace and open up avenues for development of the Chittagong Hill Tracts region.

She also said the peace treaty has been signed within the constitutional framework.

"We have reached the understanding through discussion. Now peace will be restored in the hill tracts and development activities can be re-started," Hasina stated.

The Prime Minister was expressing satisfaction in her remarks made before newsmen immediately after the signing ceremony at the International Conference Centre yesterday at around 10:30 am.

She said a copy of the treaty will be sent to the President first and a decision will be given whether the accord will be sent to the Jatiya Sangsad or not.

Responding to a question she said, "If the Opposition wants, we will place the treaty in the House with the permission of

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BNP, allies out to foil peace process : AL

Leaders of ruling Awami League yesterday urged the people to resist the 'conspiracies' of opposition BNP and its allies who, they apprehended, are out to foil the peace accord on Chittagong Hill Tracts, reports UNB.

They said the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has signed the CHT peace agreement in the wake of signing the Ganges water treaty by foiling various conspiracies hatched by BNP and some other anti-liberation forces.

Ministers and ruling party

See page 11

Pak President Leghari resigns

ISLAMABAD, Dec 2: President Farooq Ahmed Leghari resigned today culminating two weeks of political crisis that has virtually crippled the country and prompted fears of a military takeover, reports AP.

It has divided the Supreme Court, caused a battle between the Prime Minister and the Chief Justice and cast the powerful army chief in the role of mediator.

At a news conference Leghari, whose job as president was largely ceremonial, accused Sharif of trying to consolidate all the power in his hands.

Leghari, who has come out on the side of the Chief Justice in his battle with the Prime Minister, accused Sharif of thwarting attempts to reach a compromise.

"Why could not an understanding be reached?" Leghari asked when he announced his resignation. "I maintain an understanding could have been reached."

Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad will become acting president in keeping with Pakistan's constitution.

As well as Leghari, the Chief Justice also will be replaced.

The Prime Minister has asked that Ajmal Mian, the most senior judge on the 17-member Supreme Court, becomes acting chief justice.

"I took the oath to protect the Constitution and I leave this office to uphold it," said Leghari, adding he had refused to support Sharif's attempts to replace the Chief Justice.

However, the Supreme Court already was deeply divided over Shah, with 10 of the 17 judges on the Supreme Court bench opposing Shah on the grounds that he was wrongly promoted to chief justice, ahead of other more senior judges.

The country was plunged further into crisis earlier today when conflicting rulings were issued by rival Supreme Court justices. Many feared it could result in a military takeover.

But army chief Gen Jehangir

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BIMAN'S REVISED DOMESTIC WINTER TIMETABLE
(3rd Dec '97-07 Jan '98)

	DAC-CGP		CGP-DAC	
WED	BG 611	0830/0910	BG 612	0940/1020
	BG 415	1715/1800	BG 026	1030/1110
			BG 416	1830/1915
THU	BG 611	0830/0910	BG 612	0940/1020
	BG 613	1520/1600	BG 614	1625/1705
FRI	BG 417	1155/1240	BG 028	1000/1040
	BG 413	1830/1915	BG 418	1700/1745
			BG 414	1945/2030
SAT	BG 611	0830/0910	BG 612	0940/1020
	BG 613	1520/1600	BG 614	1625/1705
SUN	BG 611	0830/0910	BG 612	0940/1020
	BG 433	1255/1340	BG 422	2055/2140
	BG 421	1940/2025		
MON	BG 411	0830/0915	BG 412	0945/1030
	BG 615	1745/1825	BG 616	1850/1930
TUE	BG 417	1155/1240	BG 046	1315/1340
	BG 421	1940/2025	BG 418	1700/1745
			BG 422	2055/2140
	DAC-CXB		CXB-DAC	
THU	BG 435	1200/1300	BG 436	1330/1510
SUN	BG 433	1255/1435	BG 434	1505/1605
	DAC-RJH		RJH-DAC	
WED	BG 481	1200/1240	BG 482	1310/1350
SAT	BG 491	1200/1405	BG 492	1435/1515
MON	BG 483	1600/1640	BG 484	1710/1750
TUE	BG 681	1645/1715	BG 682	1745/1815
	DAC-ZYL		ZYL-DAC	
WED	BG 603	1055/1125	BG 604	1155/1225
	BG 605	1310/1340	BG 606	1410/1440
	BG 607	1930/2000	BG 608	2030/2100
THU	BG 603	1055/1125	BG 604	1155/1225
	BG 605	1310/1340	BG 606	1410/1440
	BG 609	2010/2040	BG 610	2110/2140
FRI	BG 603	1055/1125	BG 604	1155/1225
	BG 605	1310/1340	BG 606	1410/1440
	BG 607	2100/2130	BG 608	2200/2230
SAT	BG 603	1055/1125	BG 604	1155/1225
	BG 605	1310/1340	BG 606	1410/1440
	BG 607	1930/2000	BG 608	2030/2100
SUN	BG 603	1055/1125	BG 604	1155/1225
	BG 605	1310/1340	BG 606	1410/1440
	BG 607	2100/2130	BG 608	2200/2230
MON	BG 601	0920/0950	BG 602	1020/1050
	BG 403	1115/1155	BG 404	1225/1305
	BG 605A	1535/1605	BG 606A	1635/1705
	BG 609	2010/2040	BG 610	2110/2140
TUE	BG 601	0920/0950	BG 602	1020/1050
	BG 607	1930/2000	BG 608	2030/2100
	DAC-SPD		SPD-DAC	
THU	BG 493	1815/1910	BG 494	1940/2030
SAT	BG 491	1200/1255	BG 492	1325/1515
SUN	BG 493	1645/1740	BG 494	1810/1900
TUE	BG 691	1140/1225	BG 692	1255/1340
	DAC-BZL		BZL-DAC	
SUN	BG 471	0800/0835	BG 472	0905/0940
	DAC-JSR		JSR-DAC	
WED	BG 461	0930/1005	BG 462	1035/1110
	BG 469	2000/2035	BG 470	2105/2140
THU	BG 461	0930/1005	BG 462	1035/1110
	BG 667	1740/1810	BG 668	1840/1910
FRI	BG 461	0930/1005	BG 462	1035/1110
	DAC-JSR		JSR-DAC	
SAT	BG 461	0930/1005	BG 462	1035/1110
	BG 467	1830/1905	BG 468	1935/2010
SUN	BG 463	1030/1105	BG 464	1135/1210
MON	BG 467	1830/1905	BG 468	1935/2010
TUE	BG 461	0930/1005	BG 462	1035/1110
	CGP-CCU		CCU-CGP	
FRI/TUE	BG 697	1315/1405	BG 698	1445/1625
	DAC-CCU		CCU-DAC	
WED	BG 091	1100/1110	BG 092	1220/1330
THU	BG 091	1100/1110	BG 092	1220/1330
FRI	BG 091	0800/0810	BG 092	0850/1000
	BG 095	2110/2130	BG 096	2210/2325
SAT	BG 091	1100/1110	BG 092	1220/1330
SUN	BG 091	1100/1110	BG 092	1220/1330
MON	BG 091	0800/0815	BG 092	0920/1030
TUE	BG 091	1555/1610	BG 092	1715/1825
	DAC-KTM		KTM-DAC	
WED	BG 703	1530/1640	BG 704	1720/1845
FRI	BG 703	1700/1810	BG 704	1850/2015
SUN	BG 703	1135/1245	BG 704	1850/2015
MON	BG 701	1135/1245	BG 702	1325/1450

GD-388

BNP to announce programme today

'Accord an exception to unitary govt'

By Staff Correspondent

BNP has termed the just-signed CHT treaty "contrary to the Constitution, existing laws, sovereignty of the Jatiya Sangsad and national interests."

However, the major opposition party did not announce any hartal or agitation programme yesterday to protest the agreement.

Giving his party's instant reaction to the accord, signed earlier on the day, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP told newsmen at the Minto Road official resident of the party chief and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Begum Khaleda Zia that the accord was also an "exception to the unitary form of government in the country."

Emerging from a crucial meeting of BNP Standing Committee there, Mannan Bhuiyan said that the standing body was "examining the accord clause by clause" and that they would come up with an "explicit and comprehensive reaction" and announce agitation programmes against the agreement today (Wednesday).

Alleging that the govern-

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Cooperation needed to implement accord: Shantu Larma

By Staff Correspondent

"We have made a new beginning in our lives. After the accord we will now return to normal life."

This was stated by PCJSS chief Jyotirindriyo Bodhipriya Larma, popularly known as Shantu Larma, the main signatory to the peace accord while giving his reaction to newsmen who gathered at the International Conference Centre yesterday morning.

"It is easy to sign an agreement. It is difficult to implement it," Shantu Larma said.

Responding to a question as to when the peace process would begin he replied, "With the signing of the accord the peace process has already begun."

Describing the process Larma commented, "It was a difficult task to accomplish. It was a lengthy one. But due the cooperative efforts we have been able to achieve it."

Larma added, " The entire world is going through a peace process and we are not outside it."

The chief of Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) said cooperation of all the people of the entire country is required to help implement the accord.

"I seek cooperation of all people, all parties," Larma said.

Shantu Larma thanked the government for making efforts

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Peace accord evokes mixed reaction

By Staff Correspondent

The CHT peace accord signed yesterday evoked mixed reaction from political and other organisations in the country.

Processions were brought out in the port city for and against the CHT peace accord, yesterday afternoon, our staff correspondent reported.

Supporters of Awami League brought out a procession hailing the treaty while BNP supporters brought out procession against the treaty in the city.

No untoward incidents were reported, police said.

Authorities tightened security in the city with the deployment additional police and BDR to prevent any outbreak of violence.

However, city road thined in the afternoon as panic-stricken people rushed to their homes from outside.

Our Rajshahi correspondent reported that BNP, Jamaat, Muslim League, Rajshahi University Teachers Association, Zia-Khaleda Research Council and some other organisations brought out processions and issued statements condemning signing of the 'said' peace treaty with the PCJSS. They observed

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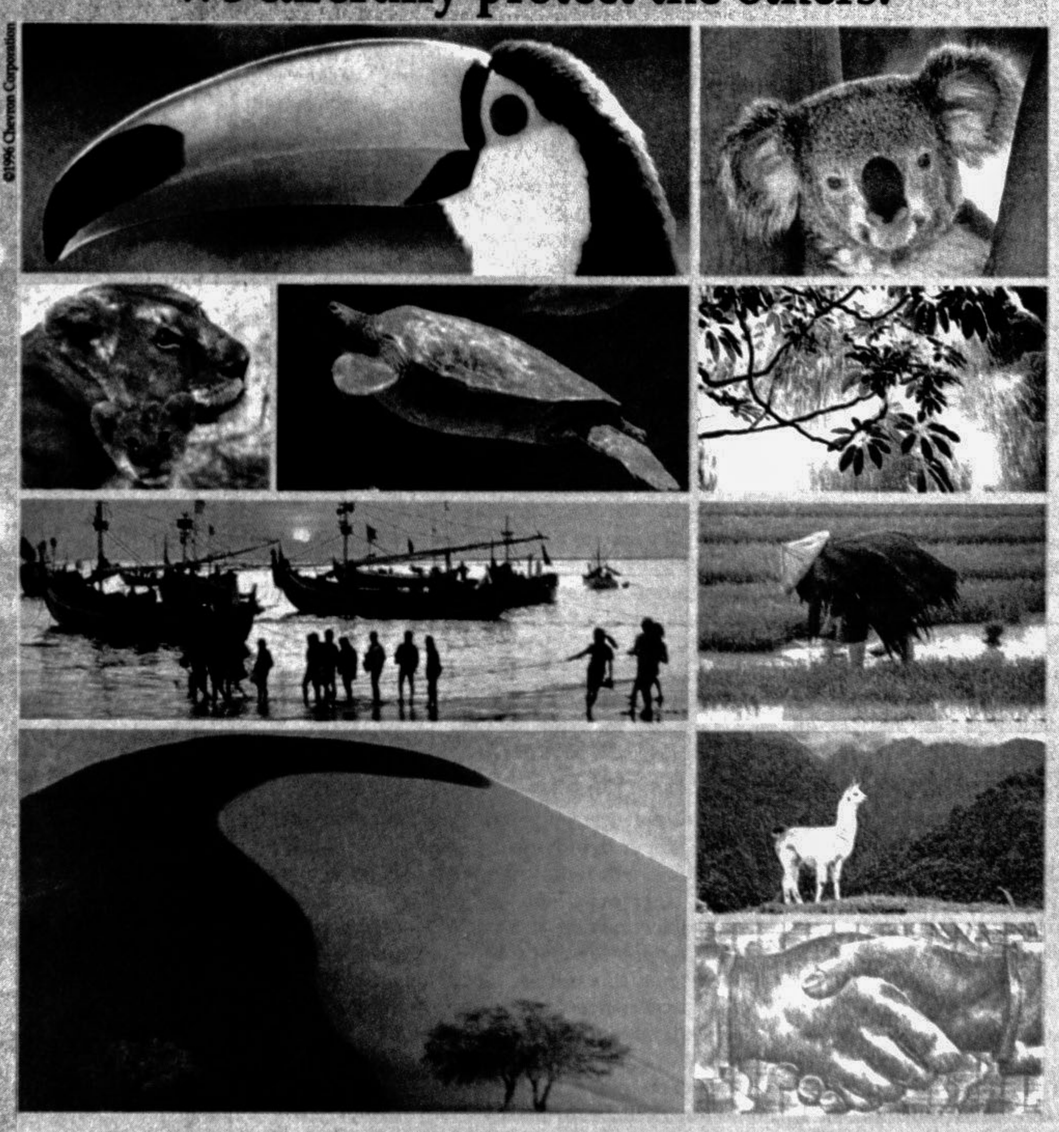

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