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Awami League brought out a procession in the city yesterday hailing the CHT peace agreement. —Star photo



A BNP procession in the city yesterday protesting the CHT accord. —Star photo

## 22-member Regional Council to be set up Army to remain in 6 CHT cantts

By Special Correspondent

Six cantonments and Bangladesh Rifles will remain in the Chittagong Hill Tracts under the peace accord signed yesterday.

Excepting the cantonments at the three district headquarters of Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban and three cantonments at Ali Kadam, Ruma and Dighinala, all temporary camps of the Armed Forces, Ansars and VDP will be withdrawn to their fixed camps gradually.

The accord said that after signing of the agreement and return of the PCJSS members to normal life, the temporary camps will be withdrawn gradually within a timeframe.

But in case of deterioration of law and order, natural disasters and in case of such situation in other areas of the country the army could be deployed as per rules. The Regional Council could make necessary request to the proper authorities in this regard, the agreement said.

### Regional council

Under the agreement, a powerful Regional Council (RC) will be constituted comprising the local government councils of three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban.

The Chairman of the 22-member RC will be indirectly elected by the members of the three hill district councils. The Chairman, who must be a tribal, will enjoy the rank and

status of a state minister. Two-thirds members of the regional council will be elected from the tribal people.

The proposed council will have a chairman, 12 tribal members (male), two tribal members (women), six non-tribal members (male) and one non-tribal member (woman).

Among the 12 male tribal members, five will be elected from Chakma tribe, three from Marmas, two from Tripura, one from Murong and Tanchainga, one from Lusa and Bom, Pankho, Khumi, Chak and Khiam. Among the male non-tribal members, two each will be elected from each of the three hill districts.

The Regional Council will be elected for five years. An official with the status of a joint secretary will be the chief executive officer of the council.

The council will coordinate and supervise the general administration, law and order and development activities of the three hill districts.

Tribal laws and dispensation of social justice will also come under the council. It will coordinate disaster management and relief activities with NGOs and issue licenses for heavy industries.

Until the council is elected through indirect and direct voting, the government will constitute an interim regional council and vest all powers in it. The government will enact laws relating to CHT in consultation with the council.

## 20 injured Anti-accord procession attacked at Bandarban

BANDARBAN, Dec 2: Some 20 people including two policemen, were injured when a procession of Parbatya Gano Parishad (PGP) was attacked by some unidentified people in the hill town today, reports UNB.

The PGP brought out the procession opposing the CHT agreement which was signed between the government and the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) in the capital today.

The attackers pelted bricks at the procession in front of a confectionary in the town at about 6 pm. The processionists retaliated and hurled bricks at the attackers.

Of the injured, two policemen — sub-inspector Habib and constable Salam — were taken to the local police hospital.

The police was deployed in the hill town as processions were brought out both in favour and against the peace accord.

The supporters of ruling Awami League and its front organisations brought out a procession welcoming the peace agreement while the All Party Unity brought out a procession against the accord.

Meanwhile, local political leaders and people of different strata expressed mixed reactions on the government-PCJSS treaty on CHT.

Chairman of Local Government Council Khowing Cho Pru Master hoped that the donors aid would increase in the CHT.

## Larma accorded reception at Dudukchhara

KHAGRACHHARI, Dec 2: PCJSS chief Shantu Larma was accorded an instant reception at the remote Dudukchhara frontier when the tribal leaders returned from the capital after signing the historic peace agreement on CHT today, reports UNB.

Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) leaders arrived here at about 12:30 pm by a helicopter.

The PCJSS leaders and hundreds of enthusiastic tribal people, who gathered at Dudukchhara from across the CHT, showered petals on Shantu Larma and his aides amid cheers and clappings.

Two members of the National Committee on CHT — Chittagong City Mayor Alhaj ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser — accompanied the PCJSS leaders from the capital.

Addressing the people, Shantu Larma said through the signing of the peace agreement with the government various demands of the tribal people have been realised.

"We have a lot of hopes and aspiration... we achieved many of them... this accord is enough for the tribals if you consider the reality and the interests of the country," said a beaming Larma.

Seeking cooperations of all for implementing the agreement, Larma said those who are opposing the peace accord are working against the reality and the interests of the country.



Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasnat Abdullah and NCCHT convenor presented a copy of the CHT peace accord to President Shahabuddin Ahmed at the Bangabhaban yesterday. —PID photo

## Copy of CHT peace accord submitted to President

Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah yesterday submitted a copy of peace agreement on CHT to President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban, reports UNB.

Hasnat, who is also the Convenor of the National Committee on Hill Tracts Affairs, submitted the copy on behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The agreement was signed between the government and the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity at the International Conference Centre yesterday morning.

Hasnat was accompanied by State Minister for Civil Aviation, Tourism and Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir.

They apprised the President of various aspects of the peace agreement.

Secretary-in-charge of Special Affairs Division Kazi Golam Rahman was present on the occasion, said an official communiqué from Bangabhaban.

## Samad Azad briefs foreign diplomats

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad briefed the heads of diplomatic missions and development agencies about the agreement signed between the government and Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), reports UNB.

Highlighting its various aspects, the Foreign Minister hailed the accord, aiming at restoring peace in the troubled region.

## PM urges BNP

From Page 1

the President. She hoped that the opposition parties, particularly the major opposition BNP, will extend cooperation.

"I will request the BNP to give their full support and cooperation in the restoration of peace and stability," Hasina said.

"Join the peace process, instead of creating unrest by opposing the peace accord," she advised the Opposition.

Hasina said a certain quarter which does not want peace is making provocative statements.

She urged the people not to pay any heed to any provocation.

Responding to another question whether or not the guerrillas would surrender their arms following the accord, she said, "It is quite obvious" that they would lay down their arms and return to normal life.

The Prime Minister said the accord has been signed within the constitutional framework, ensuring sovereignty and integrity of the country.

The tribals are also citizens of this country. They have the same rights as enjoyed by their brothers.

She thanked the PCJSS leaders and the members of the National Committee on CHT for their genuine and sincere efforts for signing the accord.

## Cong now wants to restore Gujral govt

NEW DELHI, Dec 2: The Congress (I) Party, which topped India's ruling coalition last week, said today it was involved in negotiations to restore Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's government, reports AFP.

"We have been telling them (Gujral's United Front-Coalition), you run the government," Congress General Secretary Oscar Fernandes said.

"Negotiations are on with United Front constituents separately," Fernandes said after a meeting of the Congress leadership.

"All parties want a solution. Nobody is talking about elections," he said.

Gujral's coalition officials could not be reached for comment.

President KR Narayanan also pursued efforts to avoid elections following last week's resignation by Gujral after the Congress withdrew its backing for his coalition government.

The Congress took the decision on November 28 after Gujral refused to dump a coalition partner linked to Sri Lankan Tamil Tiger separatists blamed for the 1991 assassination of former Congress Premier Rajiv Gandhi.

The Congress and Hindu nationalists then staked claim to assume office. But both are short of adequate support in the 545-member hung parliament for forming a stable government.

Meanwhile, Parliament adjourned indefinitely today after being formally told about Friday's collapse of the minority government of Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, which fell when the Congress Party withdrew support from the 14-party coalition.

President K R Narayanan — the constitutional head of state — will decide if he should ask either of them to form a government and prove their majority in a confidence vote in Parliament.

## PHOTO EXHIBITION AND DISCUSSION MEETING on Late A S M Mostafizur Rahman

To commemorate the first death anniversary of A S M Mostafizur Rahman, former Minister of Home, Commerce and Foreign Affairs a photo exhibition and a discussion meeting will be held today, Wednesday, 3rd December, 1997.

### Programme:

3-00 PM: Inauguration of photo exhibition by Mr Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP, Secretary General, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

3-30 PM: Discussion meeting

Chief guest: Prof A Q M Bodruddoza Chowdhury, MP Deputy Leader of Opposition in the Parliament

Special guest: Former Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, MP

Venue: Main Auditorium, National Press Club, Dhaka.

M M Rezaul Karim A N M Ehsanul Hoque Milon, MP (Former Ambassador) (Member Secretary) Convenor

Mostafizur Rahman Memorial Council

## 4 JU BCL activists apologise to Star Correspondent

By Staff Correspondent

Four activists of pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League at Jahangirnagar University (JU) who had assaulted the JU Correspondent of The Daily Star and made threats on his life, have apologised to him for their behaviour.

The BCL (S-P) activists, Mithu (Economics, final year), Zaman (Economics, final year), Chenghish (Bengali, final year) and Enamul (Economics, final year) signed a pledge bond apologising to the correspondent, Gobinda Bar on Monday night.

The pledge bond was signed on Monday night at the provost office of Al Beruni Hall of the university in presence of Proctor Afsar Ahmed, Provost of Al Beruni Hall Dr Mohammad Abul Hossain and JU BCL President Sheikh Mohammad Nuruzaman.

In the pledge bond, the BCL activists promised that such incident will not happen in future and they will be responsible if the security of Gobinda is at a stake during his stay on the campus. Gobinda also withdrew his allegations against the BCL activists.

The BCL activists also get preference in getting bank credits on easy terms for cottage industry and fruit orchards and other self-employment efforts, their children will receive help in education and their certificates from foreign institutions will be accepted.

The accord is capped by formation of a tribal affairs ministry for the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and RC both to be headed by tribal leaders, backed by revamped district councils for the three hill districts who would have sway over the local police up to the rank of sub-inspector.

There will be a Chief Executive Officer having the rank of a joint-secretary.

The RC will oversee and co-ordinate the administration, law and order and development activities. It will also grant licence for NGO activities and setting up of heavy industries.

All posts of officials and employees in the government, semi-government and autonomous bodies in the CHT will be filled up giving priority to the tribal people.

But, if there is no competent candidate, the government may appoint or depute a person for any post.

About the much disputed land ownership issue, the agreement said, "whatever is in the existing laws, no khas land in the CHT region can be leased out, purchased, sold or transferred without the permission

of the Parishad.

But, it said this clause will not be applicable for reserved forest, Kaptai, hydroelectric project, Betbunia earth satellite station area, state-owned mills and factories and recorded lands of the government.

The allotment of 'fringe land' of Kaptai lake will be given to the original owners on priority basis.

Collection of land development tax in the district will be handed over to the Parishad and the collected revenue will be deposited with the Parishad.

Land and land administration, local police, tribal law and social justice, youth welfare, environment protection and development, local tourism, improvement trust and other local administrative bodies except municipalities and Union Parishads, license for local trade and commerce, irrigation from different rivers and canals except Kaptai lake, Jhum cultivation except money lending business will be within the responsibility of the hill district Parishad.

A land commission headed by a retired judge will be set up to settle land dispute of the rehabilitated refugees. It will also hold the power to cancel the ownership of lands which were illegally grabbed and allotted.

No appeal could be made against the verdict of this commission.

The other members of the commission will be the concerned circle chief, chairman or

## CHT peace accord signed

From Page 1

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No appeal could be made against the verdict of this commission.

The other members of the commission will be the concerned circle chief, chairman or

a representative of the Regional Parishad, divisional commissioner and the concerned chairman of the district Parishad.

The tenure of the commission will be three years, but it can be extended with the advice of the Regional Parishad.

A land survey will begin soon after implementation of the accord repatriation of refugees and resettlement of the refugees and non-tribals in consultation with the RC to settle land disputes and ensure ownership of land of the tribespeople by recording their titles.

The government will ensure ownership of lands to the tribal families who are landless or have less than two acres of land by granting them at least two acres, subject to availability. If not, they will be provided with grove lands.

The tribal refugees who had taken loans from government agencies but failed to utilise them would get a total waiver of the loans and interest.

The lands allotted to non-tribals and non-locals for rubber or other plantations but not utilised properly in the last ten years will be cancelled.

There will be a three-member committee to oversee implementation of the agreement.

The RC will have an advisory committee drawn from representatives of the three hill district councils, MPs from the region, Chakma, Bomang and Maung Rajas and three non-tribal permanent residents.

**বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় যাদুঘর**

বাংলাদেশের পৌরবয়স্ক ঐতিহ্যের সংগে পরিচিত যেন জাতীয় যাদুঘর পরিদর্শন করেন।

বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় যাদুঘর মহান বিজয় দিবস ১৯৯৭ উদযাপন উপলক্ষে শিশু কিশোরদের জন্য রচনা ও চিত্রাঙ্কন প্রতিযোগিতার আয়োজন করেছে। প্রতিযোগিতার জন্য নির্ধারিত বিভাগ ও বিষয়বস্তু নিচে দেওয়া হলো।

বিভাগ	শ্রেণী	বিষয়
ক	ষষ্ঠ শ্রেণী থেকে অষ্টম শ্রেণী	আমার দেশ জাতীয় যাদুঘর (১০০০ শব্দ)
খ	নবম ও দশম শ্রেণী	বাংলাদেশের মুক্তিযুদ্ধ (১৫০০ শব্দ)

প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশ গ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক শিশু কিশোরদের সাদা কাগজে এক পৃষ্ঠায় হাতে লিখে বা টাইপ করে নাম, ঠিকানা, শ্রেণী টেলিফোন নম্বর (যদি থাকে) উল্লেখ পূর্বক শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধানের প্রত্যয়নপত্র সহ আগামী ৯ ডিসেম্বর '৯৭-এর মধ্যে নিচে দেয়া ঠিকানায় রচনা পাঠাতে হবে।

**চিত্রাঙ্কন প্রতিযোগিতা**

বিভাগ	শ্রেণী	বিষয়
ক	শিশু শ্রেণী থেকে দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণী	উনুজ (বা খুশি)
খ	তৃতীয় শ্রেণী থেকে পঞ্চম শ্রেণী	নদী
গ	ষষ্ঠ শ্রেণী থেকে অষ্টম শ্রেণী	মুক্তিযুদ্ধ
ঘ	নবম ও দশম শ্রেণী	গ্রামীণ মেলা।

প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশ গ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক শিশু কিশোরদের আগামী ১০ ডিসেম্বর '৯৭-এর মধ্যে যাদুঘরের জনশিক্ষা বিভাগে উপস্থিত হয়ে নাম/ ঠিকানা জমা দিয়ে রেজিস্ট্রেশন কার্ড সংগ্রহ করতে হবে। ১২ ডিসেম্বর '৯৭ সকাল ১০.০০ টায় প্রতিযোগিতা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। প্রত্যেক প্রতিযোগীকে রেজিস্ট্রেশন কার্ড, রং, ক্রিপোর্ট, পেন্সিল ইত্যাদি আনুষঙ্গিক জিনিস পত্র সংগে নিয়ে সকাল ৯.০০ টায় যাদুঘরে উপস্থিত হতে হবে।

মোহাম্মদ মোহসীন  
কীপার, জনশিক্ষা বিভাগ  
বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় যাদুঘর

ফোন : ৮৬৯১৯৬-৮

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**তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিঃ**  
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)  
১০৫, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এডিনিটি  
কাওরান বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১৫  
ফোন : ৮১৯২১০, ৯৫৬৩৬৭, ৯৫৬৩৬৮, ৮১৯৩৭৯, ৮১২১৩৫-৪২

**গ্যাস সরবরাহ বন্ধ সংক্রান্ত জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

ঢাকা মহানগরীর পশ্চিম অংশে গ্যাস সরবরাহ ব্যবস্থার উন্নতির লক্ষ্যে সদ্য নির্মিত আমিনবাজার-জাসাদপেট ১২" ব্যাস সম্পন্ন বিতরণ পাইপ লাইনের সঙ্গে বিদ্যমান গ্যাস নেটওয়ার্কের বিভিন্ন স্থানে টাই-ইন-কাজের জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত স্থানসমূহে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তারিখ ও সময়ে গ্যাস সরবরাহ ২৪ ঘণ্টার জন্য বন্ধ থাকিবে।

তারিখ ও সময়

০৪-১২-৯৭ বৃহস্পতিবার দিবাগত রাত ২২-০০ ঘটিকা	শ্যামলী, রায়ের বাজার, শেরে-ই-বালা ব্রোড, হাইট ০৫-১২-৯৭ দিবাগত রাত ২২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।	পশ্চিম ধানমন্ডি, কল্যাণপুর এলাকা।
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উল্লিখিত সময়ে সকল গ্যাস সরঞ্জাম ব্যবহার বন্ধ রাখা ও উক্ত কাজে সহযোগিতা প্রদানের জন্য সম্মিলিত সকল গ্যাস গ্রাহকবৃন্দকে অনুরোধ জানানো যাইতেছে। গ্রাহকবৃন্দ সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য কোম্পানী দৃষ্টে প্রকাশ করিতেছে।

তিতাস/জনসংযোগ-৫১/৯৭-৯৮  
জিডি-৩৬৮

কর্তৃপক্ষ