



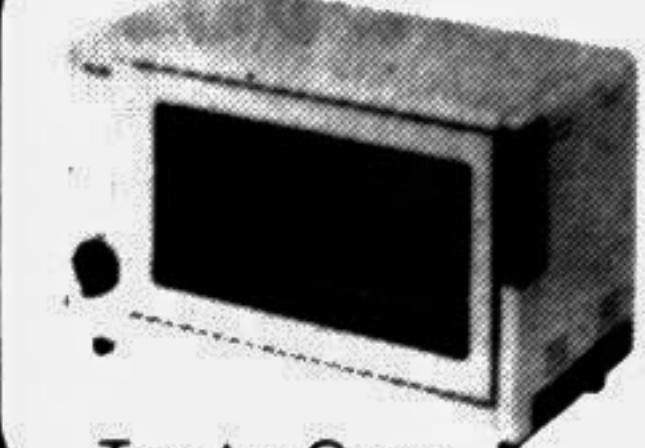
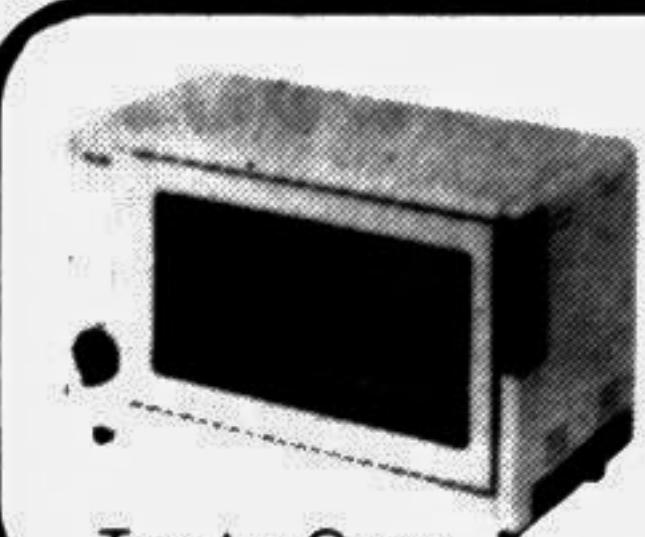
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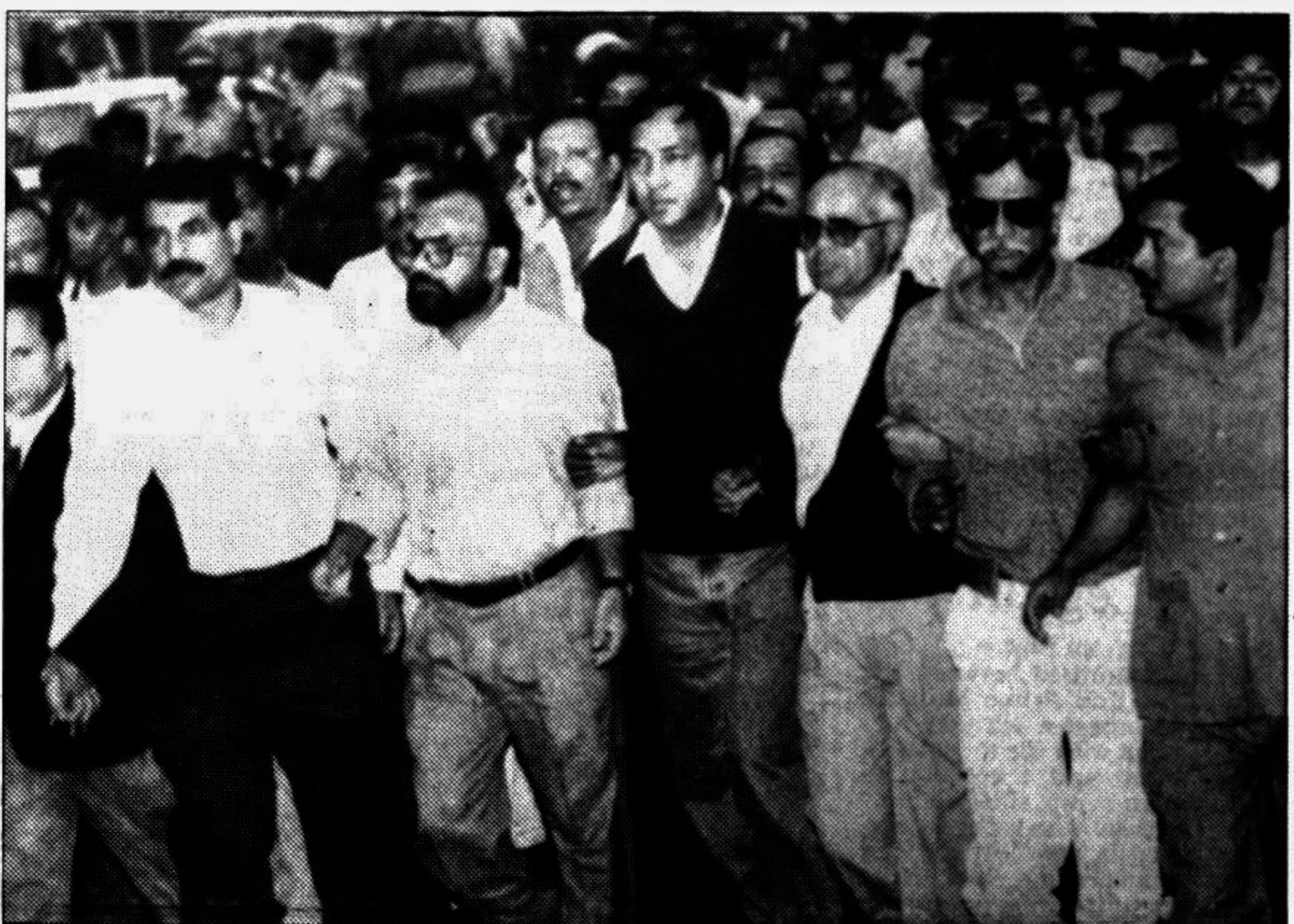
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PHILIPS



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



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and three cantonments at Ali Kadam, Ruma and Dighinala, all temporary camps of the Armed Forces, Ansars and VDP will be withdrawn to their fixed camps gradually.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said that after signing of the agreement and return of the PCJSS members to normal life, the temporary camps will be withdrawn gradually within a timeframe.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 (female), six non-tribal members (male) and one non-tribal members (female).

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 Lusai and Bom, Pankho, Khumi, Chak and Khumi.

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

BANDARBAR, Dec 2: Some 20 people including two policemen, were injured when a procession of Parbattya 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 Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) in the capital today.

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

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

Huge 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.

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.

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

Chairman of Local Government Council Khowaing Cho Pru Master hoped that the donor 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.

Parbattya 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 clapping.

Two members of the National Committee on CHT — Chittagong City Mayor Alhaj ABD 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 aspirations ... 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.

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, MP's from the region, Chakma, Bomang and Maung Rajas and three non-tribal permanent residents.

### 4 JU BCL activists apologise to Star Correspondent

By Staff Correspondent

Four activists of pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra 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) and 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 Prosector Afas Ahmed, Provost of Al Beruni Hall, Dr Mohammad Abul Hossain and JU BCL President Sheikh Mohammad Nuruzaaman.

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.

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

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