

BNP calls hartal Sunday

By Staff Correspondent
BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has announced a dawn-to-dusk hartal across the country on Sunday to protest the signing of a 'black accord' on the CHT.

Addressing a crowded press conference at her Minto Road official residence in the city last night, the Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad also announced a three-day

12 BNP leaders granted bail

By SC Correspondent
BNP parliamentarian Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury, Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmed, Manzoor Morshed Khan and eight other party leaders have been granted anticipatory bail in two separate criminal cases filed in connection with the killings on

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TOMORROW
The spaceship called the Mother Earth where we all live is at risk. The world is forecast to be hotter by 3 degrees Celsius. If one of us damages this spaceship, we all run the risk of getting annihilated.

Read SWM's cover story this week about climate change while worried ministers, diplomats, scientists and journalists from across the globe are now busy at the Japanese city of Kyoto finding a solutions to the most serious problem facing the mankind.

Inside Today Article

Violence in politics

Jolt, Jerk and Jab for a Democracy

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Resist illegal CHT accord: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent



Begum Khaleda Zia addressing press conference

BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia has said her party rejects the CHT peace accord because it violates the constitution and undermines parliament.

Addressing a crowded press conference at the Minto Road official residence in the city last night, she also termed the treaty a "black and illegal" one and called for "resisting it with all strength."

Through signing of the treaty, the Awami League government has vested almost all state powers including the right to administer, collect taxes, control trade and commerce and the law enforcing agencies in one tenth of the country's area in the hand of the proposed Regional Council, she said.

"It clearly appears that the government has signed the treaty at the dictates, assistance, suggestion and media-

tion of another powerful country...At this, the fear in public mind about that interested country will mount", Begum Zia said.

"The treaty gives the impression that the government has offered the Shantubahini all that it has asked for, plus what it even didn't."

The Opposition leader said the treaty will weaken the government, the nation and its economy, lessen people's confidence in the administration, reduce the strength of the border security force and hamper security and livelihood of minority communities living in the CHT. "It will also have an adverse impact on the life-style of the whole nation."

The BNP chief said, the accord has also converted the non-tribes in the CHT into "second class citizens" and allowed formation of "a very

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Pahari Gana Parishad, Hill Women's Federation and Pahari Chhatra Parishad brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding autonomy for the CHT. — Star photo

Zillur urges Opposition to help implement CHT accord

Awami League General Secretary and LGSD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman has sought cooperation of the opposition in implementing the CHT peace accord, reports UNB.

With the signing of the accord, another election commitment of the party has been fulfilled, Zillur said and expressed gratitude to Allah and congratulated all concerned, including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

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PM meets editors today

By Staff Correspondent
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will meet the editors of national dailies and news agencies today at 4 pm at the International Conference Centre.

Mixed reaction in 3 hill districts

From Our Correspondent

KHAGRACHHARI, Dec 3: The accord on Chittagong Hill Tracts between the government and the Parbatya Chhatra Gram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) evoked mixed reactions from the people who gathered before Radio and TV yesterday to hear the news about the historic agreement.

Hansadaha Chakma, the elderly tribal leader who played a key role in maintaining liaison between the government and the PCJSS said he was extremely happy about the accord. Illness forced him to stay back at his home. Otherwise, he would have been in Dhaka to witness the momentous occasion, he said.

Expressing his gratitude to Lord Buddha, he thanked the government and the PCJSS for the agreement for which the hill people were waiting so long. Ananta Bihari Khisa, a noted intellectual said he would

not make any comment until he could go through it. But he said it was good that an agreement had been signed.

Zahedul Alam, an interim member of the Khagrachhari local government council described it another victory on the 'month of victory'. The accord would help usher in a new era in the CHT, he added.

Jatindra Lal Tripura, President of Bangladesh Tripura Kalyan Sangsad expressed the hope that communal harmony and amity would be established after long.

Chairman of Khagrachhari Pourashava Abul Kashem said that he was yet to get the details. "I welcome it if it is acceptable to all."

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SEC cases against 3 cos: Verdict on quashment December 9

By Staff Correspondent

The High Court will deliver a judgement on December 9 on quashment of cases against two Beximco companies and Doha Securities, filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The cases, originally filed in the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate, were referred to the High Court by the District and Sessions Judge who rejected them and recommended quash-

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Gun shots at DU as JCD brings out procession

By Staff Correspondent

Gun shots rocked the Dhaka University campus yesterday when the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were protesting the accord between the government and the PCJSS.

Witnesses said as the JCD demonstrators reached the DUCSU bhaban at around 5:30 pm, some unidentified elements fired two rounds of blank shots from a nearby place sending the demonstrators running for

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British, French envoys welcome CHT accord

Western diplomats here yesterday welcomed the peace accord on Chittagong Hill Tracts, calling it a great success and significant achievement, reports UNB.

British High Commissioner David Walker said, "This is a very significant and considerable achievement and I congratulate warmly all those involved in recent negotiations and those in 1992 to '95."

Walker said, "They have found a political solution to a very long-standing problem."

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Tripora welcomes CHT peace accord

AGARTALA, Dec 3: Tripura today welcomed the peace accord signed by the Bangladesh government and Chakmas yesterday saying it would not only end the 23-year old tribal problems but also ensure proper rehabilitation of the refugees in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), reports PTI.

Tripura Chief Minister Dasaraath Deb said the accord would be of much help to Chakma refugees' repatriation and solution to their problems.

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Cabinet seeks dissolution of parliament Narayanan announces polls date today

NEW DELHI, Dec 3: Fresh parliamentary elections in India are likely to be announced tomorrow, a Presidential Palace official said, report agencies.

Indian President KR Narayanan was expected to dissolve parliament and recommend fresh polls after a meeting with Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral at 12:00 am (0630 GMT) tomorrow, the official said.

Earlier, India's caretaker Cabinet recommended today that the president dissolve Parliament in pre-paration for new elections to replace the government that fell last week.

Also today, a right wing party that had demanded it be allowed to form a new government as an alternative to early elections admitted it had been unable to muster support.

Bharatiya Janata leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee told re-

porters he had advised the president that "it appears that no one is in a position to form the government, so the best way out is to go the people for their verdict."

Vajpayee said President KR Narayanan agreed that it appeared no party or group was able to lead a government.

Today's recommendation from the Cabinet cleared any technical barriers to scheduling elections three years ahead of schedule. Gujral had made no recommendation when he resigned last Friday, wanting to leave Narayanan's options open. Some constitutional experts had questioned whether the president could call elections without the formal advice of the government.

Agriculture Minister Chaturanan Mishra announced the unanimous decision that parliament should be dissolved as he left a Cabinet meeting.

Election officials say it would take at least two months to organise a ballot in the world's most populous democracy, with 600 million voters.

The Congress and Bharatiya Janata parties both wanted a chance to form a new government. But neither has a majority in the 545-member house, so would need partners to rule.

Harkishen Singh Surjeet, a Communist leader of the United Front, said he complained to Narayanan on Tuesday that Bharatiya Janata was resorting to shady methods, offering 5 million rupees (about \$128,000) and Cabinet posts in exchange for support in a vote of confidence.

Bharatiya Janata, the largest party in parliament and the most likely to benefit if elections are held, called the complaint "baseless and malicious." Press Trust of India news agency reported.

New Pak President, CJ take over

ISLAMABAD, Dec 3: An acting president and an interim Supreme Court chief took over in Pakistan today following Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's victory in a bruising constitutional battle, reports AFP.

Senate chairman Wasim Sajjad stepped in as acting president following Farooq Ahmed Leghari's dramatic resignation as head of state late Tuesday, accusing Sharif of seeking "total powers".

Under the Constitution Wasim can take the office for 30 days until a new president is elected.

The Supreme Court moved to restructure its divided ranks by appointing Justice Ajmal Mian as interim chief justice in place of Sajjad Ali Shah, whose row

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Ajmal Mian taking oath as new Pak Chief Justice.

Motijheel area to be made rickshaw-free

A meeting reviewed the recommendations of the Task Force for easing traffic jam and development of traffic system in Dhaka metropolis, reports BSS.

The meeting has decided to make the Motijheel area rickshaw-free, stop movement of illegal rickshaws and free the footpaths from hawkers.

The meeting also took several steps to remove traffic congestion in different city streets. The Dhaka City Corporation, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority and departments concerned would take steps for the implementation of these decisions.

Ctg port stevedores call off programme

Bangladesh Masters Stevedores Association (BMSA) has called off its programme to stop gang-bucking in Chittagong port, reports UNB.

Their programme was scheduled to begin from tomorrow. But the BMSA withdrew its decision after a fruitful discussion with Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) and leaders of dock workers and employees on Monday, said an official hand-out yesterday.

CPA Chairman Rezwan UI Haq presided over the meeting which reviewed productivity of the port.

Kind attention Hon'ble Prime Minister & Minister of Commerce & Industry Regarding the Exhibition of Indian Packaging & Printing Materials in Dhaka

An exhibition of Indian Printing & Packaging Materials will be held at Dhaka from 18th Dec to 21st Dec '97 under the banner of "Pack India" on behalf of the Indian Packaging Institute organised by the Right Media Exposition Group. On this occasion a two days seminar "Towards Better Packaging" will also be held at Hotel Prubani. In this seminar different Indian speakers will discuss different aspects and business possibilities of Indian Packaging materials in Bangladesh.

The organiser of this exhibition, Right Media Group has also said in their letter that Bangladesh is a very potential market for Indian printing and packaging materials. On the other hand, Bangladesh cannot export any printing & packaging materials to India due to high import duty and other barriers on imported materials set by the Indian government.

As far as we know India has not so far organised any exhibition like this before in any of its neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar. Why they have chosen Bangladesh to be the first country having such exhibition? Does it indicate some weakness of our national policy? The motive of this exhibition for the first time in Bangladesh is very clear. It can be said that the person who are working behind the scene imperceptibly in organising this exhibition have taken up job which is against the interest of the Country. Printing and packaging industry is the fourth biggest industrial sector to provide job opportunities in our country. Almost Tk. 3,500 crore has been invested in this sector where innumerable people directly or in-directly earn their living from this industrial sector.

Presently our country is able to produce quality printing and packaging materials of international standard by offset process and able to meet the requirement of packaging materials of the country as well as export to other countries of the world. The manufacturers of corrugated box of the country meets the demand of the local consumers with high quality packaging materials. As the production rate in this sector is higher than its demand many of the industries has been shut down for want of work. In the past few years some flexible packaging industries has been established most of which are producing international quality packaging goods. Many industries are yet to be established which can easily meet the demand of the consumers. Unfortunately, after the implementation of open market economy in Bangladesh, there is no Fiscal Incentive available for producing these goods locally. Thus the printing and packaging industries of this country is facing an unequal competition like the other sectors.

Virtually Bangladesh is turning into a market of imported finished goods. The impractical import policy and tax anomalies, has led this sector towards an unequal competition and as such the very survival of this sector is now at stake. The present duty structure of imported finished products and raw materials are equal and some cases import duty of finished product are even lesser than the duty of raw materials. As a result cost of imported finished product becomes cheaper than the product produced locally. Due to this kind of tax anomalies our packaging sector is facing uneven competition. For this many NGO's, multinational and local companies are using imported packaging materials rather than buying from local producers. If this situation continues further all local packaging industries will be closed down leading to unemployment of countless working people. For the survival of this sector import duty of raw materials must be reduced than the duty of the finished products. Just when the local printing & packaging industries are losing their own market due to faulty import policy, the Indian Exhibition on packaging materials in our country will be very damaging, suicidal and have far reaching consequences. This exhibition will not only help the Indian packing industries to create their market here, at the same time this will lead to the closure of the local industries totally.

We however invite the foreign entrepreneurs including India, to invest and set up industries in this sector and market their products locally. We assure our all round co-operation in this regard. It is very important for all concern and the government to discourage any strategy that will transform Bangladesh into a market of imported packaging products. We hope that the concerned authorities will take immediate necessary initiative in this respect.

PACKAGING INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION OF BANGLADESH

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh National Board of Revenue Dhaka

- এদেশে আয়কর যথাসময়ে পরিশোধ করুন এবং
- অর্থনৈতিক কর্মকাণ্ডে আপনার অবদান রাখুন।

Advance Income Tax Payment for Second Quarter

The last date for advance income tax payment for the 2nd quarter of the current financial year is December 15, 1997. The advance income tax payable by the concerned taxpayer is to be paid through IT Form No. IT 31(B) (Amended) Challan.

The taxpayers should pay the advance tax filling in the said challan form as usual by replacing the figure '74 (1)' with the figure '64' in as many places as it occurs in the form. It may be mentioned that the financial limit of total income for payment of advance income tax for all classes of assessee is now Taka 1,00,000/- (one lakh).

All assessee concerned are requested to pay their advance income tax for the 2nd quarter of the current financial year relevant to the assessment year 1998-99 under this system by December 15, 1997. Simple interest @ 10% per annum will be leviable if the advance income tax is not paid or paid at a lesser amount than due.

DPP-27200-1/12
G-2974

National Board of Revenue

TI survey reveals

Owners influence news items, 84pc believe

By Staff Correspondent

A large section of the people consider that newspaper owners influence news items for their partisan interest, playing down or exaggerating events, according to a survey conducted by the Bangladesh chapter of Transparency International (TI), a non-government organisation.

Eighty-three per cent of the readers and those who keep themselves aware of news think that newspapers are professionally unethical and partisan, according to the survey report released at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Besides newspapers, the sur-

vey, conducted on 2500 households, also revealed widespread corruption and "extra-regular methods" in services provided by some educational institutions, health and public transport sectors, judiciary, police, municipal bodies and even in 'grameen shalish'.

Syed Humayun Kabir, Chairman of TI, Bangladesh Chapter, Barrister Manzoor Hasan, director of the organisation and Prof Mozaffar Ahmed were present during the press conference.

Police service and judiciary were at the top of the list of corrupt institutions, according to

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Filling up of Rayer Bazar canal stopped

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka City Corporation's bid to build a truck terminal filling up a natural canal at Rayer Bazar has come to a total halt following directives from the Prime Minister's Office.

But the Haikkar Khal (canal) still remains cut off and without any current in its water. The canal's flow of water was cut off

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DCC showcase on designer of Dhanmondi lake dev project

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has issued a show-cause notice on Vitti Sthapati Brindo Ltd. designer of the Dhanmondi Lake Development Project, as to why it has failed to submit the entire design of the scheme, sources in the DCC said.

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