

## 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

See Page 12 Col 7

## 12 BNP leaders granted bail

By SC Correspondent

BNP parliamentarian Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury, Col (retd) Oli Ahmed, Manzoor Morshed Khan and eight other party leaders have been granted anticipatory bail in two separate criminal case filed in connection with the killings on

See Page 12 Col 5

## 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 global village 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

Column: Currents and  
Crosscurrents  
by M M Rezaul Karim

Page 4

### Focus

Defeat the prophets of  
doom; and Investment  
in education—a  
changing scenario

Page 5

## Resist illegal CHT accord: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent



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 Shantibhumi 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-tribals in the CHT into "second class citizens" and allowed formation of "a very

See Page 12 Col 7



Pahari Gana Parishad, Hill Women's Federation and Pahari Chhatri 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 LGRD 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.

In a statement yesterday, he said after the historic water treaty, the CHT accord has been fulfilled.

See Page 12 Col 5

## 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.

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

District BNP General Secretary Abdul Wadud Bhuiya said that the government had entered into an unequal agreement, ignoring the people's demands.

See Page 12 Col 3

## Mixed reaction in 3 hill districts

From Our Correspondent

KHAGRACHHARI, Dec 3: The accord on Chittagong Hill Tracts between the government and the Parbatya Chattagram 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.

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See Page 12 Col 5

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See Page 12 Col 5

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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-

See Page 12 Col 4

## Gun shots at DU as JCD brings out procession

By Staff Correspondent

Gun shots rocked the Dhaka University campus yesterday when the Jatiyatabadi Chhatri 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

See Page 12 Col 2

## 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, re-ports 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."

See Page 12 Col 1

## Tripura welcomes CHT peace accord

AGARTALA, Dec 3: Tripura today welcomed the peace accord signed by the Bangladeshi 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 Dasaara Deb said the accord would be of much help to Chakma refugees' repatriation and solution to their problems.

See Page 12 Col 2

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

## Cabinet seeks dissolution of parliament

## Narayanan announces olls date today

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 Communal 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.

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, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, 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-booking 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 of Monday, said an official handout yesterday.

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

## Steps to be taken to enact laws for the disabled: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government would take steps to enact laws for the disabled and constitute a special committee for proper implementation of the policy already formulated for them, reports UNB.

The government will do its best for resolving the problems of the disabled and consider their demands with sincerity," she said.

The Prime Minister was inaugurating the Second South

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 to the people for their verdict."

Vajpayee said 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 preparation 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 At 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 to the people for their verdict."

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Kind attention

Hon'ble Prime Minister & Minister of Commerce & Industry