

BNP-called hartal today

By Staff Correspondent
A country-wide dawn-to-dusk hartal called by BNP and six other parties protesting the "black and illegal" treaty on Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) is scheduled to be observed today. BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Begum Khaleda Zia had announced the hartal programme at a press conference on Wednesday, a day after the historic peace treaty was signed. Some major parties including Jamaat-e-Islami, the Jatiya Party faction led by Kazi Zafar Ahmed and the Jatiya Ganatantrik Party had also called hartal on the same day protesting the agreement. The BNP and other opposition parties brought out torch processions in the city and elsewhere in the country to drum up support for today's

Russian plane crash: 46 killed on board, 100 on ground

MOSCOW, Dec 6: A huge Russian military cargo jet crashed into a residential area in a Siberian town seconds after taking off today, killing all 46 people aboard and as many as 100 on the ground, news reports said, according to AP. The An-124 aircraft smashed into an apartment house, setting it and nearby buildings ablaze. According to the Interfax news agency, up to 100 residents of the building were killed and another 100 were injured following the crash. The I-TAR-Tass news agency said 16 bodies had been recovered from the apartment house by this evening. It said the plane leveled the apartment house and damaged an orphanage, two wooden houses and a school. Interfax, quoting unidentified local emergency services sources, said hundreds of children were evacuated from the crash area and 13 were hospitalised.

The Daily Star on the Internet

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35 bank directors asked to repay defaulted loans

Star Report
Thirty-five directors of different banks have been served notices to repay their defaulted loans to the banks other than their own. These directors owe about Tk 96 crore in overdue loans to different banks. The banks concerned have already asked their directors to clear the dues within two months, or they will lose their directorship, as stipulated in Clause 17 of the amended Bank Company Act. The amendment says that directors of any bank could be removed for having defaulted loans with other banks as well. These directors — 34 of private banks and one of Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS) — have Tk 137 crore outstanding loans of which Tk 95.64 crore are defaulted. These notices have been served between June and November. Five of the directors owe defaulted loans to more than one bank. The five directors are — A F M Aminul Huq of Prime Bank, Tofazzal Hossain of NCCBL, Dr J H Gazi of Social Investment Bank Ltd, Abdul Malek Mollah of Al-Arafah Bank and Shaif Ahmed Chowdhury of Pubali Bank. Seven of the directors in the list of defaulters have already adjusted their loans. One has been removed from his directorship. Four have obtained stay orders from the High Court on the repayment notices. Seven directors had appealed to the banks concerned for withdrawal of notices, but their appeals have been rejected. The banks which have served notices are Islamic Bank, United Commercial Bank Ltd, State Bank of India, Sonali Bank, Eastern Bank, City Bank, BSRS, Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS), Pubali Bank, IFIC Bank, AB Bank, Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKRB), and Janata Bank. Prime Bank has the highest number of seven directors who had received notices to repay their loans. NCCBL has five directors who had received notices. Earlier, the central bank had asked 11 banks to serve no-

President asks political parties Seek people's support, not of mastans and students

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday urged the political parties to seek support of the people, not of mastans and students to win elections, reports UNB. The root of all the trouble lies with the political parties," the President said at a seminar on "Thoughts on Electoral Reforms" organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association on the Supreme Court premises in the morning. He referred to the allegations of election rigging by adopting various means, including use of muscle, terrorism and dishonest practices of election personnel who are mostly government servants and suggested a change in attitude of 'political philoso-

Police filed the case, at last!

A back dated case has been filed for torturing a minor maid servant on Thursday at a police sub-inspector's house and the mistress is now absconding, reports UNB. Motijheel police, who expressed ignorance about the incident on Friday, told Home Minister Rafiqul Islam yesterday that they had filed the case immediately after the incident. Sources at Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Motijheel thana revealed that OC of Motijheel through a walkie-talkie asked his officials to "prepare all papers" when the minister was in the hospital visiting maid Mahmuda Akhter alias Mahi, 10. As a result, the Home Minister found that a case under Women Repression Control Act was filed on Thursday, the day SI Shamim Ahsan's wife Runa Akhter poured hot water on Mahi's body. See Page 12 Col 5

Rallies for and against CHT peace accord

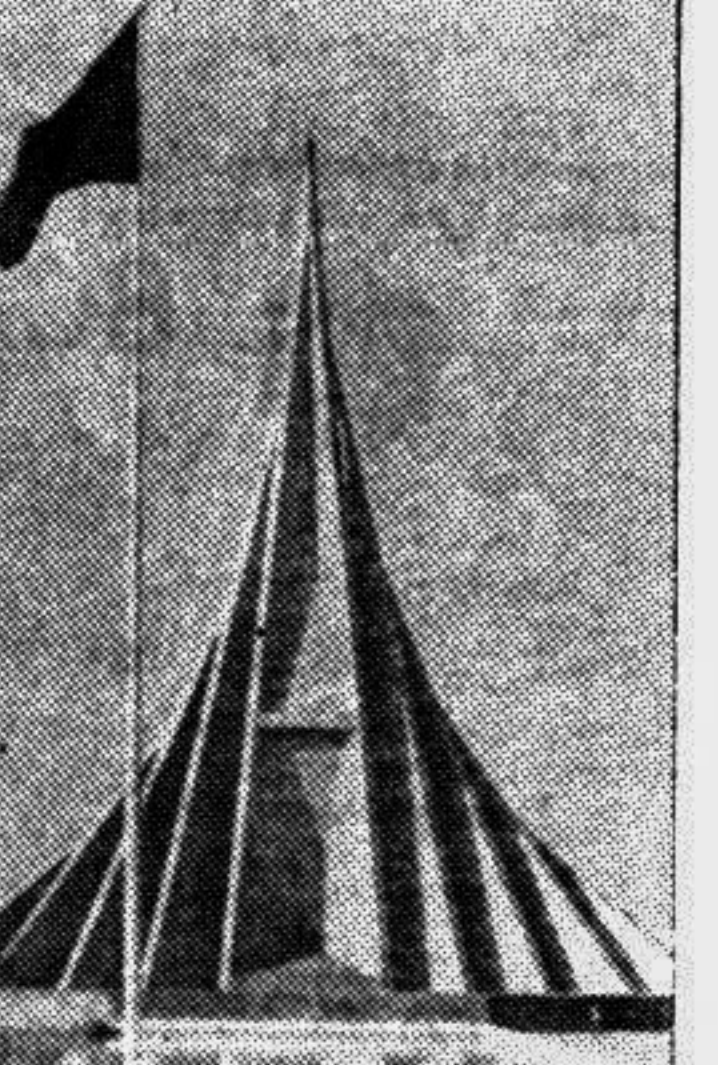
From Shehab Ahmed KHAGRACHHARI, Dec 6: The Citizens Committee led by Awami League which had planned a rally today in the town to celebrate signing of the CHT peace accord postponed it at the last moment. The rally would have preceded a torch procession this evening by Sarbodoloyo Oikkyo Parishad, led by the BNP, to drum up support for its hartal tomorrow. Kalparanj Chakma, MP, from Khagrachhari asked his supporters Friday night to postpone the rally after the Sarbodoloyo Oikkyo Parishad, grouping also the Jatiya Party (Ershad) and the Jamaat-e-Islami, staged a militant demonstration Friday evening. The settlers-only demonstrators marched up and down the town from its main square and held a rally at Shalban where they damaged a microphone aboard a jeep which was campaigning for today's



Pahari Gano Parishad, Hill Women's Federation and Pahari Chhatra Parishad, front organisations of PCJSS brought out a procession at Khagrachhari yesterday welcoming the CHT peace accord. — Star photo by Sheikh Enamul Huq

Fifth day of UP polls 2 killed, voting in 21 centres postponed

By Staff Correspondent
At least two persons were killed in electoral violence on the fifth day of the month-long Union Parishad (UP) polls yesterday. Polling in 21 centres spread over six administrative divisions were postponed due to clashes between supporters of rival candidates. Election Commission sources said. According to EC sources, one Selima Akhter, 23, was injured in the head when supporters of a candidate blasted a bomb at the Firinghat Primary School centre in Purbajokarun union under Comilla Sadar thana. Selima was standing in a queue to cast her vote when the bomb exploded at 1:00 pm. She died at the Comilla Medical College Hospital an hour later. UNB news agency reported that one Mohammad Iqbal Hossain, 20, of Bijoypur union was seriously injured in a clash between supporters of two UP member candidates at Alampur centre in Barapara union, also under Comilla Sadar Thana. District Commissioner of Comilla, however, told The Daily Star over telephone that he came to know about the death of a man. But he was not sure whether the death had any relation with electoral violence. According to EC sources, elections were postponed in four centres in Rupsha thana in Khulna district, three centres in Luxmipur Sadar thana, five centres in Fulbari thana in Mymensingh district, and two centres each in Chhagalnaiya thana in Feni district, Begumganj thana in Noakhali district. See Page 12 Col 7



Exhibition of original copy of Constitution

By Staff Correspondent
Discussion meetings, musical soiree, poetry recitation and street dramas at different venues of the city yesterday marked the 6th day of month-long Victory Day programmes. The programmes organised by different socio-cultural organisations began from December 1. On 16th day of the month in 1971 Bangladesh achieved victory in the War of Liberation. Joy Bangla Sangskritik, Oikya Jote organised a discussion meeting at the city's Ramna Batamul on "Free Market Economy for National Development". Finance Minister S A M S Kibria attended the function as the chief guest. After the discussion a drama on the Liberation. See Page 12 Col 6

Most garments factories hardly comply with safety rules

By Inam Ahmed and Govinda Shil
As dusk falls, Yasmin steps out of a garments factory in the city's busy Rampura area. Exhausted from a 10-hour shift, she hardly realises that every day she is risking her life in the workplace. Her factory does not have any emergency exit. The only staircase is five feet wide and steep. Fabric wastes and carton boxes are left carelessly on the narrow stairway. The collapsible gate at the main entrance is kept closed during working hours. Moreover, there is no fire alarm, no emergency light and no emergency preparedness. The factory, in fact, has all reasons to become an inferno anytime. A random survey by The Daily Star on ten garment factories in the city's Maghbazar,

Rampura, Mirpur and Kamalapur areas revealed that even three months after the BGMEA sent a notice to different garments factories, none took any fire-fighting measures. Meanwhile, at least 43 garments factory workers died in fire accidents since July 31 this year. "We have inspected over 30 garments factories in the city, and none of them have full fire-fighting preparedness," said a member of a team formed to inspect and ensure fire-fighting preparedness of garments factories. The team consists of members from Fire Brigade, Civil Defence, DESA, Industries Ministry, Commerce Ministry, Board of Investment, EPB and BGMEA. "Only a couple of them have some facilities like a few fire extinguishers and water buckets," said the team member. The team visits garments factories once a week. But its progress is slow. Hardly three factories could be inspected in a week. As a result, it is really difficult to ensure that a garments factory complies with fire and safety regulations even after inspection by the joint team. "At this rate, we could cover 160 factories in a year while there are over 2500 garments factories in the country," said the inspection team member. "In fact, we are unable to ensure security of the workers unless the owners volunteer to take measures against fire." Fire officials also pointed out that since most of the facto-



Normal scene in a city garments factory where the workers hardly have any safe passage to escape during an emergency. — Star photo

PM's appeal to BNP Shun path of hartal, let's solve problems in JS

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the main opposition party to leave the 'path of unrest and hartal' and instead seek solution of problems through discussion in Parliament, reports UNB. "Come back to the Parliament leaving the path of unrest and hartal... let us solve all the problems through discussion in the House," she said, appealing to BNP while addressing a discussion meeting at the Engineers' Institution in the afternoon. The discussion was organised by the Bangladesh Awami Jubo League, the youth front of Awami League, marking its 25th founding anniversary and the 58th birth anniversary of its founder Sheikh Fazlul Huq Moni. The Prime Minister said the government has made Parliament the centre of all activities and signed the agreement with the tribal leaders to restore peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region. She requested the opposition to come to the parliament and point out the mistakes of the government and give constructive suggestions for the greater interest of the nation. "For whose interest the hartal call has been given, cars being damaged?" She asked of the opposition's hartal against the peace agreement on CHT. Hasina said the Awami League observed hartal to protect people's voting rights. "Now hartals are being called against peace... they don't want peace, they're not willing to accept the peace." She said when the government is marching towards de-

Under-trial prisoner dies at N'ganj

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Dec 6: An under-trial prisoner of the district jail died at Narayanganj Hospital in the town this afternoon. Mazharul Islam alias Tuhin (27) of Fulbaria under Sonargaon thana was taken to Narayanganj Hospital twice after he fell sick in jail custody at See Page 12 Col 8

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NOTICE
It has been observed that Foreign Technicians/Experts, after arrival in Bangladesh, do not obtain any Work Permit from the concerned authorities. They have been staying in Bangladesh and engaged in various income generating activities without any Work Permit and are earning a lot of money illegally. The Foreign Technicians/Experts now working in Bangladesh illegally must obtain Work Permit from the concerned authorities, such as — "Board of Investment" in the case of industrial units under private sector, "BEPZA" in the case of industrial units located in Bangladesh Export Processing Zones and "Ministry of Industries" in the case of Branch Office/Liaison Office and Trading Organisation. It is absolutely illegal for any Foreign Nationals to stay and work in Bangladesh without any valid Work Permit. The Foreign Technicians/Experts now working in Bangladesh illegally without any valid Work Permit are, therefore, advised to obtain Work Permit from the concerned authorities.
Md Fazlur Rahman
Director (R&I-1)
Board of Investment
DFFP-27356-2/12
G-3043

OIC summit opens in Tehran Dec 9 Muslim World facing four major challenges

TEHRAN, Dec 6: Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi called today for unity and peaceful coexistence among Islamic countries as foreign ministers from around the Muslim world gathered ahead of next week's OIC summit, reports AFP. "Multiplicity, unity, peaceful coexistence and future development of the Islamic world in the 20th century" were the themes of the gathering which opened with recitals of verses from the Holy Quran. "The Islamic civilisation is enjoying a very specific and fruitful regeneration and we need to ensure the political progress, economic development and active cooperation for a civil and just society," Kharazi said. **PM leaves tomorrow** Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will leave Dhaka for Tehran tomorrow to attend the three-day summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), reports UNB. The Iranian minister, elected as chairman of the two-day meeting ahead of the December 9-11 summit of the 55-

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন
নগর ভবন, ঢাকা
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন
আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন
জাতীয় টিকা দিবস "৭ ডিসেম্বর '৯৭"
প্রিয় নগরবাসী,
আসসালামু আলাইকুম।
আপনারা জানেন যে, পোলিও একটি মারাত্মক সংক্রামক ব্যাধি। এই মারাত্মক ব্যাধির কারণে শিশুদের পশুত্বের অভিধাপ থেকে বাঁচাতে ৫ (পাঁচ) বৎসরের কম বয়সী সকল শিশুকে আগামী ৭ ডিসেম্বর '৯৭ জাতীয় টিকা দিবসে "পোলিও টিকা" খাওয়ানোর উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে।
৭ ডিসেম্বর '৯৭ রবিবার আপনার ৫ (পাঁচ) বৎসরের কম বয়সী সকল শিশুকে "পোলিও টিকা" ও ১-৫ বৎসর বয়সী শিশুদের ডিটাটমিন-এ খাওয়াতে আপনার এলাকার টিকাদান কেন্দ্রে আনার জন্য অনুরোধ জানাচ্ছি।
সিটি করপোরেশনের সকল আঞ্চলিক দপ্তর, সরকারী/বেসরকারী সকল ডিসপেনসারী, পেছাসেবী/বেসরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বাস্থ্য কেন্দ্রে টিকাদান কেন্দ্র খোলা হবে।
মোহাম্মদ হানিফ
মেয়র
ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন
ডিসি/পিআরডি/২২৮/৯৭-৯৮
জিডি-৩৯৯