

CHT accord
Special JS
session may
be summoned
this month

By Special Correspondent
A special session of the Jatiya Sangsad is likely to be summoned later this month to debate the CHT accord and to provide legal cover to the proposed Regional Council (RC).

A bill is being prepared in this regard and it will be placed before the special session. Another bill on the Hill District Councils will also be tabled, according to highly placed official sources.

The bill on district councils is required as their terms expired on December 5.

Earlier, the High Court had ordered formation of interim councils to function till elections took place within 60 days of the order. It also provided for delaying the elections for another 60 days in case of natural calamities, which took place later as flash floods swept the

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**Gunmen snatch
Tk 20 lakh
from US co
staff in Ctg**

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 8: An amount of Tk 20 lakh of a foreign exploration company was snatched at gunpoint by a group of muggers in Agrabad commercial area this noon, police said.

The muggers came by a motorcycle and an autorickshaw and snatched the money drawn from the Agrabad branch of Grindlays Bank.

The accountant and bill clerk of American company, Grand Geophysical, were carrying the money on board a motorcycle.

When contacted, the duty officer of Doublemooring thana said that the accountant, bill clerk and driver of the microbus were being interrogated though the local area manager did not file any case.

Police suspected connivance of the three with the muggers.

**Education policy:
Report submitted
to President**

The National Education Policy Formulation Committee yesterday submitted its report to President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban, reports UNB.

Committee chairman and former Adviser to the Caretaker government, Prof M Shamsul Huq handed over the report to the President.

He apprised Shahabuddin of the background of the preparation of the report and said it has already been submitted to the government.

Prof Haq said the formulation committee, consisted of 56 members and 19 sub-committees, sought opinion from persons of various walks of life and their opinions were duly considered.

The chairman said the report was widely discussed before it was finalised.

Education Minister ASHK Sadek, who was present during the submission of the report, said the report will be placed before the

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Road accidents kill 18 in Jhalakati, Dhamrai

By Staff Correspondent

At least eighteen people were killed and 110 others injured in two road accidents yesterday. Of them, 11 died in Jhalakati, and 7 in Dhamrai.

Our Staff Correspondent from Barisal says, at least 11 people were killed and 70 others injured, 19 of them seriously, when two passenger buses collided in Nalchittha thana of Jhalakati district on Barisal-Patukhali highway yesterday.

According to district administration officials and local people, a Patukhali-bound BRTC bus from Barisal collided with a Barisal-bound minibus from Bakerganj at Jurkati at about 7:30 in the morning.

The accident left seven people dead on the spot including the drivers of both the buses.

Four of the injured died on way to the Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital. Their bodies were sent to

the morgue for autopsy.

The dead were identified as Mokhlesur Rahman (35), a BDR personnel of Bakerganj, Saha-jahan (35), the BRTC bus driver of Bakerganj. Shameem Ahsan Kathi (36) of Bakerganj, Bilkis Begum (17) of Demra, Dhaka, Hanif Howlader (62) of Barisal, Jasimuddin Howlader (20) of Nalchittha, Kader Howlader (45) of Bakerganj, Ismail Sikder (50) of Bakerganj, Abdul Jalil (30), the minibus driver of Bakerganj, Kabir Khan (25) of Kalashkati and an unidentified woman.

The minibus was broken into pieces while the BRTC bus was severely damaged in the accident.

Bilkis Begum died on the spot as she was hit by a section of the blown rooftop of the minibus. She was walking on the roadside. Villagers said Bilkis was on a morning walk

and brushing her teeth when the minibus collided.

Seriously injured who were admitted to Medical College Hospital were Rab (32), Saheen (40), Solaiman (35), Lefazuddin (50), Siraj (25), Jasim (15), Mostafa (35), Fakrunnesa (35), Salma (20), Kanchan (50), Rafiq (18) and M A Hamid, a judge from Dhaka.

Another seven of the injured remained unidentified.

UNB adds: Seven people, including a woman, were killed and 40 others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Aricha highway yesterday.

The accident took place when a Dhaka-bound bus collided with a molasses-laden truck near Bathuli bridge in Dhamrai at about 6 in the morning.

Most of the passengers of the night coach were asleep when

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Tk 457cr shortfall in revenue collection

By Inam Ahmed

The government's revenue collection effort faltered badly till November, leaving doubts about its resource mobilisation efforts.

Despite the shortfall, the government has been able to reduce its borrowing from the central bank. In fact, the government has till now retired about Tk 400 crore of its debt to the central bank, according to a senior finance ministry official.

A Tk 457 crore shortfall in revenue collection emerged at the end of the first five months of FY 98. Only last month, the gap between target and actual collection was Tk 318 crore.

The shortfall till November includes Tk 286 crore at import level and Tk 148 crore at local level.

November alone saw a Tk 121 crore shortfall in collection.

There is a shortfall of about Tk 210 crore in the collection of Value Added Tax (VAT) alone during the July-November period. This includes Tk 150 crore shortfall in import sector and Tk 60 crore in local VAT collection.

Despite simplification of income tax payment procedures in the budget in the hope that

Remain alert against BNP conspiracy: AL

Awami League acting president Amir Hossain Amu and general secretary Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the people to remain alert against what they said conspiracy of BNP and its anti-liberation allies to create anarchy and destabilise peace, reports UNB.

In a joint statement, they said when the people at home and the international community have greeted the peace accord to end the longdrawn bloodshed in the CHT, the BNP and its partners are out to create anarchy by calling successive hartals.

The AL leaders said after "imposing" hartal on December 7, fresh hartal calls for two successive days on December 10 and 11 in Chittagong and the CHT have stunned the people across the country.

They said that the fresh call for hartals are designed to collapse the port city, Chittagong and disrupt export-import and overall economy as well as to incite trouble between the hill people and the Bangalees in the CHT.

"They are engaged in a conspiracy to fish in the troubled water," the AL leaders said and urged the people from all walks of life to build a united resistance to foil the conspiracy.

Sources close to the party policymakers said, party chief

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