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Discussion in JS meaningless if CHT accord remains valid: Khaleda

BNP Chairperson and leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said the agitation to oust the government would be started by strengthening the movement against the so-called peace treaty on the CHT, reports UNB.

The agreement may be discussed in the parliament after its repeal... the discussion will be meaningless if the accord remains valid," she said while exchanging views with a group of lawyers at her Minto Road official residence in the evening.

Begum Zia alleged that the government has committed many anti-people acts which also went against the country's independence and sovereignty. "The agreement on the CHT is one such anti-people act," she said.

After the two-hour closed door meeting which ended at 6:30 pm, BNP leader Harris

Road barricade demanding probe into Habiganj killings

HABIGANJ, Dec 12: Thousands of people today put up a road barricade at Shaistanagar, the entry point of the district, demanding judicial enquiry into the Thursday's killings and expulsion of the Deputy Commissioner and the Police Super, reports UNB.

At least seven people were killed and more than one hundred injured when police opened fire on clashing villagers at Masbajan village.

BDR and armed police have been deployed at the troubled village to avert further untoward incident.

Meanwhile, a one-member committee headed by the Additional District Magistrate has been formed to probe the incident.

Sylhet Divisional Commissioner Mohammad Habibur Rahman and DIG Mohammad Khatun Rahman held a meeting with local leaders at the circuit house in the evening to discuss the overall situation.

Clinton's visit to Bangladesh now likely

By Staff Correspondent

Chances of US President Bill Clinton coming to Bangladesh during his proposed South Asian tour "is most likely now" as he is expected to reschedule the trip for April next year, according to diplomatic sources.

President Clinton, who was planning a visit to India and Pakistan early next year, is now considering delaying his proposed South Asian tour to late March or early April due to the "changing developments in Pakistan" and the elections in India, sources close to the US Embassy in Dhaka and the Foreign Ministry indicated.

Although his itinerary did not originally include Bangladesh, it was stated to be in the category of "a highly desirable possibility." A rescheduled visit to the South Asian region will now certainly include Bangladesh as a stopover, the sources added.

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OIC accepted Dhaka's proposals: PM Govt ready to face any situation over CHT accord

By Staff Correspondent



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said her participation in the OIC Summit in Tehran was very successful as several proposals put forward by Bangladesh were incorporated in the Tehran Declaration.

"Bangladesh has earned respect and honour in the Muslim Ummah," she said at a press conference at the VVIP Lounge of Zia International Airport on her return from Iran yesterday evening.

Hasina had gone to Tehran on December 8 to attend the eighth summit of the 55-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

The proposals of Bangladesh which found place in the declaration included launching an Islamic common market, holding a conference of LDCs (least developed countries) in cooperation with the UN by the year 2001, taking up poverty alleviation programmes by 2005 and empowerment of women, taken up for the first time, she pointed out.

The Prime Minister recalled the specific proposals she had placed before an extraordinary summit of the OIC in March this year in Pakistan.

She also replied to a volley of questions from newsmen on various domestic political issues including the peace accord on the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

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5-day JASAS 'Bijoy Mela' begins

By Staff Correspondent

BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurated a Bijoy Mela organized by Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS) at the 'Shatayu Manch' in the city's Ramna Park yesterday afternoon.

JASAS, a front organisation of BNP, organised the five-day Bijoy Mela as part of its Victory Day celebration programmes. Today, a discussion meeting will be held there at 4 pm, to be followed by a cultural function.

Inaugurating the fair, Begum Zia called upon the people to build a vigorous movement against, what she called, the present autocratic regime, according to UNB.

She alleged that the government was engaged in a deep-rooted conspiracy to handover the country's independence and sovereignty to others.

The BNP Chairperson also urged the people to remain alert against such conspiracies and make the future programmes of her party a success.

Later, Begum Zia went round an exhibition of photographs on the Liberation War, arranged at the Bijoy Mela premises.

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Sequel to attack on varsity bus Agitated JU students barricade road, set 7 trucks afire

By JU Correspondent

Agitated students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) set seven loaded trucks afire and barricaded Dhaka-Aricha highway near the campus yesterday in protest against attack on a JU students' bus at Aminbazar on Thursday night.

The students also brought out processions under the banner of "General Students' Unity" on the campus and on the highway, demanding stern action against those involved in the attack.

Truck workers at Aminbazar near the city had attacked the campus-bound bus leaving at least 50 students injured. They beat up the students severely and pulled out female students of the bus, tearing their dress. They also pushed the bus into a road side ditch with some of the students on board.

The barricade was continuing till the filing of this report at 10:30 last night. The students declined to withdraw the barricade despite repeated requests from the university authorities.

Savar police arrested three persons yesterday for their alleged involvement in the attack on the JU bus.

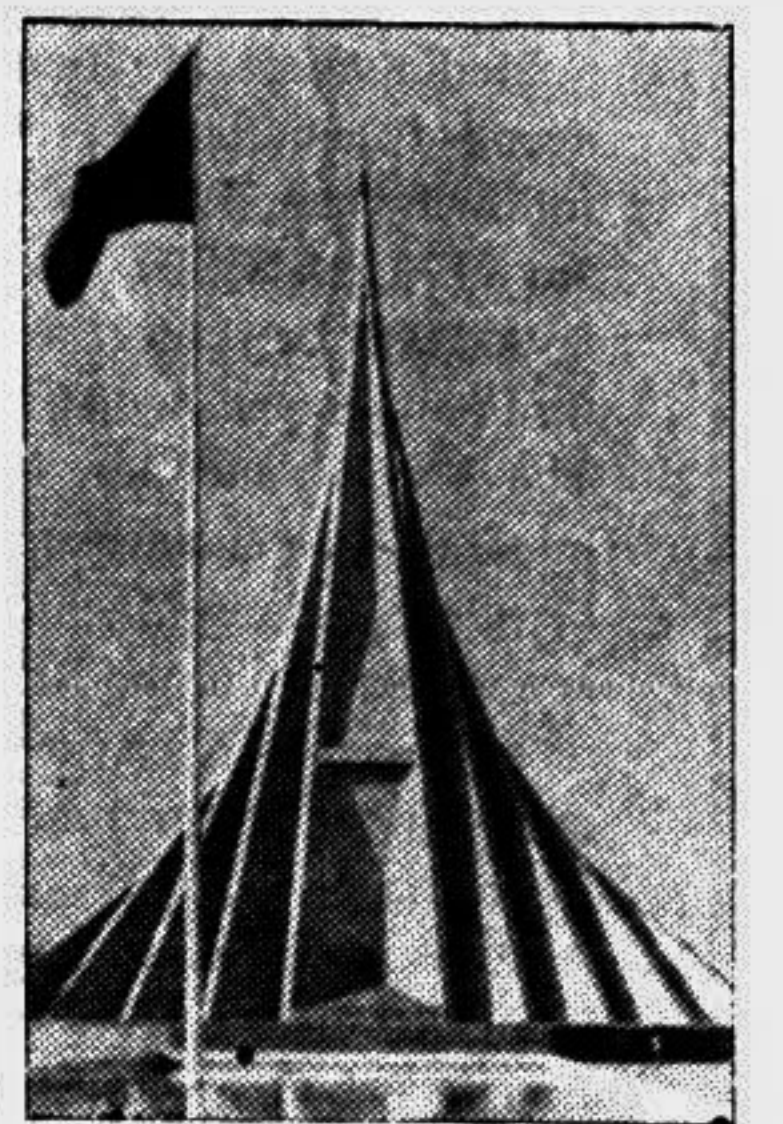
The arrested persons — Akram Kabir, Liton and Nurul Islam — were sent to Mirpur Thana. The main accused, Hazi Aminul Haq, a businessman from village Hizla in Aminbazar area, is absconding to avert arrest, Savar police said.

Due to the barricade, vehicles bound for the city and for Aricha were diverted to the Biswa road and Ashulia road.

Meanwhile, the JU authorities at a meeting yesterday, chaired by the vice-chancellor, condemned the attack on university bus and urged the government to take steps for arrest of the persons responsible and exemplary punishment to them.

The JU Teachers' Association

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PM opens 4-day 'Bijoy Utsab' today

By Staff Correspondent

A four-day 'Bijoy Utsab', organised by Sammilito Sangskritik Jote on the occasion of the Victory Day, will begin in the city today.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the festival at the Central Shaheed Minar at 3.30 pm, says a press release.

The Jote has erected a number of stages from Shahbagh to

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Ministers' bid to tackle situation Road links to & from CHT almost snapped

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 12: Movement of transports between Chittagong Hill Tracts and rest of the country remained almost snapped as Parbatya Sarbadaliya Oikya Parishad started a road blockade programme in the three hill districts today, sources said.

Barricades were put up by the Parishad activists demanding cancellation of the peace accord on CHT, signed recently.

The sources said slabs of eight Bailey bridges were removed and damaged by the activists at Khagrachhari to block

road communication with other parts of the country.

In Rangamati, few autorickshaws were seen plying in the town but no transport could ply to and from the hill district due to barricades, witnesses said.

However, the blockade programme passed off by and large peacefully today in Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban districts.

No untoward incident was reported from the CHT, police said.

A large number of police personnel were deployed in the

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Post-polls clashes in 3 dists One beaten to death in Barisal, 23 hurt

By Staff Correspondent

One person was killed and 23 others were injured in post-election clashes in Barisal, Feni and Sirajganj yesterday and the day before.

Our Staff Correspondent from Barisal reports: One person was beaten to death allegedly by the supporters of the rival group at Abupur village under Hizla thana of Barisal yesterday.

The victim was identified as Abdul Kader Mridha 55.

According to witnesses, the supporters of a defeated mem-

ber candidate Siraj Sardar attacked Mridha at 8 in the morning and beat him up mercilessly. He died on the spot.

UNB adds: A newly-elected union parishad chairman and five members of his family received bullet wounds when terrorists attacked his house, adjoining Baktarmunshi Bazar in Sonagazi thana of Feni district Thursday night.

Police and family sources said a group of about 15-20 armed terrorists forcibly en-

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BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia releasing balloons during the inaugural ceremony of the 'Bijoy Mela' organised by JASAS at the Ramna Park in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

Draft labour code under study BEA won't accept outsiders as CBAs

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

Labour leaders and private employers have locked their horns over a non-employee's right to become a CBA official, while the government is rewriting the Labour Code in a bid to keep unruly trade unionists at bay.

The private employers are lobbying against attempts to plant a clause in the draft Code which they say could leave loopholes for unions to play foul with management.

The draft Code, a work of the Labour Reforms Commission formed five years ago, was being

examined recently after trade unions' plea to restore the 1969 Industrial Relations Ordinance provision for non-employees to be eligible for CBAs or Collective Bargaining Agents.

The Bangladesh Employers Association (BEA), a grouping of the private sector employers, took serious exception to the move, prompting the labour ministry "to give it a second thought", a senior official of the ministry said.

"We are very concerned. We cannot accept outsiders as

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Extension of service at top level Discontent among civil servants increasing

Discontent is gaining ground among the junior and middle-ranking bureaucrats with the increasing rate of extensions given to the top civil servants and of contractual appointments in different statutory bodies, reports UNB.

Extension of a secretary's level officer blocked the promotion of five officers of the chain starting from the post of an assistant secretary, said an aggrieved joint secretary who preferred anonymity.

The government is not even following any guideline in giving contractual appointment,

he said adding that the 10 per cent president quota has been filled up by the present government while few others were given contractual appointments in some other statutory bodies.

Home Secretary Shafiur Rahman was appointed with three years contract after he went on retirement in January last. Cabinet Secretary Ataul Huq given one-year contract since last July LG Division Secretary Hasnat Abdul Hye got a two-year contract from September 1996. Health Sec-

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Giasuddin likely to be appointed new envoy to Netherlands

By Staff Correspondent

M Giasuddin is likely to be appointed new ambassador to The Netherlands, according to diplomatic sources.

He would be replacing Dr Toufik Ali who was earlier called back to the headquarters. Giasuddin would be the first ambassador to be appointed from the 1973 Batch. He is now working at the Prime Minister's office on deputation.

The government is learnt to be considering appointing Aminul Islam, a foreign service

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'Try Pak forces, their collaborators in int'l court for rape in '71'

By Staff Correspondent



A scene of the 'public hearing' at the Bakultala of DU's Fine Arts Institute yesterday.

— Star photo

Sammilito Nari Samaj yesterday demanded that the government lodge a case with the International War Crime Tribunal for the trial of the Pakistani occupation forces and their collaborators who raped and oppressed women during the War of Liberation and killed thousands of freedom fighters and unarmed people.

The demand came from a 'public hearing' held at the Bakultala of the Fine Arts Institute of the Dhaka University as part of Victory Day celebration programmes.

Reports on four incidents were heard in the 'public hearing'.

A freedom fighter from Pirojpur who was injured in the Liberation War narrated the brutalities on one Monowara in an Army camp and how she later helped him trap the occupation forces at the cost of her life.

Bimal Karmakar, gave an eye-witness account of brutality of the occupation forces on a pregnant woman at a place near Dhaka and how she was bayoneted to death.

After the incidents were narrated, advocate Sigma Huda and advocate Sultana Kamal made comments on legal matters. They said that all the crimes committed against women during the Liberation War could be tried under general laws of the country and by the International War Crimes Tribunal.

The government could still initiate cases in the country under the Penal Code or could lodge cases with the International War Crimes Tribunal as there is no time bar for lodging such criminal cases.

At the end of the 'public hearing', a declaration was read out which demanded that the

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'Allow non-pharmacists to supervise drug production'

By Naimul Haq

Amendment to drugs ordn '82 demanded

"The clause guarantees supervision of manufacture and quality control of drugs by registered pharmacists."

The Society comprises Pharmaceutical Chemists, Bangladesh Chemical Society, Bangladesh Biological Society, Bangladesh Society for Microbiologists, Graduate Biochemists Association, Bangladesh Biochemical Society and Society for Applied Chemists.

Talking to The Daily Star,

Prof Ishtiaq Mahmud, Vice President of Pharmaceutical Chemists, said, "The law in India states that manufacture of drugs shall be conducted under active direction and personal supervision of a competent technical staff who also can be a graduate from any of the non-pharmaceutical science disciplines."

"In Pakistan, the Manual of Drugs Law too states supervision by competent technical staff while manufacturing

drugs," he said.

Prof Mahmud argued that in other countries for manufacture and control of drugs, the relevant laws provides for employment of competent, technical staff. But in Bangladesh, law mentions a 'registered pharmacist'. This is what 'we consider discriminatory'.

He claimed that the non-pharmacists have thus been left out and supervision by graduate pharmacists in manufacture and quality control of drugs has

been ensured.

He further said, "A graduate in biochemistry, chemistry or a relevant discipline is competent enough to supervise drug manufacture and quality control. The relevant clause has deprived us of equal opportunity for employment."

Asked to give his views on the issue, Md Rahmat Ullah, President of Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Society, said, "You see one must understand the difference. A pharmacist would precisely know the formulation and quality control of the drug being manufactured because he

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