

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 of 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 Haris

See Page 12 Col 1

Road barricade
demanding probe
into Habiganj
killings

HABIGANJ, Dec 12: Thousands of people today put up a road barricade at Shaestanagar, 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 Mashajan village.

BRD 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 Kutubur Rahman held a meeting with local leaders at the circuit house in the evening to discuss the overall situation.

To protest the killings, Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal has called a half-day hartal in Habiganj tomorrow.

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.

See Page 12 Col 3

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Inside Today

Article

The Rural Non-Farm Economy

Column: Beneath the Surface
by Abdul Bayes

Call a Hartal, and It's a Hartal

by Matiur Rahman
Page 4

Star Literature

Administrative decentralisation in the era of good governance; and A feminine niche

Pages 6 & 7

Business

US investors see vast scope for investment in Bangladesh

Page 8

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 decla-

ration 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).

See Page 12 Col 4

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 Sarbadalibya Oikya Parishad started a road barricade 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 Khagrachari to block

A large number of police personnel were deployed in the See Page 12 Col 5

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-

See Page 12 Col 8

10 more HC judges to be appointed next month

By Staff Correspondent

The Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs is shuttling between the Supreme Court and the Bangabhaban for finalising a list of persons to be appointed High Court judges.

Ten more judges are likely to be appointed soon. The appointments, to be made from among advocates and judicial officer, will be announced when the Supreme Court reopens in the first week of January, according to highly placed official sources.

The advocates who are being considered include Khalir Hug, Mahbub-e-Alam, Ozair Farouk, Abdul Basit Majumder, and Latifur Rahman Talukder.

From among judicial officers, Abdul Majib, solicitor in the Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Motaz Ali Bhuiyan, District Judge Tangail, Nishir Kumar Chakrabarty, Member Administrative Tribunal, and Abdul

Mentionably, there is a backlog of pending cases with the High Court.

If any appointment is made exceeding the total strength of 40, new posts will have to be created for recruitment of supporting staff at the lower level, said a source. It is not yet known how the ministry of establishment will react to the proposal, when there is an embargo on recruitment of new

See Page 12 Col 1

'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.

The society alleged "the clause discriminates against professionals belonging to non-pharmaceutical group". A top leader of the Society claimed,

Prof Iftiqar 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. 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 Rahmatullah, 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

See Page 12 Col 8

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' organised by Jatiyatobadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS) at the 'Shatruj 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 succeed.

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

See Page 12 Col 4

Sequel to attack on varsity bus

Agitated JU students barricade road, set 7 trucks afire

By JU Correspondent

Agitated students of Jatiyaganagar 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, Savar police said.

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 his 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

See Page 12 Col 1

See Page 12 Col 4

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

See Page 12 Col 4

Under-trial prisoner dies at DMCH

By Staff Correspondent

An under-trial prisoner of the Dhaka Central Jail died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday afternoon.

Doctors at the emergency unit declared the prisoner dead when he was rushed there at about 2:15 pm, hospital sources said. He was identified as Moniruzzaman, 30.

However, the details about his death could not be known from the jail authority. Moniruzzaman was an accused in a robbery case filed with Mirpur thana few months ago.

Lalbagh police last night said they did not have any information about the death of the prisoner.

The body has been sent to the hospital morgue.

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 Toufiq 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 Haq, a foreign service

See Page 12 Col 4

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PM opens 4-day 'Bijoy Utsab' today

By Staff Correspondent