9

Pragmatic health

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PHILIPS

Continued Dutch help assured

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the Planning Commission has formed a special cell for the Chittagong Hill Tracts for rapid development of the region, reports UNB.

"The CHT has tremendous potentials and the government will mobilise its resources for the development of the region, she said while talking to APW Melkert, the visiting Minister for Employment and Social Welfare of the Netherlands.

The Dutch minister, who called on the Prime Minister at her office, praised the economic activities now going on in Bangladesh. Welcoming the CHT peace accord, he said the region would turn into a zone of peace and development.

The Dutch minister assured of continued assistance for the development of Bangladesh

Hartal observed at Pabna

PABNA, Dec 21: Normal life was paralysed in the town today following an indefinite hartal, enforced by the businessmen. protesting the attack on a shop earlier in the morning, reports

Pabna Chamber of Commerce and Pabna Zilla Baboshavee Oikya Parishad called the indefinite hartal following a joint emergency meeting after "a group of terrorists" attacked the shop of Ashraful Alam, an executive committee member of the chamber.

The businessmen, however postponed the strike at 5 pm following the assurance by the district administration.

Kulaura BNP

From page Awami League also tried to bring out a counter procession. Amid a tense situation, police intercepted the BNP procession, resulting in chase and counterchase between police and BNP activists.

Police used baton charge and at one stage fired tear gas shells to disperse the BNP men, police officials said.

A vehicle of PDB was damaged and railway station came under attack. Five policemen, including officer-in-charge of Kulaura thana also sustained injuries, police claimed.

Two cases were lodged with Kulaura thana while another with Kulaura GRP against the arrested persons.

Law commission From page 1

Justice Kamaluddin Hossain should be appointed chairman of the LC. The other section believe that changes should be also made in the composition of the LC.

According to them there should be representation in the LC from among academicians and retired senior officials with experience in Banking or Audit and Accounting or Taxation Service, besides the judiciary.

They, however, proposed that Justice Naimuddin Ahmed now a member of the LC should be made its chairman "to add dynamism" in the organisa-

Golapbagh field

From page 1

An elderly man from the locality, expressed his disappointment at the present condition of the field and said, "The whole project is a tell-tale story of theft and mismanagement, it must be thoroughly investigated.

DCC's Zone-1 officials said that under the 1995 project, the field was to be turned into a decent stadium. But the work was half done and then abandoned.

"If we have funds, we can spend crores of taka on that project but after spending Tk 97 lakh, we did not get any more money to complete it," said Siddiqur Rahman, one of the officials said.

Asked what the project proposal contained as regards its expenses, he replied, "We had Tk 97 lakh and we decided to do as much as possible with that money. The money ran out and the work was abandoned.

DCC recently declared Golapbagh field as one of the seven venues for holding public meetings in the city.

Congestion

From page 1

demand of speed money. Shipowners and the CFTC alleged that following the goslow policy, more than 15 days are now needed for total productivity, which was earlier done within four days.

Port sources said 14 ships waited for loading and unloading inside the port today while 15 others in the outer anchorage. Five more ships are also scheduled to arrive tomorrow.

Bangladesh Master Stevedores Association chairman Tarek Kamal told the news agency that the productivity in the port area now averaged 37.83 per cent because of the slow work.

Deputy Minister for Shipping Dhirendra Devnath Shambu will hold a meeting with the CPA high officials at the CPA conference room tomorrow.

They are out to destroy

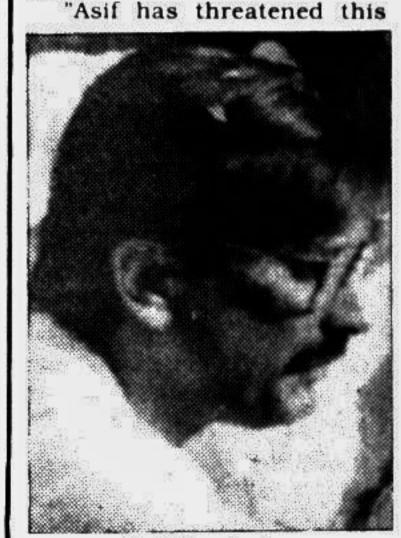
KARACHI, Dec 21: After 10 years of marriage, former prime minister Benazir Bhutto said her marriage is strong despite prolonged separations from her husband. Asif Ali Zardari, who has spent at least five years in jail, reports AP.

"My husband has spent five marriage anniversaries behind bars, but thank God we still have a strong and vibrant relationship," Benazir told reporters in her hometown of Karachi, in southern Sindh province.

She accused conservatives of conspiring to keep Zardari in jail in the hopes of destroying her marriage and breaking her resolve to remain in politics.

"Because Pakistan is a traditional Islamic society, and because I and my husband broke social norms, that is why we are hated by the male elite," she

Zardari's willingness to accept his wife's position of power threatened conservative Pakistanis, who want to see women veiled and kept at home, she



Asif Zardari

NEW DELHI, Dec 21: A "cri-

sis" in India's Congress (I) Party

ahead of next year's elections is

over, the party chief said today,

following an unprecedented in-

tervention by the widow of for-

mer premier Rajiv Gandhi, re-

Kesri said a split had been

avoided with rebel leader Ma-

mata Banerjee returning to the

party's fold, the Press Trust of

behind-the-scenes force, at-

tempted late Friday to placate

Mamata by suggesting she be

made de facto head of the

Congress election campaign in

southern city of Hyderabad:

"The crisis is over and Mamata

has been named as head of the

be a Congress candidate in the

Kesri told reporters in the

"Since Mamata has agreed to

the state of West Bengal.

campaign committee.

Sonia Gandhi, a powerful

Congress president Sitaram

ports AFP.

Îndia reported.

my marriage: Benazir

Benazir Bhutto

concept that a woman should stay behind the four walls of her house." Benazir told reporters. That is one of the reasons why we have seen this vi ciousness.

Zardari has been in jail in Karachi since his wife's government was sacked in Novem-He is charged with murder in

shooting death of Benazir's estranged brother, Murtaza. He has denied the charge. Benazir was twice thrown out of power on charges of mas-

sive corruption and economic

connection with the 1996

ineptitude. Neither Zardari nor Benazir have ever been found guilty of corruption charges, although their bank accounts at home and abroad have been frozen while the investigations con-

Benazir who held the press conference to announce her new anti-corruption platform lashed out at reporters who asked about her personal life.

"I find it extremely horrendous what has happened to our respect to our fundamental rights" she said. When I spoke about corruption everybody was drooping, but when you ask about the state of my marriage, everybody seems to be alert."

coming elections, the issue is

. The fiery Mamata had ear-

lier defied the party by saying

she was considering a political

alliance with the Hindu na-

tionalists — Congress' tradi-

tional enemy - in her home

the Italian-born Sonia Gandhi,

51, was the first time she di-

rectly intervened in party af-

wanted infighting between

Mamata and the present head of

the Congress' Bengal wing to be

sorted out before she leaves In-

including president Sitaram

Kesri — believe Sonia, who be-

came a full member earlier this

year, has the charisma to revive

the 112-year-old party follow-

ing years of declining support.

Many Congress members —

dia for a holiday next week.

Friday's peace attempts by

Congress officials said Sonia

province of West Bengal.

Sonia patches up

Mamata-Cong rift

Students of the Government Music College rendering

songs at the inaugural ceremony of National Music

- Star photo

Conference '97-'98 on the college premises yesterday.

BNP, allies hold meet

Solidarity with movement of CHT people expressed

A meeting of the BNP-led seven party alliance was held at the Minto Road official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament yesterday with BNP leader and former minister Shamsul Islam in the chair, reports UNB.

The meeting expressed solidarity with the ongoing movement of the people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and protested the detention of the 7-party delegation by police during its recent visit to CHT and imposition of section 144 at Mati-

It hailed the opposition MPs for bringing out a procession wearing black badges and carrving black flags in the capital yesterday protesting the "black accord" on the CHT.

The meeting was attended. among others, by Jatiya Party (Z-M) co-chairman Kazi Zafar Ahmed and secretary general Shamim Al Mamun, Mohammad Kamaruzzaman and advocate Ansar Ali of Jamaat-e-Islami. Democratic League presi dent Oli Ahad, JAGPA president Shafiul Alam Pradhan, PNP chairman Sheikh Shawkat Hossain Nilu and NDA chair man advocate Nurul Haq Majumdar.

Sirajganj BNP From page 1

Chase and counter-chase between BNP activists and the police at different parts of the town left at least 15 people in-

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has condemned the attack on its workers and the party office at Sirajganj by ruling party activists.

Bhuiyan in a statement today strongly condemned the attack and demanded immediate arrest of those responsible for it.

Water levels

From page usual" at this time of the year. But they could not give any reason for this. They however said that this might have been caused by heavy rains in the upstream of the Ganges or by opening up of some gates of the Farakka Barrage.

Sharing of Ganges waters between Bangladesh India will begin from January 1.

From page 1

"Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) is an integral part of the country ... we want to develop the region utilising its natural resources," Zillur said.

Kalaparanjan Chakma MP, Dipankar Talukdar MP, Chittagong City Mayor A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury, former adviser to the President B K Dewan, Rangamati Local Government Council Chairman Ching Kiu Roaza and Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Sakhawat Hossain also spoke at the meeting.

Rangamati Deputy Commis-

A four-storey residential building at Maddhya Bashaboo in

the city tilted yesterday afternoon. The structure tilted by about three feet when construction work for second and third floors was going on. No casualty was, however, reported till last night. Police said the ground and first floors of the building were constructed in 1980 - Star photo

contest DUTA polls

Committee of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) will be held on Decem-Pro-Awami League Blue

panel and pro-BNP White panel are contesting for 15 posts of the executive committee.

vear. hinted that most members of the Pink panel would cast their votes for the Blue panel candi-

BNP White panel candidates. The incumbent president and general secretary Prof Mostafa Chowdhury of the Department of Political Science and Hosen Monsur of the Department of Geology have been nominated for the same posts from the Blue panel, while Prof A F M Yousuf Haider of the Department of Physics and Prof Nazrul Islam of the Department

The candidates of the Blue panel for the other executive posts are: R I M Aminur Rashid of the Department of Physics -Vice President: Dr Habibur Rahman of the Department of Marketing — Treasures; Dr Abu Sara Shamsur Rouf of the department of Pharmacy - Joint dates are Prof Ajoy Kumar Das of the Department of Pharmacy Joint Secretary, and member candidates are Prof Ajoy Kumar Das of the Department of Applied Physics, Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury of Management, Prof A T M Nurur Rahman of Bengali, Prof A B M Mahmood of History, Prof S M Immamul Haq of Soil Science, Kazi Afroj Jahan Ara of the Institute of Education and Research. Prof Kazi Salamatullah of the Institute of Food and Nutrition, Prof Md Nurul Islam of Statistics, Prof Md Shahadat Ali of Zoology and Prof Harun Kader M Yousuf of Bio-Chem-

The candidates of the White panel for the other executive posts are: Rashidul Hasan of the Department of Marketing -Vice President; Prof Rahim B Talukdar of the Institute of Business Studies - Treasurer; Dr Yousuf Kabir of the Department Bio-Chemistry — Joint Secretary; and member candidates are: Prof Abul Kalam Monzoor Morshed of Bengali. Prof U A B Razia Akter Banu of Political Science, Dr A K M Nazrul Islam of Botany, Dr A K M Sirajul Islam Khan of Micro-Biology, Prof Kamal Ahsan Chowdhury of Sociology, Dr Md Abul Kaiser of the Institute of Fine Arts, Md Khalilur Rahman of Statistics and Saidur Rahman of Bengali.

favour of bigger companies

which lacked any commitment

for Bangladesh," an official of

Chevron and his colleagues met

the Prime Minister and made a

presentation of the Chevron-

thinking about inviting Che-

vron for talks soon, but the

sources said there is hardly any

chance for that before the first

ernment held a 35-minute talks

with French oil giant Total. The

negotiators did not discuss any

block and suggested Total to re-

vise its proposal. Total may be

invited for talks in the near fu-

Earlier on Friday, the gov-

Now the government is

Yesterday, the president of

Tullow said.

Texaco proposal.

week of January.

Farazi MP Solarz

The formulation of the national health policy is nearing completion, she said, adding that the new policy will be implemented through discussion with the people concerned to ensure the best possible medicare services.

Expressing satisfaction over the congenial academic atmosphere of the Sir Salimullah Medical College, she said: I am happy that there is no session jam in the college. But the government is concerned about session jams in some of the institutions of the country and taking effective steps to remove the problem."

"Not only in the health sector, the government is also tak-

UP polls

From page 1

Commission yesterday directed

Government Primary School and Painadi Government Primary School. The EC gave the directive following investigation into an al-

legation that the two polling centres were not set up at the appropriate' places.

The EC has also directed the authorities concerned to take legal actions immediately against the presiding officers concerned and other officials responsible for selecting the polling centres at the wrong places. BSS adds: Sonargaon police

CHT hartal

From page 1 terday banning meetings and processions, to avert any outbreak of violence.

Traffic movement came to a halt in Khagrachhari and Bandarban and shops and markets remained closed today due to the hartal. All economic activities were hampered. Prices of essentials went up sharply due to non-supply, there causing sufferings to people.

UNB adds: Some 15 to 20 women showed black flags when LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman went to address a public meeting at Manikchhari. Oikya Parishad activists

staged demonstrations at Matiranga and Ramgarh, but no untoward incident was reported.

hurled at the house of Khagrachhari district Awami League president Nurunnabi Chowdhury around 10:15 pm, but none was injured.

policy soon: PM ing effective steps to remove the problems of each and every

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government was determined to reach medicare facilities at the doorstep of people, particularly of those living in the rural areas, report agencies.

Speaking at a silver jubilee and reunion function of Sir Salimullah Medical College in the city, she said, "we must not concentrate our activities in urban areas only, we have to look after the interest of the rural population." She said, 'The government is

going to introduce a pragmatic national health policy soon to ensure proper medicare services

Meanwhile, the Election

repolling in two centres of Siddhirganj union under Narayanganj Sadar Thana. The two centres are Mizimizi

yesterday recovered a gun loaded with six bullets, a dagger and a bottle of foreign liquor from near a polling centre -Masura Kandi Primary School under Sammandi union during the election.

According to TNO of Sonargaon, six person were arrested in this connection.

Witnesses said a bomb was

sector. We are working relentlessly for rapid development of the nation. Principal of the college Prof

M A Shaqur presided over the function, which was also addressed by Health Minister Salah Uddin Yusuf, Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif, BMA secretary general Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Haji Selim MP, and former students of the college, including Dr H B M Iqbal MP and Dr Rustam Ali

From page 1

the American market," said **BGMEA Vice President Nurul** Huq Sikder. Solarz may also suggest a wayout from the stalemate on Bangladesh's quota, he added.

Bangladesh had earlier urged the US government for enhanced quota this year because the RMG exporters have already exhausted their US quota. The US Commerce Depart-

ment is yet to respond. RMG export from Bangladesh is growing by 20 per

cent per year. The country has

now became the fifth largest apparel exporter to the US, earning more than one billion dollars annually. PARC

From page 1

time to the commission. It was forced to operate with seven officials and staff, sharing one table with a few chairs, and a borrowed computer.

Even it was not provided with sufficient telephones or a photo-copier machine. Four months after its new beginning under Kazi Fazlur Rahman, who was given the rank of a minister to lend weight to the office and signal the importance attached by the government to this project, the Cabinet Division could not come up with a clear position about its structure, functions, aims and objectives.

That decision finally came on October 29 and the PARC managed to prepare three sets of recommendations by November 10 which were duly submitted to the PMO's office.

The UNDP has agreed to lend the PARC technical assistance including consultancy. The government has finally managed to find a space for PARC on the unused premises of the University Grants Commission (UGC) at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Accident

From page 1 In another accident, an elderly man was killed near Goa-

landa bus station of the Raibari

The victim, identified as

district.

Sohrab Bepari, 65, died on the spot as he was ran-over by a Dhaka-bound truck from Khulna, witnesses said. Police seized the truck bear-

ing number Khulna Ta-1224, but the driver managed to escape arrest. In the capital, a 22-year-old

woman was killed at Uttara yesterday morning. Police identified the dead as Anwara Begum, daughter of Abdul Monnaf, a resident of

Zainal Market area.

Anwara died on the spot when a speeding truck hit her from behind just after she got down from a rickshaw at Azampur bus stand at about 6 am. Anwara was a winter pitha vendor, police said.



Saudi-Bangladesh Industrial and Agricultural Investment Company Limited (SABINCO)

102, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue Dhaka, Bangladesh Tel: 8802-815883-5, Fax: 8802-813512

BSEC Bhaban (5th Floor)

The last date of submission of offers for purchase of 79,750 ordinary shares of Tk. 100 each in the capital of Tulip Dairy and Food Products Limited as per publication on 13 November '97, is 31 December 1997 which may not be extended.

This is for information of the intending offerers. D-1163

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Oil giants to re-enter talks

wells in block 9 and a similar number in block 11 has put it at the top of a "controversial" bid evaluation by the government. Its proposal was termed "unre-

and foreign companies. Geologists criticised Tullow's proposals saying that there was hardly any geological scope or necessity for drilling so many wells in these two

blocks. "In three years, a high profile company like Occidental failed to drill a single well in blocks

13 and 14 which are as

prospective as block 9. I fail to

understand how the govern-

ment can be convinced that a

much smaller company eould

From page 1 they had cordial discussions

with the President on various

issues including the CHT ac-

cord, "state-sponsored terror-

ism, repression on the opposi-

tion MPs and the parliamen-

"We proposed to the Presi-

dent to call a round-table .

meeting between the govern-

ment and the Opposition after

scrapping of the CHT accord ...

We'll attend such meeting if the

accord is repealed and we'll ac-

cept whatever is decided there

from the Bangabhaban said

that the President would talk to

the authorities concerned about

the BNP proposal for a govern-

ban at 12:46 pm, Khaleda Zia,

also a former prime minister,

was given a guard of honour by

the President's Guard Regiment.

She was received by the Presi-

dent's military secretary Maj

Gen Amjad inside the Bangab-

haban.

On arrival at the Bangabha-

ment-opposition round-table.

Later, a press release issued

unanimously," Bhuiyan said.

tary deadlock."

that time frame?" observed a geologist requesting anonymi-

ecutive observed. Tullow, on the other hand, expressed its confidence about carrying out the work programme all by itself and criti-

cised the critics of its proposals "The criticisms were made in

President to mediate dialogue At the Darbar Hall of the Bangabhaban, a smiling President Shahabuddin told Khaleda Zia, "You've taken a lot of trouble to reach here.

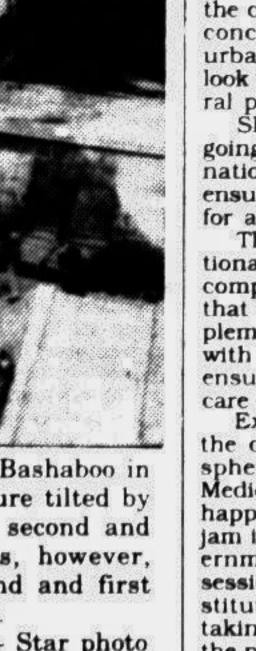
> After exchanging pleasantries with the President, the BNP chief handed over the memorandum to him. Shortly after, the President invited all the MPs for tea at a near-by room where he shook hands with them and asked about their welfare. Earlier, 94 MPs of the BNP

> and three of Jamaat stood in two lines on the premises of Opposition leader's official residence. They started the march when Begum Zia joined them at the gate. They wore black badges and carried placards, inscribed with slogans against the CHT accord. At the head of the procession, there was a black banner and a black flag. Begum Zia, clad in a white

Police halted traffic movesilk saree with black border, led the procession. With a black ment at different points to badge on her white shawl, the make way for the march. Police vans also guarded the marchers 52-year-old Opposition leader at both ends of the procession. walked all the way from Minto

her legs. some senior party colleagues including Prof. Badruddoza Choudhury, M. Saifur Rahman,

Mannan Bhuiyan, Khandakar Delwar Hossain, Shaikh Razzak Ali and Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain. A large number of people gathered along the roads and atop buildings to see the procession. They waived hands and clapped. While the procession



Blue, white panels to By DU Correspondent

Election to the Executive Secretary, and member candi

Left-Leaning Pink panel and pro-Jamaat White panel are not contesting the election this Sources in the university

dates, while the votes of the Jamaat backed-White panel would go in favour of the pro-

from the While panel.

of Psychology are contesting

sioner Shah Alam presided.

Tullow's proposal to drill 10

alistic" by both local geologists

drill 10 exploratory wells in

Executives of three oil companies, on condition of anonymity, also expressed similar opinion. "If the government finds Tullow the best bidder. why is it hesitant about giving these blocks to Tullow alone? Why call the bigger companies at all? Does it mean that government is not confident about this company?," one ex-

Road to Bangabhaban, except from the Kakrail crossing to the

Col. (Retd) Oli Ahmed, Abdul

cord.

Rajuk Bhaban, a distance she covered in a slow-moving jeep because of her problem in one of Begum Zia was flanked by

was crossing the road in front of the BNP central office, leaders and workers of the party welcomed Begum Zia. They also chanted slogans against the government and the CHT ac-