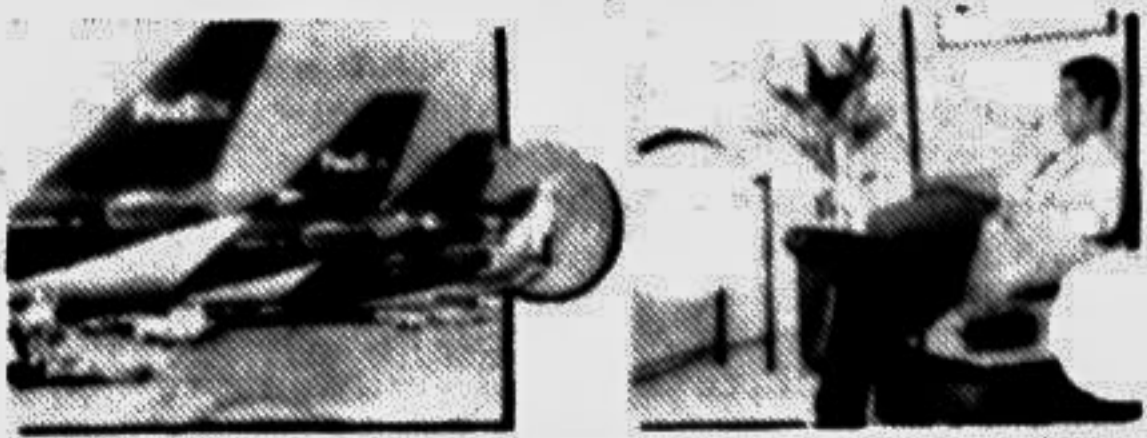


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PHILIPS

CHT peace accord

Jamaat sees Delhi's twin objectives

By Staff Correspondent

Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Golam Azam has termed the CHT accord suicidal for the country and demanded its immediate scrapping.

"I am making a fervent call to all Islamic and nationalist forces to launch a united movement to force the government to scrap the accord", Golam Azam said while opening the 'Central Rukn Conference' of Jamaat yesterday at Tongi, some 25 km off the city.

Some 11000 party delegates, 1200 of them women, from all over the country is attending the three-day conference organised on a madrassah premises near the river Turag. After Malish-e-Sura, the highest policy making body of Jamaat, this conference of 'Rukns' is rated high so far as the party's future programmes and strategies are concerned, said organisers.

In his hour-long inaugural speech, Golam Azam gave a review of domestic politics, current status of Islamic movement in the world and future of Islam in Bangladesh, as well as Indo-Bangla relationship.

He said that 12 crore people of the country were taken aback on December 2 last when the government fulfilled "all irrational demands of terrorists" in the name of a peace accord.

"If this accord is implemented, such a government will be installed in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) which will rule that region independently. Then, if the region is declared an independent Jumaland, there will be no way to protect it", he said.

"The present government will meet all the demands of India at the cost of national interest and eventually, country's independence will be at stake".

Golam Azam observed that Muslim nationalism was the basis of sovereign entity of Bangladesh. "In 1947, this territory was separated from undivided India on the basis of Muslim nationalism and those who were imbued with that spirit would lay down their lives to protect the independence and sovereignty of this country".

He alleged that the Indian government had fomented the prevailing discontent and incited the tribal youths to establish a 'Jumaland' of their own. "Grabbing the forest and mineral resources in the hill districts as well as securing transit facility through the hill tracts to contain the anti-government rebellion in its eastern part of India are the twin objectives before New Delhi".

He observed that the role played by India during the Liberation War of 1971 was "not intended for the welfare of the

people of this country". "Rather, hegemonic designs prompted her to do so".

Turning to the in Muslim World the Jamaat Ameer said, "rulers of the Muslim countries, barring a few, pose the biggest stumbling block to the establishment of Islamic way of life. It is a tragedy that those who are supposed to establish Islam at the state level have come out with a volte-face to pursue western secularism blindly".

Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, Pakistan, Kazi Hossain Ahmed, Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, India, Mohammad Zafar, Osman Ridge, a Sudanese parliamentarian Dr Ahmad Tunji an Islamic thinker from North America and Imam Khalid, a converted Muslim, also spoke at the inaugural function.

Earlier, the conference began with hoisting of the National Flag and the party flag by Golam Azam and Naeb-e-Ameer of the party Abbas Ali Khan Sarbahara leader chopped to death in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Dec 25: A Sarbahara leader was chopped to death allegedly by the villagers at Mukundapatti village under Kotawali thana of the district at midnight last night.

Police and witnesses said, the victim Manik was involved in terrorist activities in the area.

Police recovered his body, but none was arrested in this connection till filing of this report.

Police said, both eyes of Manik were gauged out by the local people some two years ago. Even then he did not give up his criminal activities.

Captain

From page 1

His forehead and nose banded, Captain Mannan said he was feeling a little better. But he declined to speak anything beyond his personal wellbeing.

"You know the enquiry committee is investigating," he said.

He declined politely to make any comment on the landing at a mud flat, eight km off the runway of Sylhet airport before the probe is completed.

Flight Officer Shahadat, Steward Mukit, and Stewardess Pramila who had a dozen stitches on her forehead were visited by their colleagues yesterday evening. They too declined to talk to newsmen.



Christian devotees praying at the Kakrail Church in the city on the Christmas Day yesterday. — Star photo

BIRDEM: Bad sign

From page 1

fire was needed to ensure better service at the institution. Under the 1996 rules, 249 people were employed while 77 staff members opted for it.

Following strikes by the employees in 1996, the government had set up a three-member committee headed by the Health Secretary look into the matter. In its report submitted on December 9, the committee stated "To keep BIRDEM a centre of excellence, there was no alternative to the 1996 service rules. But the decision to hire and fire must pass through an Appellate Authority".

EWA leaders refuted the allegation that the 1992 rules were set by them "We had our representatives when the rules were set but there were all the top people of BIRDEM," said former Joint Secretary of EWA Sham-sul Haque.

The EWA leaders alleged that taking advantage of the 1996 rules, the authorities indiscriminately hired people giving them high salaries, raising the expenses of the institution manifold.

"They (top office bearers) are

Body of young man found on Cox's Bazar beach

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 25: A body of a young man was found on the sea beach here this morning, reports UNB.

The unidentified man, aged about 27, was wearing shirt and trousers.

Police suspected that he was killed sometime Wednesday night. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

only talking about the committee report submitted on December 9. But they are not mentioning the report submitted by the committee set under orders from the Prime Minister earlier," said Abu Hanif, former General Secretary of EWA.

Hanif claimed that the committee had unearthed a lot of irregularities, regarding which nothing has been done as yet.

BIRDEM is one of the largest hospitals in the country where more than 3000 outdoor patients are seen every day. On an average, 90 per cent of its 540 beds are occupied round the year. A total of 1820 work people at the hospital.

Black box

From page 1

cident spot said the damage caused to the aircraft was 'almost irreparable'.

Civil Aviation sources said decoding of all the 'flight data' from the black box and the voice recorder normally takes 10 days. There is, however, no facility for decoding the black box information in the country.

The probe committee will decide on Sunday where to send the black box and the voice recorder.

Meanwhile, the investigators have interviewed the four crew of the flight including Captain Mannan, co-pilot Shahdat, steward Mukit and stewardess Promila.

They have also questioned about 10 passengers, some inhabitants of Omargaon village and the staff at Sylhet airport control tower and collected various documents including the "flight plan," the sources said.

PM exchanges greetings with Christian leaders

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government wants to discharge its responsibilities by protecting rights and privileges of all sections of the people, irrespective of cast, creed and religion, reports UNB.

"We don't want to make any difference between the people by identifying them as majority or minority as we don't believe in communalism," she told the leaders of the Christian community.

On the occasion of Christmas, Sheikh Hasina exchanged greetings with the leaders of the country's Christian community at the green lawn of Ganabhaban in the afternoon.

The Prime Minister urged the members of the Christian community to cooperate with the government for the uplift of the country.

Archbishop Michael Rozario also spoke on the occasion while Dr Simon Sakkar led a prayer.

Dacoity at a city house

By Staff Correspondent

Dacoits took away gold ornaments, cash and other valuables worth about Tk 1.8 lakh from a flat at Baltul Aman Housing Society under Mohammadpur thana in the city early yesterday.

Police said a gang of four armed men entered the flat of Rabul Hasan at about 3 am.

The gang tied up the inmates of the house at gunpoint and opened almirahs after forcibly taking key from the family members, police said.

Dacoits left the house after half an hour operation. None was arrested in connection with the incident till filing of this report last night.

Kaunda arrested for alleged coup attempt

LUSAKA, Dec 25: Kenneth Kaunda, Zambia's founding president and now a major opposition figure, was arrested today at his Lusaka home, his lawyers said, reports AFP.

Police gave no reason for his arrest, but Kaunda — who returned to Zambia on Monday after two months abroad — had been accused of involvement in a coup attempt in October.

Kaunda, 73, who denies the allegations, appeared calm when police came to take him away. He was seen waving a white handkerchief — a rallying gesture for his supporters.

There had been widespread speculation in Zambian media that Kaunda would be arrested immediately upon returning home, and President Frederick Chiluba had refused to guarantee his safety.

Kaunda himself did not plan to speak to the press before see-

ing top members of his United National Independence Party, his press assistant Muhavi Lungu told reporters on Monday.

Kaunda, who was Zambia's first president from 1964 to 1991 when he was defeated in elections by Chiluba, had returned home by road from Zimbabwe, where his son and two daughters live.

IOJ long march to Khagrachhari

KHAGRACHHARI, Dec 25: Islami Oikya Jote will lead a long march from Dhaka towards Khagrachhari on December 28 demanding cancellation of the CHT accord, reports UNB.

On December 29, the IOJ marchers will join a grand rally at Ramgarh.

Parity demanded

From page 1

It was violated in 1989 following a recommendation of the committee headed by Dr Matin.

Police officials also sharply reacted to the government decision to upgrade some BCS (Admin) cadre posts, keeping the law enforcers and other cadres to their previous status.

Bangladesh Police Service Association (BPSA) in an emergency meeting yesterday mainly blamed the administration cadre officials for the "sudden, unilateral" decision, according to UNB.

"We don't want to embarrass the government by raising any illegal demand... but the overall administration will suffer" if the existing equality of status among the officials is destroyed, the meeting said.

It said such a "discriminatory" decision would make the police officials unhappy, affecting the law and order situation and also hampering the overall economic uplift at a time when the government is welcoming foreign investment for the country's development.

The BPSA meeting demanded of the government not to destroy the balance in the status of officials and to immediately cancel the "unilateral, sudden and illogical" order.

A resolution of the meeting said it will not be acceptable if there is any violation of the existing equality of status of DIGs with the divisional commissioners, additional DIGs with the additional divisional commissioners, SPs with the ADCs, and ASPs with the assistant commissioners.

Biman

From page 1

Two-aircraft of the four-plane domestic fleet of Biman are grounded following accidents and another was off for D-check.

The Biman management has planned to operate flights in Dhaka-Sayedpur and Dhaka-Rajshahi routes every alternate day and in the Dhaka-Cox's Bazar route on Sunday and Thursday.

Besides, the flights connecting Dhaka with Chittagong, Sylhet and Jessore will operate everyday in a rescheduled timing.

Officials said the only ATF, which was released from the Biman hangar on Wednesday night after repair, will be supplemented with an Airbus to operate the domestic flights.

Meanwhile, three Biman flights in Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Sylhet routes operated smoothly yesterday with the lone ATF aircraft. Flights to Syedpur and Jessore may resume today.

Biman will operate five domestic flights connecting Dhaka with Chittagong, Sylhet, Jessore and Sayedpur.

Ctg port

From page 1

an indefinite period to avert hazards in ship movement, the sources said.

Night navigation will not be resumed until the wreckage of the sunken coaster is removed. A foreign salvage team might be required with involvement of over Tk three crore, for the job to ensure risk-free movement of vessels, a senior port official said.

But, he added, it is difficult to take decision in this regard because of bureaucratic tangles and cumbersome procedures.

Night navigation was also suspended for a long time after the catastrophic cyclone in 1991 when at least 20 ships had sunk. Later it resumed with the removal of wreckage.

Another ship — MV Rabi — had sunk in the port channel over 10 years ago, forcing suspension of night navigation for some years, port sources mentioned.

Manpower

From page 1

On the other hand, BAIRA president Mosharruf Hossain, MP, told The Daily Star that the practice of illegal manpower export could be stopped if the government agreed to a BAIRA proposal for constituting a task force comprising representatives from the ministry, BOESL (Bangladesh Overseas Employment Services Limited), a public sector recruiting agency and the BAIRA.

Hossain acknowledged existence of some recruiting agencies either with forged licences or without licences and said operation of these agency agencies need to be stopped. He also assured of BAIRA's cooperation in this respect.



(Left) A performer at a BAMBACoca Cola concert at the Shaheen College ground in the city yesterday. (Right) A partial view of the jubilant audience. — Star photo

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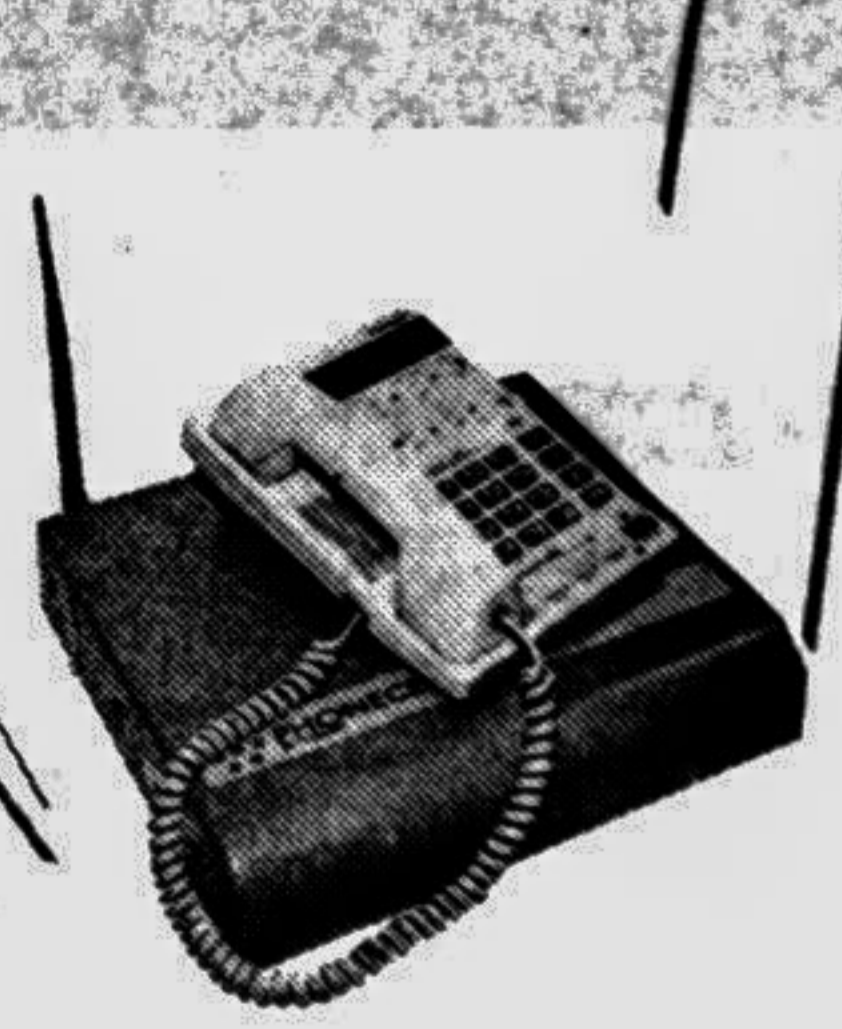


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