



Bangladesh Air Express International Limited

PLEASE CONTACT:
Head Office Tel: 9565114, Logistics Office Tel: 9884851, Fax: (880-2) 9886531, E-mail: dac@aeilogis.com
Chittagong Office Tel: (031) 721085, Fax: (880-31) 710106, Internet: fedcp@spctnet.com.smb.
Air and Ocean-Forwarding • Customs Brokerage • Warehousing and Distribution • Express • NVOCC



Italian PM due Jan 8

Italian Prime Minister Prof Romano Prodi arrives in Dhaka on January 8 on a two-day official visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, reports UNB.

It will be the first-ever official visit by an Italian head of the government to Bangladesh. He will be accompanied by his wife Flavia Prodi.

The two prime ministers are expected to hold formal talks to review the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The Prime Minister of Italy will pay a courtesy call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed and address a meeting of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

His entourage members will include Trade Minister Augusto Fantozzi and Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Umberto Vattani, and a technical economic team and a business delegation.

The visit is considered to be of special significance as it takes place at a time when the two countries completed 25 years of establishment of diplomatic relations.

CHT accord signed unconstitutionally, says Ershad

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday accused the Awami League government of renegeing its election pledges, reports UNB.

During its election campaign, the ruling party had committed to scrap the Special Powers Act and give autonomy to the state-run television and radio, but it failed to follow up its words in action, he said.

The former President was addressing a public meeting at the Niaz Mohammad High School ground in Brahmanbaria.

Referring to the CHT accord, Ershad said the peace agreement itself has become a threat to peace in the region as it was signed unconstitutionally.

The accord has curtailed the sovereignty of the country, so we cannot accept it, the deposed President said adding that the AL government has been isolated from the people and the people are not satisfied with its rule.

Biman

From page 1

from Abu Dhabi via Dubai landed at Chittagong airport yesterday to allow Chittagong-bound passengers to disembark there. It returned to Dhaka with the rest of the passengers, saving the airlines the transit flight to the port city.

Radio-TV

From page 1
of BTW". But BTW's face-lift programme is progressing in such a bullock-cart pace that the authorities concerned could not yet confirm a time for launching private channels in the country. For example, project papers for setting up a 'Reporting Wing' in BTW is still gathering dust in the Planning Commission though the plan was conceived nearly a year ago. To add more, procurement of a hi-tech 'OB-Van' (outdoor Broadcast Van) for BTW has now become an age-old issue.

The minister, however, came up with a logic that in addition to bringing in qualitative changes in BTW, the recently started 'Package Programmes' from private production houses would help team up a good number of media professionals, artists and technicians. "I am sure this will be an added benefit for the would-be owners of private channel operators as they will get a large group of 'readymade' work-force", said Sayeed.

Meanwhile, no substantial progress has been made in allowing private radio channels also. Government's indecision over dedicating FM frequency to private operators has already frustrated at least one internationally reputed broadcasting corporation, said sources on condition of anonymity.

Asian Highway

From page 1

When completed the road will provide a short cut link for Bangladesh, as the Myanmar authorities plan to extend it upto Mongdu, opposite Teknaf in Cox's Bazar, ESCAP sources said.

A bilateral negotiation between Myanmar and Bangladesh for having another AH link based on that road is, therefore, very important. Once the countries agree bilaterally, ESCAP can take steps to complete necessary formalities, said an ESCAP high official.

Editor : Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: <http://www.dailystarnews.com> and Email address: dstar@bangla.net

PM sees no tangible reason for BNP's boycott of JS

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused the opposition BNP of creating unrest and boycotting the parliament without any tangible reason, reports UNB.

"It is not clear why they're trying to create unrest and not joining the parliament," she said addressing the leaders of Praktan Sainik Sangsada, an association of the retired soldiers, at the PM's office in the afternoon.

Hasina said it is already decided that the present government will quit power on completion of its tenure and take part in the election under a caretaker government. "Why then is the BNP trying to create unrest?"

Referring to the peace agreement on CHT, she said it has cleared the way for restoring peace in the troubled region of the country, but they are opposing the accord just for the sake of opposition.

"We've become successful in signing the accord as we could earn the trust and confidence of the people in the region with

our sincere commitment."

The BNP also tried to reach an agreement with the tribal leaders and gave many concessions but did not succeed," Hasina said.

She categorically said, "We've signed the peace agreement without any compromise on the question of Constitution and sovereignty of the country."

The Prime Minister said the government is trying to restore stability and discipline by pursuing appropriate policies in every sector and this has created an investment climate in the country.

"Now it will be possible to accelerate the economic activities using the resources of the country properly," she said calling upon all to cooperate with the government in its mission for moving ahead.

"Now you will have to think how much you can give to the nation, instead of counting what you are getting," she told the former soldiers, saying that it is necessary to sacrifice the present for building a bright and prosperous future.

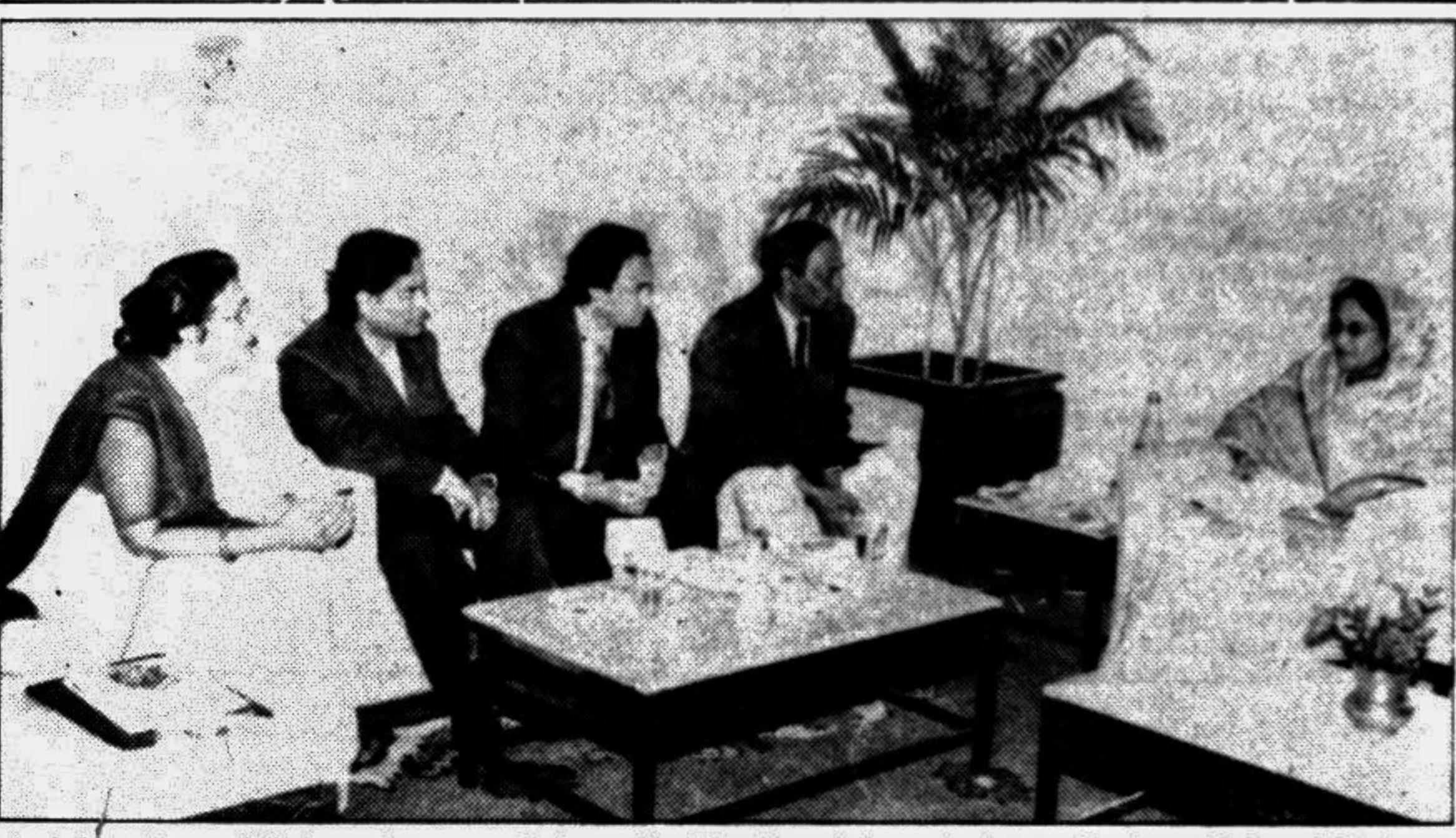
Narrating the plight of the former soldiers, their leaders said they become jobless after their retirement in early age of about 40 to 45, when they have the most to give to the nation.

The Prime Minister suggested them to involve themselves in different self-employment projects like agriculture, dairy and poultry farming, small business and small industries. She also suggested them to go for bigger projects through cooperatives.

"The government will extend all out support for your income generation," she said, asking them to take micro-credit for their various projects.

Chief adviser of the Praktan Sainik Sangsada Humayun Kabir, its chairman Zahid Sarwar and vice chairman Mollah Moniruzzaman also spoke on the occasion.

Another adviser of the Sangsada Adjutant General Maj Gen Matur Rahman was also present at the meeting, attended by former soldiers' leaders from different parts of the country.



A delegation of Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday. — PID photo

FFs peace rally at Rangamati Vow to resist conspiracy against CHT accord

RANGAMATI, Dec 30: Freedom fighters at a peace rally here today expressed their determination to resist the conspirators who are planning evil design against the CHT peace accord, reports BSS.

They also expressed their commitment to uproot these evil elements who have been jeopardising the life of the peace-loving people of Chittagong Hill Tracts in the name of opposing the peace accord.

The peace deal would open up an avenue of peace and prosperity in the region as well as the country, they said.

The peace rally participated by thousands of freedom fighters was held on the municipal office premises this afternoon.

Islob Hussain, vice-chairman of Mukti Joddha Sangsad Central Command Council, presided over the rally while its chairman Abdul Ahad Chowdhury was the chief guest.

Abdul Ahad Chowdhury said these elements who had spread

propaganda against the Banalees during the Liberation War have become active again in hatching a conspiracy against humanity, amity, harmony and peace.

Once we have fought for the liberation and now we are prepared to fight for legality and peace, Ahad said, adding that those who cannot advocate peace for the people, they are the enemies of the community.

The chairman urged the opposition to join parliament for discussion on peace accord either for ratification or any modification they desire.

He also urged the freedom fighters to identify those who have been playing with the bloods of the innocent people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts region.

Dipankar Talukder MP urged the freedom fighters to work for the implementation of the peace accord, upholding the spirit of the Liberation War for the betterment of the 12 crore people.

Sonia: Strategies

From page 1
who overtook it in parliament after the last year's elections.

Though Congress today pinned its hopes on Sonia, its opponents said her arrival on the political stage would make little difference.

"Sonia has always been a member of the Congress party, formally or informally. Why will it affect us," said Jaipal Reddy, spokesman for the ousted United Front coalition.

Sonia's move might help galvanise the ailing Congress but could also demystify the myth surrounding her, The India here said today.

The Indian Express said, "The elections will put to a severe test Sonia Gandhi's ability to garner votes, and also her willingness to give up the comforts and safety of the fortified bungalow to mix with the people," it said.

The Pioneer newspaper warned that Gandhi's entry into mainstream politics would make her more accountable to both Congress and her critics.

The discarding of the 'Purdah' by Sonia Gandhi is welcome news not only for the Congress but for all who have chafed at the unaccountable power that she has wielded so

far," it said.

The Express said although her decision would stem the exodus of party members, it would also give rival parties more ammunition against the Congress.

It said the Opposition would take up a 1986 bribery scandal which led to the fall of her husband's government and the alleged bribe of an Italian businessman who was a close friend of the couple.

The Express said India's Hindu nationalists would also question Sonia's commitment to India and highlight her catholic faith, with a campaign slogan pitting the Hindu God Ram against 'Rome'.

DUTA condemns attack on VC's office

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) has condemned Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) for what it said attacking the Vice-Chancellor's office and hurling abuses at the university teachers on Monday, reports UNB.

DUTA president Prof Mohammad Mostafa Chowdhury and general secretary Prof Mohammad Hossain Monsur in a statement said such attacks and indecorous comments are unethical.

They also called for immediate implementation of the enquiry committee report on the attack on VC Ak Azad Chowdhury at Ziaur Rahman Hall.

Sirajganj will be upgraded as a port city of the northern region, he said.

The Pioneer also called for immediate implementation of the enquiry committee report on the attack on VC Ak Azad Chowdhury at Ziaur Rahman Hall.

The leaders of the merchant association informed that the overall price situation of essential commodities particularly rice and pulses have been improving and it would come down to the normal within a week.

The agreement has ensured peaceful co-existence of the tribal and non-tribal people in the CHT, Razzak said.

Titas Gas office in Demra ransacked

By Staff Correspondent

A section of local people ransacked a Titas Gas office yesterday morning, demanding proper supply of gas in Golapbagh area under Demra thana in the city.

Police said violence erupted following an alteration between some Titas Gas staff and a group of about 100 people led by the local ward commissioner of DCC. They went to the Titas Gas office to submit a memorandum as shortage of gas supply in the locality persisted.

The agitated people damaged some furniture and a few motor vehicles on the office premises.

Demra police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. None was, however, arrested in this connection till the filing of this report last night.

Police said the Titas Gas authorities filed a case with Demra thana.

4 held for attack on garments workers

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested four local garment workers in connection with the attack on the garments workers at Kaliganj in Keraniganj on Monday.

The arrested were identified as Fazlur Rahman, Nazrul Islam, Mohammad Shahid Mia and Abdur Rauf Khan, police said.

Keraniganj police arrested them on Monday night and produced them before the court yesterday.

Most of the injured people admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital following the incident were released yesterday.

Meanwhile, one person was killed and at least 30 people were injured when a gang of armed men attacked a rally of ready-made garments workers at Kaliganj Bazar on Monday.

A case was lodged with Keraniganj thana in connection with the incident.

If he is disqualified a second presidential election will be held, government officials explained.

The president's job became available on December 2 after Farooq Leghari resigned following a bitter power struggle that pitted Leghari and Supreme Court Chief Justice Sajid Ali Shah against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his two-thirds majority in Parliament.

At the end of the day, Sharif emerged a winner. Leghari resigned and Shah was removed as chief justice.

PCJSS planning to send list of armed cadres to govt

KHAGRAKHARI, Dec 30: The Parbatty Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) is planning to send the government a list of the armed Shantibahini members who will surrender their arms, reports UNB.

The delegation was led by its president Dr Sharif Enamul Kabir and General Secretary Dr M A Matin.

Talking to the members of the delegation, the Prime Minister said the government has taken steps to bring back discipline in every sphere of life and to create congenial academic atmosphere on the campuses.

Referring to the recent untoward incident between the students of Jahangirnagar University and transport workers on Dhaka-Aricha highway, she said a committee has been formed to probe into it.

The Prime Minister said that action would be taken against those responsible for the incident.

Responding to various demands of the teachers, the Prime Minister assured that steps would be taken to increase the number of departments in the university. She said the medical centre would be improved and a BRCT bus terminal will be opened at the university gate.

She said the government would also look into the problems of the central library and the shortages of accommodation of the teachers.

Other members of the delegation were Nazma Siddiqi, Khaleda Hossain, Prof UHM Shamsunnahar, Dr Mohammad Farhad and Dr Subhas Chandra Das.

JMB to open for traffic June 23

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 30: The Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge will open for traffic on June 23 next, reports UNB.

This was disclosed by Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim while inaugurating the intercity Sundarbans Express train at Sirajganj station today.

The CAB urged the government to take steps to arrest the price hike of essentials.

Meanwhile, the Commerce Ministry at a meeting yesterday reviewed supply and price situation of the essential commodities in the wake of holy month of Ramadan.

The meeting, chaired by Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, made a clarion call to the business community and other concerned to maintain the price at the normal level.

Nasim called upon all to cooperate with the government in fulfilling its objective by rejecting terrorism.

Sirajganj will be upgraded as a port city of the northern region, he said.

The Pioneer also called for immediate implementation of the enquiry committee report on the attack on VC Ak Azad Chowdhury at Ziaur Rahman Hall.

The agreement has ensured peaceful co-existence of the tribal and non-tribal people in the CHT, Razzak said.

The agreement has ensured peaceful co-existence of the tribal and non-tribal people in the CHT, Razzak said.

The agreement has ensured peaceful