

**ULFA leader**

Dhaka to consider  
Delhi's request  
for extradition

Arrested ULFA leader Anup Chetia will have to face legal procedure. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad said yesterday, expressing Bangladesh's commitment not to allow any insurgency or terrorism against its neighbours, report Agencies.

Addressing the members of OCAB at National Press Club in the afternoon, he said that the Indian government has taken up the matter of Anup Chetia with the Bangladesh government.

The ULFA leader who was arrested in the capital on December 21 is now under detention in Dhaka Central Jail.

Azad said, "Under any circumstances, Bangladesh cannot be used as a sanctuary of any insurgency or terrorism directed against her neighbours."

In this context, he referred to the SAARC convention on the suppression of terrorism.

Replying to a question, the Foreign Minister said the arrested ULFA leader will have to face action under the law of the land. "Everything will be done as per law... We will also think

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**Fate of PSC with  
Occidental  
discussed**

**Star Report**

Energy Minister Noor Uddin Khan yesterday held a meeting on the fate of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) with US company Occidental for blocks 13 and 14.

Occidental's PSC for these two blocks was supposed to be terminated 'naturally' on January 11, as per the PSC's terms and conditions, for its failure to fulfill the work commitment during the three-year initial exploration period.

However, arguments were raised from within the government that the PSC itself had a provision for extension. But according to experts, there was no such provision.

Sources said that a letter has been sent from the Prime Minister's Office to the Energy Ministry to take the decision on Occidental's PSC as per the legal framework.

The government is now seeking legal advice for final decision on the termination or extension of the PSC. Sources said yesterday briefed the Energy Minister.

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**Clarification**

Mohammad Asafuddoullah, Chairman of the National Commission for Radio and Television, yesterday clarified his position on a report published in The Daily Star on January 12.

Following is the text of his clarification:

"I would, however, like to point out that while some of the points have been correctly reported, most others have been grossly distorted. For example, it has been reported that 'The Commission's report has been put in cold storage.' I did not say this. I said 'It seems that the Commission's report has been kept in hold.' In another place it has been reported that the State Minister for Information was requested to appear before the Commission, but he declined and sent the Secretary instead.

Actually I was asked whether the State Minister for Information was called by the Commission for hearing. In reply I stated that the Commission did call him for hearing but he did not respond."

**Inside Today****Article****Democracy:  
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# Mob beat 4 armed kidnappers to death in Raozan

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 13: Seven hundred people today foiled an alleged attempt to abduct a businessman and beat four armed kidnappers to death at Dalarimukh area under Raozan thana, 25 miles off the city, police said.

The mob torched the autorickshaw in which the abductors were travelling. Of the four dead, three were identified as Jamal Uddin, 28, Abdur Razak, 25 and Shah Alam, 27.

One rifle, one double-barrel gun, one revolver and seven rounds of ammunition were recovered from the possession of the alleged kidnappers.

Sources said the gang members were activists of "Iskander Bahini," reportedly backed by a political "godfather" having influence in the administration.

Police said the kidnappers were beaten to death by the mob at around noon today when they were allegedly abducting a brickfield owner, Abu Taher alias Gura Munshi, 50, at gunpoint by an autorickshaw from

Dalarimukh area, about one kilometre from the Raozan thana.

When the victim raised a hue and cry, a truck driver followed it and blocked the road after hitting the autorickshaw, police said.

The victim jumped out of the vehicle. He received minor injury.

Soon several hundred people including workers of several brickfields rushed to the spot and started beating the four gang members. They died on the

spot.

The mob also damaged the motorcycle in which one of the terrorists escaped the autorickshaw during the abduction.

Police informed that three of the kidnappers hailed from Raozan, and they were wanted in a number of criminal cases.

The victim was abducted by the same gang a few months ago he was later released after paying a ransom of Tk 4 lakh, police and local sources said.

## JS session sans BNP, Jamaat today

By Staff Correspondent

to realise its 14-point charter of demand.

The Jamaat, had joined the BNP in the walk-out but attended the two sessions. Recently, it announced that it would not return to the House until the CHT accord was scrapped.

The President is scheduled to deliver his address in the House at 11:00 a.m. BTV will telecast the speech live while Bangladesh Betar will broadcast the parliament proceeding directly from the JS building everyday.

According to convention, the

ruling party will move a vote of thanks on the Presidential speech and the House will debate.

The JS Business Advisory Committee at a meeting yesterday decided that the session would continue upto the mid-February. No opposition member of the advisory committee attended yesterday's meeting that lasted for 35 minutes from 4:30 p.m.

According to the decision of the Business Advisory body, immediately after the Presidential speech today, the session

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## Create congenial atmosphere for returning to JS: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

A nearly two-hour-long meeting of the BNP Parliamentary Party (BNPPP) yesterday discussed the issue of the party's joining the winter session of Jatiya Sangsads.

Emerging from the meeting at 9:07 last night, Opposition Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain told waiting newsmen that they would continue to discuss the issue of the party's return to the parliament.

"We'll finalise our stance on the matter following further discussions," he said, adding that the meeting had been adjourned until 6:30 pm today.

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## BNP once again urged to join JS session

By Nazmul Ashraf

The government has reiterated its call to the major opposition party BNP to return to the Jatiya Sangsads that goes into its winter session this morning.

Telecommunications and

Works Minister Mohammad Nasim, the government negotiator, phoned Opposition Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain yesterday noon, urging the BNP once again to join the parliament session.

Walking out of the House on August 30 last year, the opening day of the fifth session, the BNP kept itself away from the next two consecutive sessions.

Both the sides acknowledged that the fresh contacts have been established between the

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## One killed in gunfight over possession of salt bed

CHITTAGONG, Jan 13: One person was killed and at least 10 were injured in a gunfight between two groups over possession of a salt bed at Kutubkhali village under Banskhali thana here today, reports BSS.

Police and hospital sources said, the clash erupted at about 8 am when a group of armed men led by one Mymun locked themselves in a gunfight with another group allegedly led by Mukul Miah at Kutubkhali village.

One group took position at a cyclone centre and the other group in a bush. Both the groups exchanged several hundred gun shots till 4 pm.

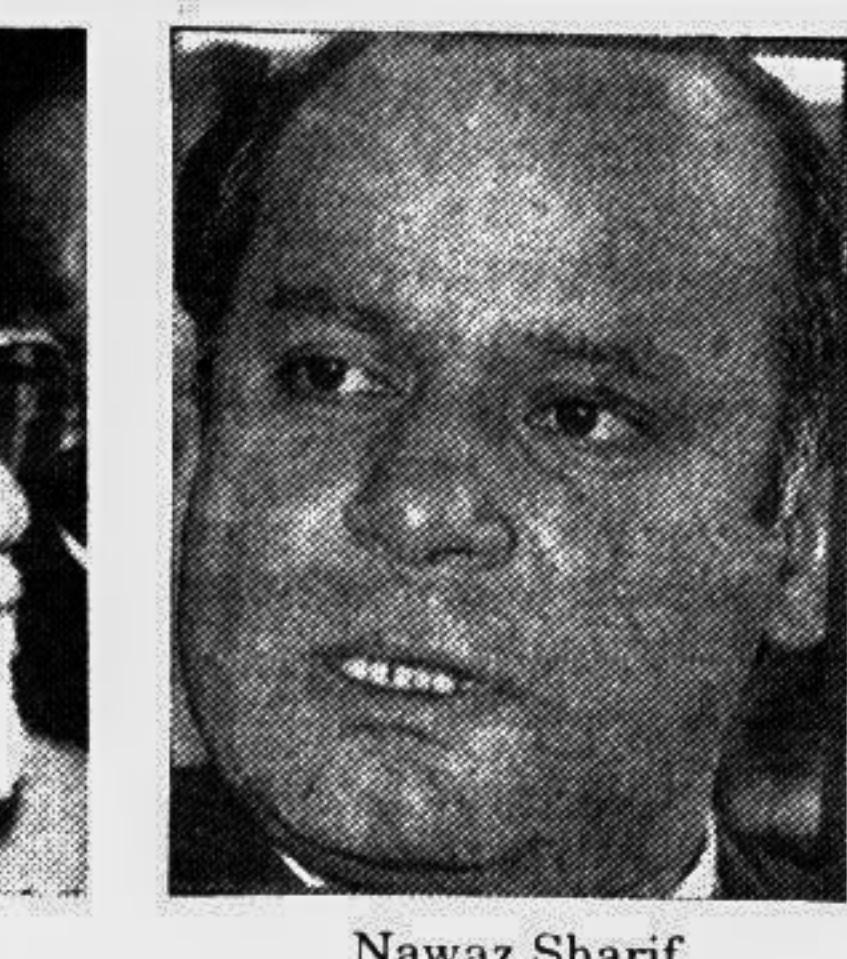
Mohammad Haroon, 28, believed to be a supporter of Mymun group, was hit by a bullet and died instantly. 10 others received bullet injuries.

Seven injured people were taken to Banskhali Thana Health Complex while three of the critically injured were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

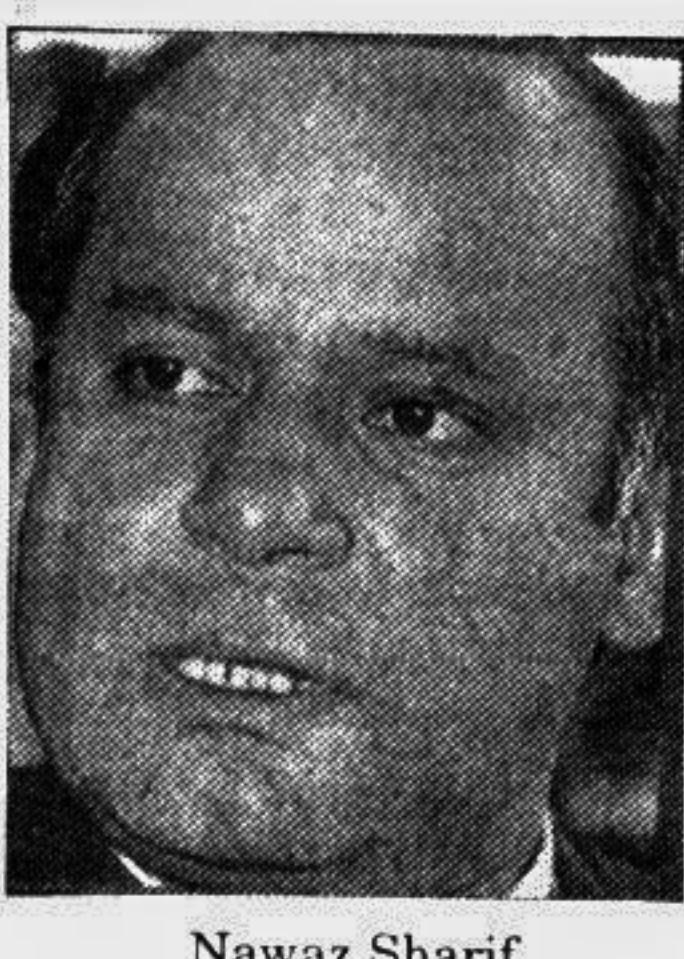
Police sent body of Haroon to CMCH for autopsy.

Although the tri-national tourney is yet to see a full 50-over-a-side match due to early morning fog, the full-house onlookers at the Dhaka Stadium will be awaiting with their fingers crossed for the maximum delight out of yet another 'blood-and-thunder clash' of the two arch-rivals.

It will be the 64th one-day encounter between the two Asian titans. Pakistan are enjoying a statistical supremacy in an abridged version of the



IK Gujral



Nawaz Sharif

## Gujral, Sharif will hold talks during business summit

By Staff Correspondent

Indian Prime Minister I K Gujral and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will hold a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Three-Nation Business Summit in Dhaka tomorrow, according to diplomatic sources.

The two leaders will hold the meeting for nearly an hour, beginning from 4:30 pm. The talks will take place at the suite of I K Gujral at Sonargaon Hotel.

The meeting is seen as very crucial in improving ties between the two neighbours.

It is also being viewed as "very important" because of the long-standing dispute over the Kashmir issue, the sources said.

In recent months, there has been perceptible efforts by both I K Gujral and his Pakistan

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Peregrine's local office denies its demise  
By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

Peregrine's Dhaka officials claimed yesterday the company's Bangladesh operations would not be affected by the liquidation of the Hong Kong-based Group, saying it had "enough cash" to carry on here and had no debts or liabilities.

A senior company source, however, admitted it was highly unlikely that it would be able to continue in Bangladesh as part of the Peregrine Group.

"In Bangladesh, the company is completely solvent and as such we do not expect the liquidation of Peregrine Investment Holdings Ltd to have any effect on our operations in Bangladesh," Managing Director Runa Alam said in a statement yesterday.

There is enough cash for operations, and the company has no outside debt or material lia-

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**Meet to fix date for surrendering Shantibabu arms tomorrow**

KHAGRACHARI, Jan 13: A meeting between the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts and Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) will be held on January 15 here to fix the date and venue of surrendering the weapons of "Shantibabu", officials said today.

They said the PCJSS is expected to submit the list of the Shantibabu men and the inventory of their weapons to the National Committee as pledged in the peace agreement signed on December 2.

According to the agreement, the PCJSS will submit the lists within 45 days of signing the accord. The officials said the PCJSS leaders will be flown to Khagrachari in a military helicopter from the remote Dukukhuri frontier.

Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdulla, and PCJSS chief Jayotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma will lead their side during the meeting to be held at 10 am at the Khagrachari Circuit House.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the Liaison Committee presided over by its convenor Hangshadha Chakma today reviewed the preparations of the Thursday's meeting.

Liaison committee sources said like the previous meetings, it will also be a closed-door one.

**EU team examining process of issuing GSP certificates**

By Staff Correspondent  
A three-member European Union mission is currently visiting Bangladesh to see the process of issuing GSP certificates to garment and knitwear exporters under the new procedure, officials and exporters said.

"The mission is examining transparency of our documentation and realisation of duty incentives given by them," said Faisal Ahmed Chowdhury, Vice-chairman of the Export Promotion Bureau.

He told The Daily Star last night that after cancellation of some 15,000 problematic GSP certificates issued by the EPB during 1994 and 1996, some more enquiries are being made by importing countries in the EU. A total of 40,000 GSP certificates were issued during the period.

Headed by Philippe Cusson, the team members are talking with Export Promotion Bureau officials and knitwear and apparel manufacturers to ensure a transparent and effective documentation of GSP Generalised Systems of Preference certificates, sources in the EPB said.

Leaders of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and

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**Extortionists sever wrists of contractor**

By Staff Correspondent  
A gang of extortionists chopped off both wrists of a contractor at Sonir Ahra under Demra thana in the city yesterday.

The victim was identified as Kamruzzaman Birjan, 25, son of Sahajan Mia of Dhonitek area.

According to hospital sources, about eight extortionists reportedly led by Raven and Baklibillah beat Birjan and severed his wrists with sharp weapons, at the construction site at about 1 pm as he refused to pay them Tk 25 thousand as toll. The gang left the scene walking.

Fatally injured Birjan was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital immediately. Later, he was shifted to Orthopaedic Hospital.

Demra thana, however, could not confirm the incident till writing of this report last night.



**ORDEAL OF A DISABLED FF:** Dhanmondi police, led by a magistrate, had evicted a family of a disabled freedom fighter from this house in Dhanmondi Road No 3 on December 18. PWD officials had claimed that the house belonged to the organisation and alleged that disabled freedom fighter Sekandar Ali had illegally squatted in the house. After the eviction, PWD officials said that the house had been allocated to a Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Finance. Within three weeks of the eviction, the house has been turned into a business centre. The photograph was taken recently by the Daily Star Photographer Amran Hossain.