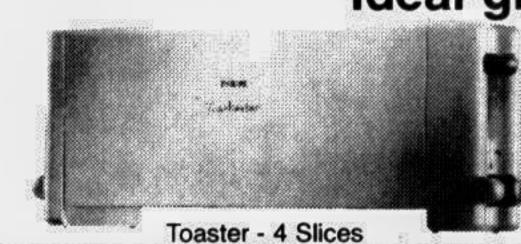


Fed 致.

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and uncalled for since the bills

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury initially tried to

calm the treasury benchers ask-

Zia later, telling her to come to the point on which she rose to

speak, the order of the day's

business. She eventually did so.

Bench members who tried to

draw the Speaker's attention, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and

Abdul Latif Siddiky were given

statement of Begum Zia was out

They contended that the

Humayun Rashid Chowd-

statement of Begum Zia and if it

did not conform to the rules of

procedure it would be expunged.

Leader of the Opposition

Badruddoza Chowdhury, who

cited Articles 301 and 302 of the

rules of procedure to say that

Begum Zia was very much

within her right to make the

College student

From Page 1

Of the injured, Abbas Uddin,

two groups were led by Fazlur

23, and Abul Hossain, 35, were

rushed to Mymensingh Medical

College Hospital while Abul

Kashem, 20, Mojnu, 38, and Bi-

plob, 23, to Kishoreganj Sadar

Nikli thana health complex

and 8 to Bajitpur Zohurul Islam

Medical College Hospital. Rest

Ten others were admitted to

Rahman and Jalal-Taher.

Hospital.

This brought in Deputy

Among a dozen Treasury

But he interrupted Begum

ing all to maintain order.

were yet to be tabled.

the floor.

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# Tanners' syndicate

For more information call-Dhaka, Tel: 9565114, 9883927, 9130647, 894213,

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Khulna, Tel: (041) 725008, N'Ganj, Tel: 9714336

the tanners, except one, did not pay the aratdars their dues, estimated to be about Tk 200

In the previous years, the tanners paid up all the dues beand skin through the traditional network, according to

Aratdars buy raw hides, salt those and then hand those over to the tanners who in turn process those into crust and finished leather.

"This year the tanners created their own network and partly succeeded in procuring the hides and skin in the city as per their plan," said Ayub Ali of Lalbagh Hide at Posta.

the sector," said Ayub. He apprehended that a 'good percentage of raw hides' were rendered to treat those skillfully."

Bangladesh Hides and Skin Merchant Association sources alleged that before the Eid they were repeatedly asked by the

tary of the Association, told The Daily Star that the government had never helped the aratdars who had played a major role in procuring the hides and skin in the country.

tity across the border.

He thought the 'instruction' from Bangladesh Finished

Leather Exporter Association (BFLEA) was not "fair" and that it created a chaos in the hides market this year. "We have been in business for generations do you think anyone else can sud-denly replace us?" Hossain said.

Aratdars believed the prices of hides and skin would rise sharply once the Eid sales were over. "Within the next seven days, the tanners would come back to us for more hides and skin and then you will see, the prices would jump," said an-other aratdar at Posta.

Price of a standard-size cow hide declined to Tk 750 to 800 from Tk 1800 to 1900 two years ago, madrasah and orphanages sources said. Hide merchants and tanners generally procure hides from orphanages and madrasahs. However, general people in the city this time sold hides and skin of their sacrificial animals at much lower prices. For them, the prices of cow hides between Tk 300 and Tk 600.

When contacted, Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan, President of BFLEA, admitted they had asked the tanners not to pay higher prices for raw hides and skin. "This is not a syndicate, but we did it to keep the price of our products low in the line with the international market,"

According to the BFLEA decision, prices of cow hides and goat skin should be kept between Tk 25 to Tk 28 per square feet. The normal prices in the last two years had been between

Tk 35 to 40 for per square feet. The BFLEA president claimed the prices were low because unusually large number of animals were sacrificed. But aratdars disagreed and said at least 20 to 30 per cent less animals were slaughtered this time. They said the number of goats sacrificed was upto 50 per cent lesser than that last year.

# Jamaat urges AL not to pass bill on CHT accord

shot by some unidentified gun-The leaders of Jamaat-e-Ismen at Simrail on Narayanlami at a meeting yesterday urged the ruling party not to pass the bill on "CHT peace agreement' in Parliament, reports UNB.

The meeting of the party's leaders and workers was organised at its city office to make the half-day hartal on Wednesday a

The 7-party alliance including Jamaat and the main opposition BNP called the hartal to protest, what they said, the government move to pass the bill in Parliament by dint of its ma-

the bill as against the spirit of the Constitution and the coun-

try's territorial sovereignty. quences of enacting a law which was anti-constitutional would not bring any good to the party

They urged party leaders and workers as well as the patriotic force to make today's countrywide demonstration programme and Wednesday's half-day hartal a success.

bullets, seven cartridges, some materials for making bombs and several sharp weapons.

two of them are accused in criminal cases.

Three separate cases were lodged in this connection with Ramna thana.

Gas supply from Sangu

# suffering to SSC examinees: ALPP

The meeting discussed the overall situation of the country including the hartal call given by the main opposition BNP on the eve of the SSC examina-

the eve of the SSC examina-

The ALPP was of the view that the opposition was creating artificial crisis, including the price-hike of the essential commodities like salt and

# First return Haji flight arrives

Some 350 ballotee hajis arrived home yesterday by the first return Hajj flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, reports

Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary Mohammad Omar Hadi and other high officials received them at Zia Interna-

tional Airport. Meanwhile, the first flight carrying the non-ballotee hajis also arrived at the airport in

flights for ballotee hajis and 33 for non-ballottee hajis till May

1, said a press release. The airlines will exclusively

operate non-ballotee flights from May 2 to 6 while two more flights for the ballotee hajis have been planned for May 7.

broadcast on state radio said. Thapa resigned from the premiership under an agreement reached with coalition partners last October.

rala's appointment was made by the 52-year-old monarch just hours after the deadline he had set for a coalition government expired

nounced that its efforts to put together a coalition had failed and it would attempt to rule the Himalayan Kingdom with a minority government.

## Separate bill

sis of public opinion," she added.

Ayesha Khanam avoided a direct reply when asked to give a relative picture of repression on women during the BNP rule and the rule of Awami League

incidents of rape of girls in the age group 5 to 10 is now on the rise, just as the incidents of acid-throwing were on the rise earlier."

The bill on prevention of repression on women and children should be drafted and tabled in the JS in the light of recommendations of the committee formed by the government for the purpose, she stressed. Mahila Parishad was also represented in that com-

The Parishad, however, did not feel 'betrayed' that the government was not considering recommendations of the committee, Ayesha Khanam noted. "A practical and effective

law on offences like rape, acidthrowing and other forms of repression on women and children should be passed by the JS at the earliest," she said.

# Richardson due today

From Page 1

current tour of the seven Asian nations including Bangladesh as a 'de facto special emissary' of the US President. They said that Richardson's clout with the US President and his stature as a Cabinet member makes the trip to each Asian nation politically and individually signifi-

During his visit to Bangladesh, Richardson will press for greater participation and involvement of leading US companies in gas and oil exploration in the country when he meets government leaders, according to the diplomatic sources. It was learnt that US com-

panies have been putting 'tremendous pressure' on the US government to compete aggressively for the opportunity to explore and develop Bangladesh's potential gas reserves. US companies are also pressing for export of gas to

ticularly India. Richardson has a packed itinerary for his trip. He will call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at 5 pm today and will also hold talks with Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia at 6 pm.

neighbouring countries, par-

He is due to hold a meeting with Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad today followed by lunch. He is scheduled to make a courtesy call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at 11 am.

Richardson programme includes a visit to a Rehabilitation Centre for Trafficked Women and Children run by the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association in Dhanmondi. He will address a seminar on "Making Democracy work in the Twenty-First Century" at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies. He is also scheduled to visit a Grameen Bank micro-credit project at Narayanganj. Richardson will stay at the

-Star photo

residence of the US ambassador in Dhaka during his visit.

Bill Richardson to Bangladesh. He came once in 1995 and twice in 1996. On three previous occasions, he came to Bangladesh as a US Congressman and member of the House Intelligence Committee. He reportedly played an important role in the negotiation process between then government and opposition parties during the political standoff prior to the last general elections.

Richardson would be arriving in Bangladesh from Bahrain on the second leg of his seven-nation tour. The other countries during his current tour include India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Bahrain.

leave Dhaka at 8.30 am tomorrow morning.

# Hasina: Statements

motion on the peace accord. ...But there was no decision

sion...," she noted.

was done within Constitutional

The peace accord was signed in continuation of the peace process pursued by two previous governments, she said and blamed the past BNP government for "protecting" the interests of the Shantibahini by going for cease-fire at a time when the army was about to win over the armed insurgents.

Sheikh Hasina ridiculed the BNP for opposing the peace agreement on grounds that it surrendered the national sovereignty. "I don't understand how sovereignty is protected in a war-like situation in the CHT and sacrificed with restoration of peace there." About special privileges for

the CHT people, she said constitution guaranteed such rights

From Page 1

was brought to the DMCH from

Mohammadpur thana in a po-

lice van by Sub-Inspector Gazi

Ibrahim. The police officer al-

leged that attending doctors at

the Gynae Ward No 17 hardly

paid any attention to Baby

"When I arrived with Baby,

there was none to receive my

patient. I virtually had to per-

suade the doctor to attend

to avoid being a witness in

treating rape victims. I admit it

is a hassle but it is also their

duty. We can not proceed with-

out their help because the pri-

officer of the rape case said.

"The attending doctor refused to

give her name. She had asked

me why I wanted to know her

name, what was the purpose.

Instead of cooperating, she de-

investigated many rape cases.

should rather call it a tragedy."

Ibrahim further said, "I have

layed in attending Baby."

Ibrahim, the investigating

ority is to save the victim."

Ibrahim said, "Doctors tend

when they reached there.

Baby was bleeding when she

court order.

Baby.

for the backward population. Without naming anybody. the PM said restoration of peace in the CHT made only those unhappy who were involved in smuggling illegal arms, drugs and gold.

said that trouble in the Chittagong Hill Tracts started when President Ziaur Rahman brought settlers from the plain areas and rehabilitated them there. The situation worsened during the tenure of President Ershad.

# Murder of BU official: None arrested yet

By Staff Correspondent None was arrested till yesterday in connection with the killing of Aslam Sardar, the joint secretary of Bothers' Union Club. Aslam, who was also the

in Ward No 30 of the city, was stabbed to death by unidentified persons on Saturday in front of heel thana

transferred to the Detective Branch yesterday. The FIR accused three persons for the murder. They are Nasir, Khokon and Kalam.

### Minister tells JS Influential quarters grabbed huge khas lands

A senior minister yesterday admitted in Parliament that influential quarters have grabbed huge khas lands across the country through forgery, reports UNB.

Seeking cooperation of all, Food and Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury told the House that it would be difficult for the government alone to recover the lands and distribute those among the landless peo-

The Food Minister was replying to questions as the State Minister for Land was not present in the House.

Responding to a question of Abdul Latif Mirza (AL), the Food Minister said the government has a plan to allot khas lands among the landless people. And the settlement process is under process on the basis of a policy.

of context and rules of proce-In reply to a supplementary dure and urged the Speaker to by M Golam Hossain (JP), she expunge it. said the settlement process of hury said he would examine the

khas land is very difficult. Matia said coordination committees have been formed in every thana with MPs as advisors to distribute khas lands.

According to the policy, the minister said, families of the freedom fighters and those who lost their land in river erosion, widows and landless people will be given priority during distribution of the khas lands.

### Wheat procurement target refixed at 2.5 lakh tons

The government has refixed the wheat procurement target at two to 2.5 lakh tons this year. Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury informed the House yesterday, reports BSS. She said due to different

measures taken by the government wheat production this year will exceed the production of last year. In reply to a question from

gaon) the minister said produc tion of Aman paddy had fell due to drought in last October in Mymensingh, Rangpur, Dinaipur, Rajshahi and Barisal.

tion was hampered due to pest attack in greater Mymensingh. Sylhet and some other adjoining districts. The minister said the use of

substandard TSP fertilizer instead of TSP also had a negative impact on the production.

discussion with party MPs regarding return to the House and participation in the discussion on CHT bills." The BNP leaders also con-

ing the speech of Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia Such activities are in violation of the recently signed 4-

point agreement between the government and the Opposition, the BNP leaders said. Chief whip Khandaker Del-

war Hossain, Saifur Rahman, Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Barrister Nazmul Huda, MK Anwar were, among others, present at the briefing.

## SSC exams

the measures taken by the education ministry.

# 4 bills placed

statutory body. An additional point stipulated in the bill provides for empowering the government to dissolve the regional council.

Article 41 (1) of the bill said

if the government, after inquiry, is satisfied that the council has failed in carrying out its administrative and financial responsibilities, indulged in activities against the interest of the people, exceeded or abused its power, it may dissolve the Council, after giving it the opportunity to explain its

resenting 12 tribal, six nontribal, two tribal women, one non-tribal woman and three chairmen of the hill district parishads of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban. Of the 14 tribal members, six

the tribal members.

elected for a five-year term and the election will be conducted by the Election Commissioner. Three more identical bills

seeking amendments to the Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban Local Government Council Acts, 1989, were tabled in Parliament yesterday. The objectives of the bills placed before the House. Badruddoza termed the CHT

said that people would not ac-cept it. "If necessary, we shall seek a referendum on this issue, even mid-term polls", he added. He urged the Chair not to

a "bad precedence." At this stage, Tofael Ahmed blasted the Leader of the Oppo-

sition, saying her statement · was premature. She could have made her observations after the bills were tabled. He brushed aside Begum Zia's remark that it was Awami

had left the country before August 15, 1975.

Queen of England, reports UNB. Counsel (QC) in the UK.

appointment. malities the same afternoon at

ter first aid. vesterday. Police arrested five people -Badal, Sujan, Jutan, Tarun and Hassan Ali - in this connection. Hossain.

"The Times" of London reported on April 9 that Her Majesty Queen of England has appointed Hossain as one of her Majesty's Counsel on a recommendation from the Lord Chancellor.

be given the Letters Patent of The swearing-in ceremony will be followed by other for-

the Royal Courts of Justice, said

Referring to the Constitu-

tion. Begum Zia said there was

neither any scope for constitut-

undermine the parliament. It is

The BNP chairperson said

the accord has curbed the rights

of the citizens, sowed the seeds

of discrepancy and reduced the

non-tribal people living in a re-

gion to second class citizens. It

will encourage regionalism and

been rejected by the people," she

that the problem in the CHT

"It's a black accord and has

The BNP chairperson alleged

separation, she feared.

not acceptable to the people,"

of the injured were released afa press release issued in the city Aimalul Hossain is the sec-

# Khaleda: Fresh bills

From Page 1 speak on the day's agenda for

which she was given the floor.

In her speech, Begum Zia viewed that passage of the CHT bills in their present form would "put the country in danger and suggested fresh bills to remove "concerns and confusion" from public mind.

She said that her party was very much for restoration of peace in the CHT and had worked relentlessly for this while in power.

sovereignty of the country." Begum Zia said. The BNP chairperson squarely blamed the govern-

ment for entering into an acthe constitution.

sovereign right on one-tenth of the country's territory." Begum Zia warned the government that such a move would give rise to demands

from different regions, whipping up strife between the regions, and thus endanger the national interest. She also accused the gov-

cord keeping the Cabinet ignorant. She said the Cabinet members were not aware of the conditions attached to the accord

before it was signed. The ruling

party men were also not con-

sulted before the deal.

Narayan Larma. Rangamati had asked the tribal people to identify themselves as Bangalees. Following that, she added,

army was deployed by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to contain the Chakma rebels who took to Begum Zia said President Ziaur Rahman had taken ini-

# ६०% क मि म त्न বাংলা একাডেমীর বই

বাংলা একাডেমী বাংলা নববর্ষ ১৪০৫ উদযাপন উপলক্ষে একাডেমীর বিপল প্রকাশনা ছাত্র–শিক্ষক–গবেষক ও সাধারণ পাঠকের হাতে পৌছে দেয়ার উদ্দেশ্যে ১ বৈশাখ ১৪০৫ থেকে ১৫ বৈশাখ ১৪০৫ পর্যন্ত ৫০% কমিশনে বই বিক্রির সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করেছে।

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বাংলা একাডেমী জাতির মননের প্রতীক

**Editor: Mahfuz Anam** 

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# From Page

fore the Eid for buying hides traders (aratdars) at Posta.

"While we sat without money, mastaans and unskilled elements took control of the trade in the rest of the country and created a chaos in useless because the people who bought those did not know how

tanners to keep the prices 'as low as possible. Ali Hossain, General Secre-

"The government gave the money to tanners and they suddenly acted on their own, ignoring an established network like ours," said Hossain, adding, "A section of people grabbed the opportunity and to my knowledge smuggled out a huge quan-

### UP chairman shot in N'ganj NARAYANGANJ, Apr 12: A union parishad chairman was

ganj-Demra road this evening. police said, reports BSS. The incident occurred when Siddhirganj UP chairman Nur Hossain was gossiping with his

friends by the side of his own

Four gunmen had come in an

fishery project.

chairman, police said. The local people chased them and caught one of the accomplices, Sajal. A pistol was recovered from Sajal.

Nur Hossain was sent to

authorickshaw and shot the

### lice added. 3 raped in city

Dhaka Medical College Hospi-

tal in a critical condition, po-

From Page 1 saying they were being chased

As they opened the door, Wasim and Moslem entered the room and brandishing sharp weapons violated the young None was arrested till yes-

Meanwhile, a four-year-old

girl was raped in Uttara at

After being informed of the incident, police arrested the alleged rapist Rafigul Islam, from an abandoned house in Diabari under Uttara thana. The alleged rapist was placed

around 1 pm Saturday.

Uttara thana under Women and Children Repression Control The victim is now under going treatment at the Dhaka

Medical College Hospital.

on a two-day remand for inter-

rogation. A case was filed with

From Page 1 to be re-scheduled. At the same time, Cairn was trying to get a 1'k one-crore bud-

get approved for the April 22

inauguration ceremony. "Cairn knew that it would not be able to complete the work by April 22, but it was going ahead with the inauguration ceremony to give an eye-wash that it had fulfilled its promise to supply gas within April," said an official.

It is now estimated that

Cairn might need more than a

month to complete the remaining work at the gasfield. The government is very much disappointed by this development since it had publicised the event widely. Besides, the additional gas supply is urgently needed to improve the country's gas-based power gen-

eration. Sources said, Cairn could not provide the 160 mmcfd gas on day one as two of the six operating wells of Sangu did not produce gas. "It cannot forcibly produce that amount of gas from the four wells. If Cairn does that, Sangu will become another Bakhrabad gasfield," said a source. Bakhrabad gasfield, discov-

ered in the 60s, was known as the single largest gasfield with a proven recoverable reserve of 2.8 trillion cubic feet of gas. But due to ill-planned extraction of The Jamaat leaders termed They warned that the conse-

DU: 7 arrested From Page 1 home-made pistol, 53 rounds of

The arrested persons have been identified as Rashed Ahmed, Shohel, Shafi Ahmed Titu, Mamun, Khokon, Shafigul Islam and Nazmul Islam. All of them are outsiders and

gas, the gas structure in the field was damaged and the recoverable reserved drastically came down to 0.8 TCF last year.

Sangu was discovered in

January 1996 with an estimated 0.88 TCF recoverable gas. Meanwhile, Petrobangla yesterday asked Cairn to explain whether the Tk one crore budget for the inauguration ceremony would be recoverable from the Sangu field. Cairn said that it would not be recovered

from the gasfield. "It may not be true," said the official. "There is a common practice by any foreign company working in Bangladesh that every cent they spend here. they recover it one way or another. In fact, Cairn has been spending unwisely since it began developing the Sangu field two years ago." Due to random spending.

Cairn's original budget for

Sangu increased from 188 million dollars to 264 million dollars. There is an on-going tussle between Petrobangla and Cairn regarding this budget hike. Recently, the higher authorities are considering approval of the enhanced budget, which had been finally revised at 247 million dollars. The estimated production cost of Sangu by Cairn would be

14 times more than the gas pro-

duced by the local BGFCL.

A view of an office inside the Secretariat on the first working day yesterday after the Eid-

ul-Azha holiday. Hartal to cause

A meeting of the Awam League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) was held at the Sangsad Bhaban in the city yesterday afternoon with Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina in the chair, reports

The meeting observed that the hartal would cause untold miseries not only to the people but also to the SSC examinees and the guardians. It further observed that there was no ground for calling a hartal on

Biman will operate 27 return

Koirala From Page 1 Koirala as Prime Minister," a Royal palace communique On Friday, Surya Bahadur

State radio said that Koi-

Koirala's Congress an-

From Page 1 that the government could take necessary measures on the ba-

"We are now concerned as

mittee, she pointed out.

The press conference was also attended by among others, advocates Ziad Al Malu and Masuda Rehana Begum and Dr Maleka Banu, Assistant Secretary General of the organisation.

its commitment for allowing a general discussion on the CHT issue. Sheikh Hasina said the Business Advisory Committee had decided on a thanks-giving

by the committee on a pre-condition for a general discus-On the opposition claim that the CHT peace agreement was beyond constitutional provisions, the Prime Minister said. had it been so, anybody could have challenged it in the court. "But none did so as everything

provisions.

vened from my residence over telephone in Baby's case." He said, "There was no anesthesiologist at the OT when Baby was brought. So they had to wait till an anesthesiologist from another department was made available for the operation. So, naturally there was

doctors do not want to disclose their names the director said, "It is true that doctors involved in such cases tend to avoid giving their names but if police officers explain properly the doctors may agree to disclose their names. Meanwhile, Baby, now in the

This is the fourth visit of

The US envoy is scheduled to

BSS adds: Sheikh Hasina

vice-president of Awami League

the club at Gopibag under Moti-Meanwhile, the case was

DMCH lacks facilities When asked about the police officer's allegations, DMCH Director Col Badrul Munir said,

"None of the allegations are

true. I had personally inter-

some delay but that was not deliberate at all." Asked why the attending

Intensive Care Unit, is expected to be released today. Talking to this correspondent on Saturday, baby said, "I want to go back to my parents

(at Shadur Char in Bhola) as

soon as possible. I don't want to

All end up in the same way. stay here anymore." None wants to cooperate when Her parents were informed we take rape victims to DMCH. I about her condition. Baby's maternal aunt has filed a case.

M Emdadul Haq (AL-Thakur-

Besides, the Aman produc-

BNP to return From Page 1

demned the stopping of telecast-

From Page 1 fairmeans in the examinations. Chairman of Chittagong Board Prof Ahsanullah said the authorities have taken all possible steps to prevent any leakage of question paper alongside

The 25-member Regional Council will be constituted by a Chairman and 24 members rep-

male and both the women members will be elected from the Chakma tribe. The chairman will be elected from among The Regional Council will be

said certain deletion, addition, alternation and changes in the existing laws were necessitated to bring those in conformity with the CHT peace accord.

# BNP stages walkout From Page 1 rupted initially. But her re-marks drew a fusillade of

statement. He said it was agreed by the business advisory committee that a general discussion protests from the Treasury back would be held on the CHT benchers, also joined by the accord before the bills were front benchers. They were heard saying that her remarks were not correct

accord a significant one and

guillotine any part of Begum Zia's statement, which would be

League which sent troops to CHT. He denied that any tribal

### Bangladeshi made Queen's Counsel Ajmalul Hossain, an advo-

cate of Appellate Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court, has been appointed a counsel for the Barrister Hossain is the first Bangladeshi who has been elevated to the rank of Queen's

Hossain will be sworn in on May 1 by the Lord Chancellor of Great Britain at a ceremony at the House of Lords when he will

ond son of Barrister Asrarul

ing the Regional Council, nor the Constitution allowed separate ministry on the basis of re-"The accord (CHT peace accord) is illegal, ultra vires to the Constitution. It is designed to

UNB adds: "But we could not accept the illogical, anti-state demands compromising the territorial integrity and

cord with the PCJSS "violating" "It was anti-state, antisovereignty, giving away the

ernment of signing the CHT ac-

started in 1972 when the Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had rejected the plea of autonomy made by Manabendra Again, she said, Sheikh Mujib in a public meeting in

tiatives to resolve the problem by speedy development of the area and promoting culture of the tribal population.

