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Consensus on CHT land dispute

KHAGRACHHARI, Dec 13: The government and the PCJSS today reached a consensus for a peaceful solution to land disputes in Chittagong hill tracts in accordance with the peace accord, reports UNB.

This was disclosed to local journalists by State Minister for Land Affairs Rashed Mosharrar and PCJSS chief Jotinindra Bodhipriya Lama alias Shantu Lama after a fruitful meeting between them at the circuit house today.

It was the first meeting between the Land Ministry and the PCJSS since the formation of a Land Commission on December 6, to start the survey of land.

Rashed Mosharrar said the government is sincere to implement the peace accord signed with the PCJSS. He said as the PCJSS is also sincere, the accord will be implemented in phases.

The State Minister told the journalists that the hilly people want a meeting between Shantu Lama and Prime Minister to see Page 12 Col 7

Second charge sheet

The same 7 to be accused of rape, murder of Shazneen

By Staff Correspondent

CID is submitting today a second charge sheet relating to the rape and murder of Shazneen Tasmin Rahman, the 15-year-old girl brutally killed at her father's Gulshan residence on April 23.

The charge sheet, ready for submission to the CMM, accuses seven persons of committing or abetting the rape before her murder, according to CID sources.

The seven are the same persons accused in the first charge sheet, submitted on September 17, that dealt with only the murder, the sources said.

The Scholastica ninth grader, youngest daughter of business tycoon Latifur Rahman, chairman of Transcom Group, was found dead late in the evening in the bedroom of the Gulshan house with more than 20 marks of stab injuries on her body.

The seven accused are domestic help Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, Syed Sajjad Mainuddin Hasan alias Contractor Hasan, supervisor Badal, guard Humayun Kabir alias Babul Sarder, carpenter Shani Ram Mandal and two maids Parveen and Minu.

CID ASP Mujibur Rahman, who led the investigation into the sensational murder, has framed the second charge sheet under Section 61(2) of the Nari O Shishu Nirjatan (Bishesh Bidhan) Act 1995.

The charge sheet was prepared on the basis of an autopsy report of the victim, confessional statements by the accused, statements of the witnesses and other documents, the sources said.

According to the charge sheet, domestic help Shahid raped and killed Shazneen while Contractor Hasan murdered the killing and the rest collaborated, CID sources said.

9 arrested in connection with killing of 11 outlaws

JESSORE, Dec 13: Nine people have been arrested in connection with Saturday's killing of 11 extremists at Ghoshnagar and Narendrapur villages in Sadar thana, police said, reports UNB.

They said Officer in Charge of Bagerpara thana Ahmed Ali was closed and brought to Jessore police lines today for his negligence of duty and inefficiency.

Meanwhile, seven bodies were handed over to their relatives and four remained in the hospital morgue.

Inside Today

Article
BJP's China policy: A grave Miscalculation

Column: Perspectives by Brig (Rtd) M Abdul Hafiz
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Supplement

Today's 20-page issue of The Daily Star contains a 4-page supplement on Cement Industries in Bangladesh on Pages 17-20

Nation recalls sacrifice of intellectuals

By Staff Correspondent

The nation today pays homage to the martyred intellectuals.

Recalling the supreme sacrifice of some of the greatest sons of the soil, the people will reaffirm their pledge to uphold the spirit of sacrifice of a land where the hopes and aspirations of the commonman will be materialised.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia in separate messages paid glowing tributes to the intellectuals who were killed only two days before the nation's independence.

President Shahabuddin said the supreme sacrifice of the martyred intellectuals is a bright example to follow for building a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

He termed the killing of the intellectuals as a black chapter in the country's history.

Sheikh Hasina cursed the perpetrators of 1971 genocide and urged the people to remain alert against them so that the defeated forces cannot strike back.

The Prime Minister said justice at last began to prevail and it would be ensured in all cases of such crimes in phases.

Begum Zia said the occupation forces killed the intellectuals knowing their inevitable defeat in the 1971 liberation war.

The motive behind the killing ahead of the Victory Day was to destabilise the nation's development by creating a vacuum in nation's intellect, she said.

This day (December 14) in 1971, before the final victory of independence war, local collaborators of the Pakistani occupation forces — Rajakar, Al Badr and Al Shams — picked them up from their residences and brutally killed them in the

darkness of night.

The occupation forces and their local collaborators killed the intellectuals under a blueprint when they became sure of their defeat in the nine-month war against the unarmed innocent people of Bangladesh.

University teachers, physicians, poets, writers, journalists, engineers and other eminent personalities were killed to 'cripple' the nation two days ahead of December 16, the Victory Day.

The victims included leading intellectuals like Dr GC Dev, Prof. Munir Chowdhury, Joyrimaya Guha Thakurata, Santosh Bhattacharyya, Dr Mofazzal Haider Chowdhury, Prof. Muniruzzaman, Prof. Anwar Pasha, Prof. Giasuddin Ahmed, Dr Fazle Rabbi, Dr Mohammad Murtaza, Dr Mohammad Shafi, Shahidullah Kaiser, Sirajuddin Hossain, Nizamuddin Ahmed, Ladu Bhai, Khondaker Abu Taleb, A N M Golam Mustafa, Shaheed Saber, Nazmul Haq, Altaf Mahmood, Nutan Chandra Sinha, R P Shaha, Abul Khair, Rashidul Hasan, Sirajul Haq Khan, Dr Alim, Abul Bashir, Dr Muktar, Faizul Mahi, Dr Sadeque, Dr Aminuddin and Saidul Hasan.

They were tortured at different concentration camps and eventually killed, mostly at Rayerbazar and Mirpur killing grounds.

The martyrs' mutilated bodies with hands tied behind and blindfolded were identified later by their near and dear ones.

To mark the day, the National Flag will be hoisted at half-mast on public and private buildings and black flag will also be hoisted.

The Betar and the TV will broadcast special programmes highlighting the significance of the day while newspapers bring out special supplements.

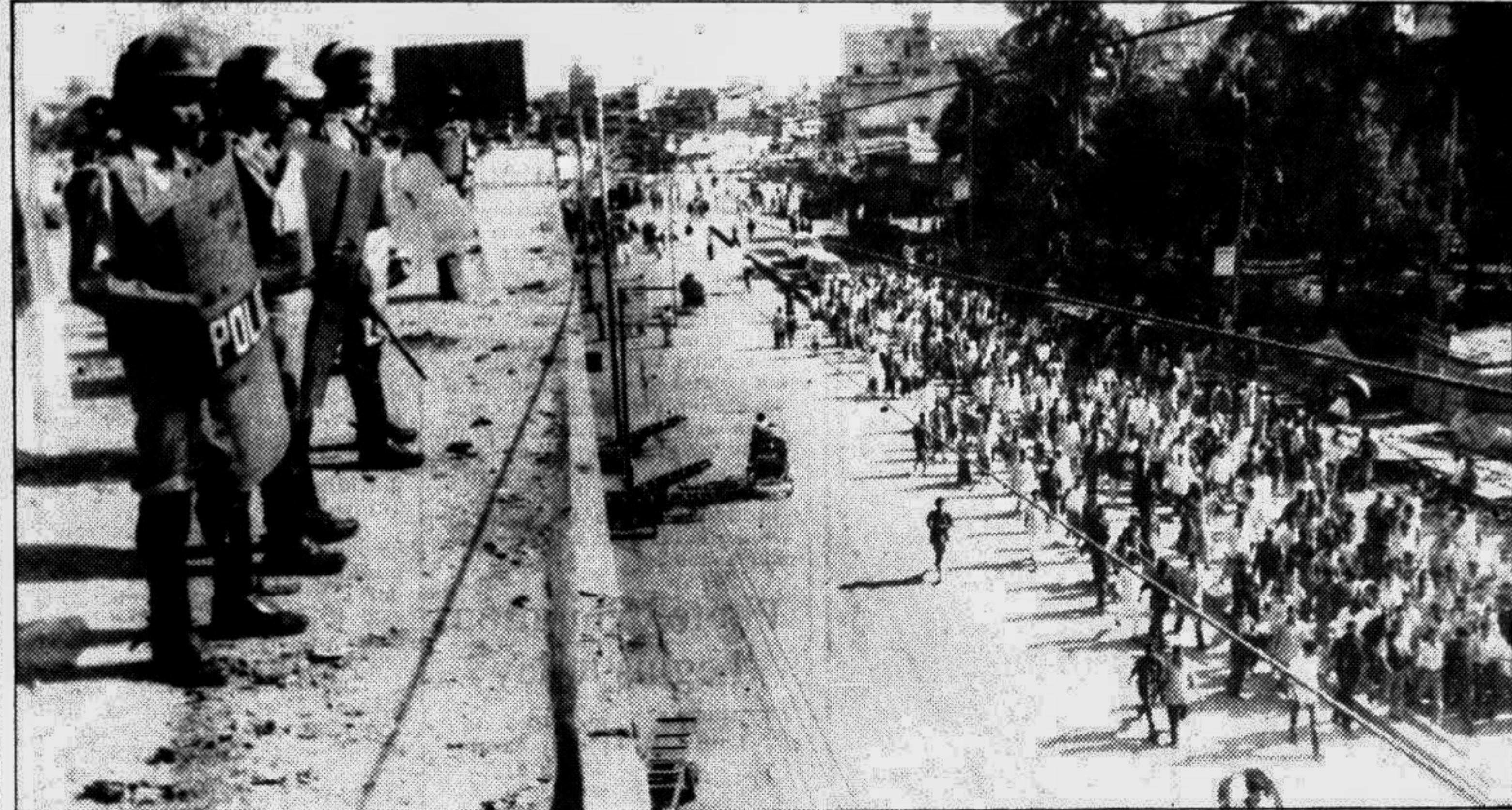
President Shahabuddin Ahmed will place wreath first at the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial at Mirpur early in the morning. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will place wreath next.

The Minister of Religious Affairs will place wreath next.

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The Martyred Intellectuals Memorial at Mirpur. — Star photo



Riot police stand on roof top of city BNP office at Nayabazar during hartal hours yesterday. They watch an anti-hartal procession of Awami League led by Lalbagh MP Haji Selim. BNP leaders accused police of breaking open the gates of Yusuf Market at 9 pm on Saturday and 'seizing' the party office which continued throughout yesterday. — Star photo

175 injured in sporadic clashes during hartal

By Staff Correspondent

At least 175 people were injured, 50 of them in the city and 40 at Chandpur, in sporadic clashes involving law enforcers and activists of opposition BNP and ruling Awami League during yesterday's dawn-to-dusk hartal that paralysed life across the country.

Of the rest, 26 were injured in Satkhira, 12 in Feni, 18 in Sirajganj, 13 in Khagrachhari and 15 in Faridpur.

The people injured in the city included one policeman and two BDR personnel.

At least 123 people were arrested in the city on charge of picketing.

The BNP-led Seven Party Alliance called the countryside hartal 'protesting' 'massive rigging and terrorism' during Thursday's by-election in

Pabna-2 parliamentary constituency and demanding fresh election there.

The worst trouble spot in the city was Shaheed Faruque Road at Jatrabari where over 20 people were injured, six seriously, when police fired rubber bullets and lobbed tear gas shells and BNP pickets exploded at least 50 hand bombs during a half an hour clash from around noon.

Police said they went into action to disperse pickets and stop clashes between the pickets and AL activists. Police also said they lobbed tear gas shells to disperse pickets there around 8 in the morning. Cocktails and stones were also hurled on them from rooftops of houses in the area in the morning, police claimed.

The injured persons there

included Jubodal activist Babu (25) and Jatiyatabadi, Sechshabek Dal activist Obaidullah, both hit with rubber bullets. Babu was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and the rest five including Obaidullah were taken to private clinics, party sources said.

Police also lobbed tear gas shells in Johnson Road-Roy Shaheb Bazar area to disperse pickets who exploded at least 50 cocktails there.

The Yusuf Market at Nayabazar where BNP's city office is situated, an usual trouble spot, was calm yesterday as police captured the adjoining areas, rooftops of houses and the balcony of the BNP office and did not allow the opposition activists to enter the office.

See Page 12 Col 1

BNP's march toward EC Sect Thursday

By Staff Correspondent

BNP will organise a march towards the Election Commission Secretariat at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city on Thursday to press its demands for repolling in the Pabna-2 constituency and resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena.

Besides, BNP will hold a public meeting at the city's Paltan Maidan on Saturday for the same demands. BNP's partners in the Seven-Party Alliance will also carry out the programmes simultaneously.

The fresh agitation programmes were announced by BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at a post-hartal press briefing at the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in the city yesterday evening. The programmes were decided earlier at a meeting of the Seven-Party at the same venue.

Explaining the reasons for changing the party position as regards post-polls agitation, Mannan Bhuiyan said despite BNP chief Khaleda Zia's pre-polls announcement for a 48-hour instant hartal to be followed by a non-stop one, they had to make some changes due to the Martyred Intellectuals Day and the Victory Day.

Asked to explain BNP's changed stance on resignation

See Page 12 Col 3

Gunshots rock DU campus: JCD president beaten up

By DU Correspondent

Gunshots and cracker blasts rocked the Dhaka University campus and its surrounding areas during the BNP-sponsored dawn-to-dusk hartal yesterday.

Some leaders of BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), including its acting president Monzur Elahi were beaten up by the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Modhu's canteen on the campus.

Monzur Elahi was assaulted when he came to Modhu's canteen at around 8-30 am to organise processions.

Later, three JCD activists — Ansar Ali Khan Joy, Masum Billah and Mazharul Islam Babu — came under attack by the BCL activists.

Of the injured, Masum Billah, a student of Shahidullah hall, was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital with injuries in his head.

At around 1-30 pm, a BCL procession came under attack by the BNP activists near Shahab crossing. The procession was on its way to the DU campus from the Press Club, witnesses said.

Some five rounds of gunshots were heard during the incident. Some crackers were also blasted. After a short while, the BCL activists fired four rounds of gunshots from near the Dhaka University Central Mosque.

4 hurt as police, terrorists trade fire in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 13: At least four persons, including two police personnel received bullet wounds in an exchange of fire between police and a group of terrorists at Halishahar this afternoon.

Police arrested two bullet-hit terrorists who were admitted to Chittagong medical hospital.

The two injured policemen are now under treatment at police hospital.

Police said the exchange of fire continued for half an hour during a drive to nab terrorists at 4 pm today.

Dhaka, Thimpu seek to open more land transit routes

By M Anwarul Haq

Diplomats and businessmen in Bangladesh and Bhutan are now giving increasing focus on opening more land transit routes between the two countries to give a boost to trade in the region.

The new transit routes would also enable the landlocked kingdom to have access to the outside world, including possible use of the Chittagong Port in the future, diplomatic sources said.

Bhutan uses Indian land routes and depends solely on Calcutta port for its import and export.

It can now have only one land route through Burimari in Lalmonirhat for trade with Bangladesh. This route is difficult for Bhutanese cargo as it has to negotiate a long distance.

Thimpu wants to establish shorter and convenient routes through the north-eastern Indian state of Meghalaya for easy business transactions between Bangladesh and Bhutan. The new routes, if opened, would give a big boost to trade between the two countries.

A high-powered Bhutanese team was in the Bangladesh capital from May 16 to 23 to carry out a joint survey to identify 'feasible routes' connecting the two countries on the eastern

side. The team, led by Ranzin Dorji, a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Communications, included officials from the Trade, Revenue and Customs departments of Bhutan.

On its return, the team submitted a detailed report for consideration of the Bangladesh and Bhutanese governments.

Bhutanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Lhatu Wangchuk told The Daily Star that his government has proposed two new points of land transit connecting the two countries. The first Nakuagaon point in Sherpur district and the second is Haluaghat point in Myensingh district bordering the Indian state of Meghalaya.

Bangladesh is keen to have already recommended to the Royal Government of Bhutan opening of the Dalu-Nakuagaon trade route. Dalu is on the Indian side and Nakuagaon is on the Bangladesh side.

A source in the ministry of Communications in Dhaka said Bhutanese authorities are actively studying the proposal. However, the consent of the Indian authorities is required for pressing into operation any new routes, all of which involve passage through their territory. Bhutan with a population of

around 600,000 would also look forward towards expanding trading ties through using the Chittagong port in the possible future, particularly in the context of regional cooperation, it is learnt.

"We shall consider port facilities after the transit route is put into operation" said Penzor Deki, a diplomat at the Bhutanese embassy in Dhaka.

Penzor however added, it is too early to think about using the port facilities since our main trading partner is India and our traders have always used the Calcutta port. "The important thing now is to identify Bangladesh-Bhutan transit routes."

Bhutanese diplomats and local businessmen are, however, optimistic about increasing the volume of trade after the opening of new transit routes.

Already trade between the two countries were picking up. Last year, Bangladesh exported goods worth nearly 26.1 million Bhutanese Nguliyuns while it imported goods worth around 19 million Nguliyuns.

"The amount is very small but there is potential for dramatically increasing the figures," Penzor Deki said.

Bhutan imported from Bangladesh ceramic ware, See Page 12 Col 5

Hartal has proved that people want repolling: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia has said the people rejected the Pabna-2 by-polls and extended their support to the demand for re-polling in the constituency by making yesterday's countryside hartal a "complete success".

Congratulating the countrymen for "observing the all-out hartal", she said though the government always spoke of democracy and people's voting rights, but it does not at all believe in those.

"They (Awami League) believe in terrorism, rigging... capturing polling centres and snatching people's verdict," the BNP chief said in a statement.

See Page 12 Col 4

Ex-BCL leader shot dead in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 13: A former leader of pro-Awami League Chhatra League was shot dead by a group of assailants at Sabujbag in Pahartali today, police said.

The bullet-hit body of Taslim Uddin Nasim was recovered from Sabujbag road at 1 pm.

Police said the killing of Nasim was not linked with hartal though the incident took place during hartal hours.

Declare hartal-free areas, Hasina's call to countrymen

MUNSHIGANJ, Dec 13: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today urged the countrymen to declare their respective areas hartal-free and help government carry out development activities without any hindrance, reports BSS.

"The days for observing hartal are gone since the country has embarked on attaining economic emancipation and raising the standard of living of the people," she said while addressing a big public meeting after inaugurating the second Dhaleswari Bridge here.

With the opening of the 383 metre Dhaleswari-2 Bridge direct road link up to Mawa has been established. The bridge project cost Tk 33.16 crore.

Hasina said "we cannot waste a single moment by observing hartal. The prime objective of our government is to bring about a qualitative change in the life of the commonmen by accelerating the pace of development. But hartals are retarding the pace of development."

She criticised the hartal call by the Leader of the Opposition in the name of vote rigging in Pabna-2 constituency. She

firmly said there has been no vote rigging during the last two and a half years of Awami League rule. She referred to the by-elections in Manikganj and Barisal where BNP candidates were elected.

"Awami League does not believe in the culture of vote rigging," she said adding "We believe in the people and their support."

Ridiculing the Opposition allegation, Sheikh Hasina said the by-election in Mirpur constituency in the city under the BNP government is still fresh in the memory of the people of the country. She said the election result of the constituency was announced through radio and television. "It was a media coup and people never accepted the result," she said.

The Prime Minister urged Begum Khaleda Zia to accept the verdict of the people since they are the source of all power.

She said the leader of the Opposition has been taking revenge of the by-election defeat by calling hartal.

Sheikh Hasina said her party despite being in power had lost two by-elections. "But

See Page 12 Col 5

Full House vote on impeachment next week

No intention to resign: Clinton

WASHINGTON, Dec 13: The House Judiciary Committee, on votes by its unified Republican majority, is sending four presidential impeachment articles to the full House next week. They rejected efforts by President Bill Clinton's supporters to impose censure instead of removal from office, report agencies.

The committee approved the final article Saturday on a party-line 21-16 vote, accusing the president of abuse of power and saying he gave "perjurious, false and misleading" answers to questions the panel asked about his sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

Republicans lined up solidly against the Democratic proposal to merely censure Clinton for "represensible conduct with a subordinate (Lewinsky)."

With that, the impeachment inquiry into the nation's 42nd president, triggered by Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's lengthy and costly investigation, became the pressing con-

cern of all 435 House members in a season when they normally would be on a year-end vacation.

Clinton was Israel as the committee completed two days of voting.

In Jerusalem, he said today he had no intention to resign. "I have no intention of resigning. It's never crossed my mind," a grim-faced Clinton told a news conference following a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

A presidential aide, Gregory Craig, stepped outside the White House to deliver a stinging statement of rebuttal: "Impeachment, he said, will 'divide the country, gridlock the government and defy the will of the people.'"

In a prediction that Republicans may pay a political price for their actions, Craig said, "In the end, the American people will make the final judgment about whether the impeachment of the president is in the

national interest."

Inside the House Judiciary Committee room, the debate grew ever sharper as the panel neared the end of its historic inquiry into the behaviour of the nation's 42nd president. Cable news and public TV channels carried the marathon sessions in full, but commercial networks opted for regular programming and news reports on developments.

Democratic Rep. John Conyers of Michigan told committee members: "This does, sometimes to some people, begin to take on the appearance of a coup."

Republicans bristled at that, citing patriotism and duty as their motivation.

With no doubt about the outcome of the committee's deliberations, all sides were focusing on a vote expected next week in the House the first presidential impeachment proceedings to get that far since Andrew Johnson sat in the White House in 1868.



President Clinton

Chittagong mayoral polls

Rival group's move to 'torpedo' BNP hope?

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Dec 13: Intra-party rivalry persists in Chittagong unit of BNP as a group led by a central leader of the party from here is active to establish domination in city politics, party sources said.

Party insiders say, the rivalry has angered leaders of the city committee of BNP, who are worried that it may affect the party's position in the mayor election.

President of Chittagong city committee of BNP, Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin, former mayor of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC), has a fair chance to get party nomination to contest the mayor election, the sources said.

In the last mayor election, Nasir was defeated by Awami League candidate Mohiuddin Chowdhury.

A leader of the city committee seeking anonymity, said

that the rival central leader reportedly established a 'clandestine link' with a possible candidate of the ruling party to 'torpedo' the move of his party's candidate.

He pointed out that the BNP candidate had to face opposition from the group in the last mayor election also.

When contacted Nasir Uddin said "We are now working to gether burying all differences and rivalries." He declined to comment on the reported 'clandestine link' of a central leader of his party with a possible AL candidate.

Party sources however, said the BNP high command is aware of the situation and is likely to take some dramatic steps to resolve the conflict to help the party candidate face the mayor election 'without trouble'.

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