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3 CHT bodies
reunite,
float party

Three organisations in the CHT have floated a new party to realise their demand for full autonomy, reports UNB.

Leaders of Pahari Gano Parishad, Pahari Chhatra Parishad and Hill Women Federation formed the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) at a 2-day joint conference that ended on December 26. The conference was held at the TSC of Dhaka.

Some 125 councilors of the three organisations and representatives of "Jhumpa refugees" took part in the conference.

Gano Parishad general secretary Prosit Bikash Khisa was elected convenor of the five-member central committee of the UPDF.

Other members are Rabi Shankar Chakma, Sanchoy Chakma, Dhrubo Jyoti Chakma and Dipu Shankar Chakma, said a press release.

From now on, it said, Gano Parishad, Chhatra Parishad and Hill Women Federation will act as front organisations of the new party.

The three organisations were split after Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma of PCJSS signed the historic peace accord on December 2, 1997.

Barricade on Dhaka-Aricha Highway

MANIKGANJ, Dec 27: Transport workers and the activists of transport owners association put up barricade on the busy Dhaka-Aricha highway and adjacent roads since 6 pm today protesting extortion of tolls in and around Aricha Ghat, reports UNB.

The action of the transport workers caused immense suffering to the passengers.

Police said the workers of Inter-district truck drivers union and transport owners association put up barricade on Dhaka-Nabinagar, Tangail-Bhuapur and Dhaka-Aricha highways for an indefinite period demanding immediate action against the extortions.

President of the Inter-district Truck Drivers Union Kafil Uddin told the news agency at 10:15 pm that they would continue the blockade until the demand was met.

The strikers rejected a meeting proposed by the Deputy Commissioner and the Police Super.

HC asks police Refrain from harassing Bunty

The High Court yesterday directed the police to refrain from harassing Bunty Islam, an accused in the film actor Sohel Chowdhury murder case, till December 31 in connection with a criminal case against him under the Narcotics Control Act, reports UNB.

The court, however, refused to pass any order in respect of bail petition in the case of murder of Sohel, and directed Bunty Islam to surrender before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate.

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Prayer Timings

December-28

Azan 5:15 5:20

Zohr 12:45 1:15

Asr 4:00 4:15

Magrib 5:23 5:27

Esha 7:00 7:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan Dec Sehri Iftar

8 28 — 5:24

9 29 5:15 5:24

10 30 5:15 5:25

The Daily Star



Arab MPs call for lifting sanctions

Iraq to fire on warplanes in no-fly zones

BAGHDAD, Dec 27: In its latest challenge to the United States and Britain, Iraq declared that it will fire on warplanes patrolling the no-fly zones that Washington and its allies imposed after the Gulf War, reports AP.

The United States and Britain said their aircraft would continue to enforce the no-fly zones and pilots would respond to any threats.

Iraq knows that it should

not interfere with those flights, and our pilots can act in self-defence if they feel threatened at any time," National Security Council spokesman P. J. Crowley said in Washington.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman in London said all British and American aircraft "operate to a very strict set of rules of engagement. If aircraft are threatened those rules of engagement do allow the return of fire."

The United States, Britain and France set up the no-fly zones in 1991-92 to halt air attacks against Kurdish rebels in the north and Shi'ite Muslim rebels in the south. French aircraft no longer patrol the northern zones, but still help to maintain the southern zone.

A week after US-British bombing campaign against Iraq ended, Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan said his government would not allow flights over northern and southern Iraq.

"We say frankly now that any violation of Iraqi airspace will be met by Iraqi fire," Ramadan told Qatar's Al-Jazeera television Saturday.

Iraq has never recognised the zones and has occasionally confronted aircraft flying in the area.

Asked why Iraq had not fired previously on planes enforcing the no-fly zones, Ramadan said, "When you want to restore your rights, you choose the suitable time and circumstances."

State-controlled Iraqi media have issued almost daily reports of violations of the country's airspace since the United States and Britain ended four days of airstrikes on Dec 19.

Meanwhile, participants in an extraordinary meeting in Amman of members of parliament from 16 Arab countries called today for a lifting of sanctions against Iraq, the Speaker of the Jordanian parliament said.

At around 8 pm, a policeman from Mirpur thana came to his brother's. Few minutes

It still happens!

By Staff Correspondent

Manzoor Ahmed never expected to get back his valuable travel bags lost at the Zia International Airport by mistake.

But in a rare feat of honesty of some policemen and a microbus driver, Manzoor got back his bags.

And to his surprise, his valuable documents and passports were in place and nobody even touched the dollars he had kept in one of his bags.

His bags contained valuable documents, his diplomatic passport and an ordinary passport, his wife's US passport, personal valuables, 50 dollars and two suits. "I did not expect anyone to return these to me. I gave advertisements in papers so that I could apply for passports. And, may be, someone would at least return my official papers," Manzoor said.

At around 8 pm, a policeman from Mirpur thana came to his brother's. Few minutes

later, he realised his mistake. At that time, the microbus, which belongs to a rent-a-car service provider, left for Gazipur with passengers.

Manzoor immediately reported the incident to Airport Police. He also put classified advertisements in two dailies in the evening and went to his Mirpur house.

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"All the delegates called in

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