

Nepalese team
keen to boost
trade ties

By Staff Correspondent

A six-member trade delegation from Nepal visited Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) office in the city yesterday.

The Nepalese team sought cooperation from Bangladesh to become a member of World Trade Organisation (WTO) during a discussion with the high officials of the EPB.

Led by Govinda P Rejmi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, the Nepalese team also discussed the ways to expand trade relations between two countries, said a press release.

EPB vice-chairman led the Bangladesh side at the discussion.

Martyrs of the Liberation War

The mass killings in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 21: If blood was the price for independence, the people of Kishoreganj district paid it very dearly, reports BSS.

They turned the district's idyllic villages into scorched and pillaged ghost hamlets," says Ashiqur Rahman, a freedom fighter. "Villages after villages burnt, looted, rape, murder, and torture reached its apogee in the district," he says.

There are a number of them, it came after hours of harrowing ordeal in the Pakistani army's makeshift concentration camp."

Late in the night of September 23, 1971, a horde of 250 Pakistani soldiers along with razakars, Al-Badar and Al-Sams members raided the villages.

In a door-to-door raid,

which was actually a systematic plunder of the village, they forced the unarmed villagers to their camp and inflicted a torture on them for hours.

As the day broke, they released all of the villagers except 42 "suspects" that included octogenarian Indrajit Pandit who had to endure more than another 18 hours of blinding torture before death released him.

Death did not come quietly for them, it came after hours of harrowing ordeal in the Pakistani army's makeshift concentration camp."

By midnight, the number of captives had increased to 103.

The victims, then almost dying from bleeding wounds, hunger and thirst, were taken to the ghat lined up in knee-deep water and shot to death with automatic rifles.

Hundreds of people, mostly innocent villagers of the district, not their death at Narasunda river in a five-month pe-

riod from May to September in 1971. The bodies of many including Ahmad Molla of Binbouli village, Eakub Ali of Boula village, grocer Bouchabab of Nagua, Abdur Rashid Miah of Kudalia village were carried away by the river currents.

Such massacres, took place in Baraitala, Moksedupur, Kalganj Rail Bridge, Hanumantala, Dholdia Rail Bridge, Bhairab Bridge and Siddherswari Kalibari ghat killing fields.

Locals say that about 350 people were shot to death at Kalmbar Baraitala, now known as Shaheed Nagar, a few hundred on Dholdia Rail Bridge, whose bodies were dumped in the river beneath, scores of people including the chairman of Saria Union Safruddin, Golap Saha, Mahtabuddin Master and Abdul Hakim of Kamalbari were butchered at Siddherswari ghat, a large number of people including Nabi Hossain were killed on Salmara Bridge.

"There is almost no end to the list, if you want to compile all the places where people were killed like wild games," Rahman says.

Rahman, who turned out at a training camp in Tripura state in neighbouring India and returned to his home district with arms and an unshakable commitment to free his motherland, recalls many incidents.

"In a paddy field I saw the dismembered corpses of some young girls. They (Pakistan army) had raped them, gouged out their eyes, cut their breasts and other limbs into pieces and stripped their body parts," he said.

About 300 people from Mithamoni and Kathkal unions who were trying to flee to India by boat were captured by razakars in Itna Haor and sprayed with bullets at the killing field near Baira Government Primary School in Joysindhi union after seven days of inhuman torture at concentration camps.

After 28 years of independence, the people of Kishoreganj demand only one thing, justice for the genocide, atrocities and other war crimes committed by the Pakistani occupation troops and their local collaborators.

"I despair at the fact that the collaborators are living free in the country today. Bring them to justice as war criminals," Rahman pleads as he echoes the sentiments of all others.

Some locals who have lost their dear and near ones in the killing fields, also want memorials built on the spots.

"It would at least give us an opportunity to pay tribute to those known and unknown Shaheeds, who gave their life for the independence that we enjoy today," says Rakib Uddin Tarun, a college student.

JS body reviews activities of Planning Academy

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Planning Ministry held its meeting yesterday at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with the committee chairman H N Ashiqur Rahman in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed the activities and organisational structure of the Board of Governors of Planning and Development Academy and its performances.

The meeting also discussed training target and cooperation courses with foreign institutions of the academy. The meeting emphasised the need for appointment of trainers having experiences at the grassroots level.

Science and Technology Minister Lt General (Retd) Mohammad Nooruddin Khan, Prof Md Ali Ashraf, Prof Jannatul Ferdous, Md Nurul Amin Talukdar, GM Fazlul Haq and Abu Lais Md Zubin Chowdhury took part in the discussion.

State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir attended the meeting on special invitation, said a press release.

TCC reviews child labour prevention activities

A meeting of the reorganised Tripartite Counselling Council (TCC) yesterday reviewed the child labour prevention activities across the country and expressed satisfaction over the elimination of child labour from the garment sector, reports UNB.

It is an impediment to the balanced development of the hilly areas, he said while presiding over a review meeting on the on-going development activities undertaken in the CHT areas, reports UNB.

The minister stressed on removing all types of hesitations and misunderstandings for the interest of the country, particularly the CHT areas.

Chairman of CHT Regional Council Jyotirindra Bodhipriyo Larma (Santu Larma), chairman Rangamati Parishad Ching Q Roza, chairman of Khagrachari Parishad Jotindra Larma Tripura, chairman of Bandarban Parishad Thawin Saw Prue Master, CHT secretary (acting) Md Sakhawat Hossain, joint-secretaries Md Abdul Awal Chowdhury and A Z M Shafiqul Islam attended the meeting.

Concern over delay in executing CHT projects

Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Affairs Minister Kalpa Ranjan Chakma has expressed concern at the gap created in executing the development projects in the CHT areas, reports UNB.

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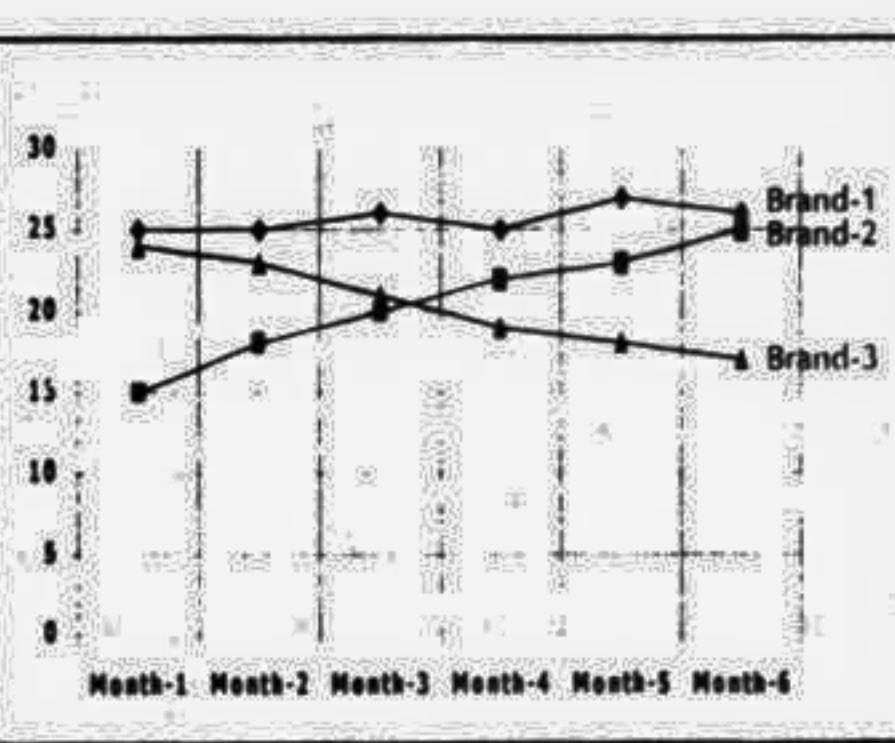
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Talcum Powder	Multi-surface Cleaner	Toilet Cleaner/Lav Care
Condom	Noodles	Toilet Soap
Detergent Cake & Bar	Oral Contraceptive	Tooth Powder
Detergent Powder	Oral Rehydration Salt	Toothpaste
Drycell Battery	Packaged Tea	Utensil Cleaner
Hair Oil	Ready to Drink Juice	Weaning Food
Health Beverage	Sanitary Napkin	Pharmaceutical Products
Laundry Bar & Ball Soap	Shampoo	

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