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PM reiterates commitment to CHT Accord

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is committed to full implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord, reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of the third anniversary of signing of the accord, Sheikh Hasina urged all to unitedly build the country sinks.

The Prime Minister said her government has taken extensive development programmes for the area where a task force is working for rehabilitation of the hill people.

Besides, a 22-member Regional Council under the chairmanship of Jyotirindriya Bodhipriya Larma has been working in the CHT since May, 1999.

She said the government has constituted a Land Commission headed by a retired judge of the

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DGFI to give up land for Int'l Mother Language Instt

By Staff Correspondent

The DGFI is to give more than one acres of land from its 5.3 acre installation in front of Kakrail Mosque on the southern side of the Public Health Engineering Department building to build the International Mother Language Institute, sources said.

The Education Ministry has already initiated a move to obtain the land to implement a Tk 18-crore project, already approved by the ECNEC. A ten-storied building would be built on a 2,364 square meters floor space to house the institute first of its kind in the region.

The Ministry sources said that the military intelligence organisation, which is the custodian of the large area in the heart of the city, has agreed to hand over the land for building the Institute.

In the first phase of the construction, a three-storied building would be built and in the second phase the entire structure would take shape.

Dengue scare revives

By Staff Correspondent

Dengue infection is spreading afresh in Dhaka and its surrounding districts.

Experts have warned that the infection would linger in the country.

A large section of people are already exposed to infection with at least two out of four types of the deadly virus. Unfortunately, it is beyond the control of authorities," said one expert.

Official estimates said at least 90 people have died of Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) and Dengue Shock Syndrome (DSS) since July when the viral infection, unknown to many, broke out. However, unofficial death toll is much higher.

Some doctors treating dengue patients described the fresh attack as 'grave'.

"We thought dengue infection would come to an end shortly but the recent rise in admission of such patients worry us a lot," said a doctor at Dhaka Medical College Hospital where most of the dengue patients in the city are admitted.

At a city clinic, another doctor who treated more than 200 dengue fever cases said, "Patients who are conscious about the risk of dengue attack are get-

tting admitted to clinics."

Government officials who had earlier said that the viral infection would not linger after November now says it might continue till the end of January.

"Aedes mosquito population is still abnormally high. Until we can control it, dengue infection would persist," said Dr Kanak Ranjan Talukdar, Director of Disease Control.

Reports from various city clinics said admission of dengue patients is on rise. More than 800 patients were admitted to clinics last month.

According to a WHO estimate, there are 50 million cases of dengue infection worldwide every year. Two fifths of the world's population - 2500 million - are at risk of such infection.

The latest WHO report on 'Dengue and Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever' said not only the number of cases are increasing as the disease is spreading to new areas but explosive outbreaks are also occurring.

An estimated 500,000 patients are hospitalised in the world each year with dengue infection and roughly five per cent of them die, it said.

AL demands Pak apology

By Staff Correspondent

The ruling Awami League has asked the Pakistan government to apologise formally to Bangladesh for the genocide, rape and mass destruction in 1971.

The call was made at a Central Working Committee (ALCWC) meeting of the party at the Ganabhaban last night with Prime Minister and AL chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

This followed recall of Pakistan's errant diplomat, Deputy High Commissioner Irfan Raja, from Dhaka for his derogatory remarks on Bangladesh's Independence War.

Meeting sources told The Daily Star that the ALCWC also sought withdrawal of the audacious remarks made by Raja and asked Pakistan to formally apologise for this.

The ALCWC resolved that mere recall of the diplomat would not do. The Pakistan government and the diplomat have to apologise for the "highly

derogatory remarks" hurting the national pride.

The meeting also expressed surprise at opposition BNP's delay in giving reaction to the incident. The BNP-led four party opposition alliance's 'silence' on the issue is 'mysterious', it said.

It felt that were links among the recent incidents of hoisting of Pakistani flag by a Jatiya Party (Ershad) leader, publication of a parody of the National Anthem by a daily and the audacious remarks by Irfan Raja.

Sheikh Hasina instructed the party rank and file to guard against 'fundamentalist and pro-Pakistani forces' trying to turn the country into a 'province of Pakistan' and pursuing politics of killing and coup.

Later, the PM in informal talks with some senior party colleagues gave them some instructions prior to her departure on a nine-day visit to Europe.

The chill of winter may not be in the air as yet, but the migratory birds have already started flying in from the cold. Their destination is once again the water bodies in and around the National Zoo at Mirpur.



Winter on the wings

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Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Trader shot dead in city

By Staff Correspondent

One trader was shot dead and another injured at West Hajipara in the city yesterday following dispute over trading in garments cut piece in the area, police said.

In another incident, police recovered the decomposed bodies of two young men from a house at East Rampura.

Zakaria Aziz alias Masum, 27, was shot dead and Enamul Huq,

35, was injured in a shootout between them and their business rivals at an arbitration meeting at a house at West Hajipara.

Enamul had called the meeting after the Jumma prayers for settlement of the dispute. At one stage, their rival group opened fire, which was replied by them, police said.

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Say 'no' to drugs... Pratyasha, an anti-drugs organisation, staged a rally in the city yesterday to mark the World AIDS Day.

News analysis

Thorns remain in CHT peace

By Shehab Ahmed

The third anniversary of signing of the peace accord ending decades of insurgency in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) will be observed today separately by the government and the returnees from the bush war who shunned their guns for roses.

In fact white roses for an AK-56 were what Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina traded with Jyotirindriyo Bodhipriyo Larma alias Shantu Larma, supremo of Shantibahini insurgents at Khagrachari stadium on February 10, 1998.

Some 70 days after signing of the accord in Dhaka on December 2, 1997 which formally ended the bush war by Shantibahini guerrillas, nearly 2000 of them laid down their arms at a surrender ceremony.

It was a long way from 1973 when Shantu Larma's elder brother Manabendra Narayan Larma, a school teacher, MP and a rebel, had initiated insurgency for self-rule in the CHT.

After a series of dialogues, a cease fire in August 1992 and finally the peace accord, the insurgency was over on December 2, 1997.

But a close look into three years of the peace accord shows that the two sides have many more miles to trek before the accord could get a stable footing, observers watching the situation believes.

The government has taken up an elaborate programme to mark the third anniversary of signing of the accord. The main function taking place at Khagrachari today will be attended by Agriculture Minister Moti Choudhury, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Mosharraf Hossain and CHT Affairs Minister Kalparajan Chakma.

Chairman of the Regional Council (RC) for CHT Shantu Larma, who enjoys the rank of a state minister, would celebrate the anniversary separately at Rangamati. However, he has been officially invited to be the chief guest at the Khagrachari function.

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Bid to kidnap criminal from police custody foiled in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 1: Three police officers were injured while resisting some Jubo League activists from kidnapping notorious criminal Baduzaaman Litu, 30, from the compound of Khulna Collectorate Building on Thursday noon.

The injured police officers are Sub Inspectors Noor Islam, Fashir Rahman and Bahauddin of Battalgata thana of the district.

Baduzaaman Litu is one of the accused in several murder, mugging and dacoity cases recorded with Battalgata thana and Sonadanga thanas, police said.

The incident occurred when the alleged notorious criminal was being taken to the court. Some Jubo League activists made an attempt to kidnap him from police custody.

Few minutes earlier this incident, Baduzaaman Litu was arrested from the same court compound by the three Sub Inspectors of Battalgata thana.

Police in co-operation with opponents of the alleged criminal foiled the kidnapping attempt.

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Human Rights Commission still on drawing board

By Nazrul Islam

last year for establishing such a commission.

The proposal was due to be placed before the parliament for its consideration in the millennium session in January last, but it was not moved to the House yet.

In line with its Constitutional obligation, the government planned to set up a powerful HRC to protect, develop and ensure human rights and approved a draft proposal on December 23

The draft was sent to the Ministry of Law for further vetting after Cabinet approval last year said an official.

According to the human rights activists, some 1500 incidents of

human rights violation including incidents related to political clashes, terrorism and violence on women are being recorded in every month on an average.

Bureau of Human Rights Bangladesh (BHRB), an organization works for promotion of human rights, has recorded a total of 964 human rights violation in last month.

Incidents of terrorism, extor.

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7	Dec 4	5:02	5:14

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