

Pry teachers lay siege to PMO Dec 22

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Non-government primary school teachers will lay siege to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on December 22 demanding nationalisation of their service.

Prior to the siege programme, they will hold a grand rally and bring out a procession from Mukhtangon on the same day.

The programme was announced at a meeting of Bangladesh Non-government Primary Teachers' Association at its central office in the city yesterday.

They demanded formation of a national pay commission for non-government teachers.

The meeting also decided to hold rallies at district level to make the grand rally a success, sources

said.

Presided over by association President Mohammad Shamsul Alam, the meeting was also addressed by acting secretary general Abdur Rahman Bachchu, Joint Secretary General Abul Kalam Azad, Organising Secretary Babu Megendra Mohan Saha and Publicity Secretary Shamsul Haq.

New cardiac hospital to be set up in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A new cardiac hospital will be set up jointly by the Escort Heart Institute of India and Bangladesh Medical Services Limited in the city.

An agreement to this effect was signed by the sponsors in presence of Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury at a city hotel yesterday.

The minister hoped that with the establishment of the proposed Cardiac Care Hospital, there will be no need for Bangladeshi heart patients to go abroad for treatment.

It will also save huge foreign exchange, he added.

"We feel honoured and privileged to bring our highest standard of cardiac care to the footsteps of the people of Bangladesh," said Dr Naresh Trehan, executive director of Escort Heart Institute and Research Centre.

GM Siraj MP, managing director of Bangladesh Medical Services Limited, said the hospital would provide both preventive and curative care at affordable cost.

The hospital, to be set up at Nikunja on the Airport Road, will be equipped with the latest equipment and technology, he added.

The hospital is expected to be operational by the last quarter of 2005.

DFID-Japan economic bureau joint team due today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-member joint team from the British Department for International Development (DFID) and Economic Cooperation Bureau of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs arrives in the city today on a two-day visit.

The delegation members are Suma Chakrabarti, permanent secretary of DFID, and Kazuo Kodama, deputy director general of Economic Cooperation Bureau.

Their visit is aimed at strengthening UK-Japan collaboration to help Bangladesh achieve the Millennium Development Goals of halving poverty by 2015.

They will especially focus on the areas of governance and capacity development.

This is the first time bilateral donors from the East and West have joined together in support of the development of Bangladesh.

Chakrabarti and Kodama will visit a maternal and child health training institute and private sector initiatives. They will also meet senior government officials.

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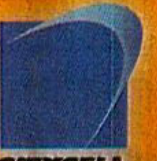
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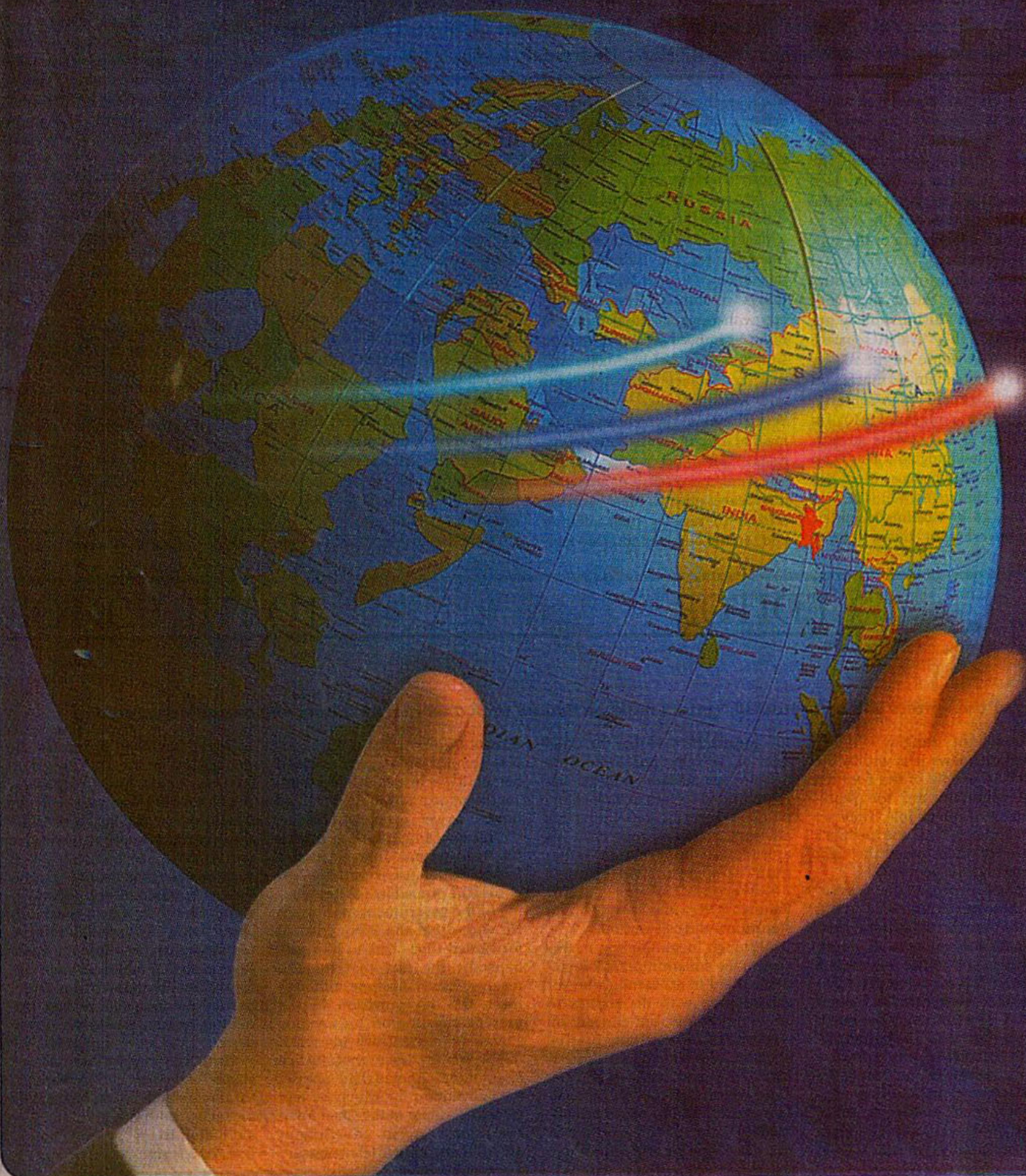
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