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CHT PEACE ACCORD
Concern over
proposed
revision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of prominent citizens in a statement yesterday expressed grave concern over the proposed revision of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord.

They said full and faithful implementation of the accord is crucial for ensuring the rights and interests of all CHT residents and for greater interest of the country.

The signatories to the statement said non-implementation of crucial elements of the accord, which are recognised both nationally and internationally, remains a vital obstacle to long-term peace and stability in the region.

It also said the agreement, which was signed following a bilateral negotiation, should not be revised or amended unilaterally.

The signatories are Justice Muhammad Golam Rabbani of the Appellate Division of Bangladesh Supreme Court, former adviser to a

INDO-BANGLA DIALOGUE
**Water discord should
be solved for better ties**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign adviser Iftekhar A Chowdhury yesterday said now is the right time for India and Bangladesh to seriously negotiate on issues, since India has accepted a greater responsibility in the relationship.

Expressing deep concerns regarding the construction of dams and reservoirs in India that would deprive Bangladesh of crucial water resources, he said water sharing issues need to be addressed immediately to take the relations forward.

"Both parties should realise that if there are hills to climb, waiting would not make them any smaller," Iftekhar said at the inaugu-

gural session of the three-day 16th Bangladesh-India dialogue at Brac Inn in the capital.

The dialogue is organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue, and India International Centre, while the session was chaired jointly by CPD Chairman Rehman Sobhan and former Indian diplomat Dev Mukherjee.

Iftekhar said the present goodwill between the two neighbours exists because of India's acceptance of a 'higher degree of responsibilities in the conduct of bilateral relations, often without reciprocity'.

He said the public opinion of India has improved in Bangladesh because of 'the understanding on the part of India of Bangladesh's need to evolve policies that would

WAR CRIMINALS' TRIAL
Female freedom
fighters for
special tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Female freedom fighters yesterday called on the government to set up special tribunals to try war criminals and anti-liberation forces.

They also urged the administration to ensure that no religion-based political parties get registered with the Election Commission and to bar them from contesting elections.

The freedom fighters broke down in tears at a reunion where they recounted their sufferings during the country's liberation war.

Mohila Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha and Institute for Environment and Development (IED) jointly organised the reunion at Chhayanot building at Dhanmondi in the city.

Chaired by Dr Magduma Nargis



The four Dhaka University teachers detained in connection with violating Emergency Power Rules in August being produced before a Dhaka court yesterday for hearing on charge framing.

RANGS BHABAN
Rescue work for
trapped persons
starts today

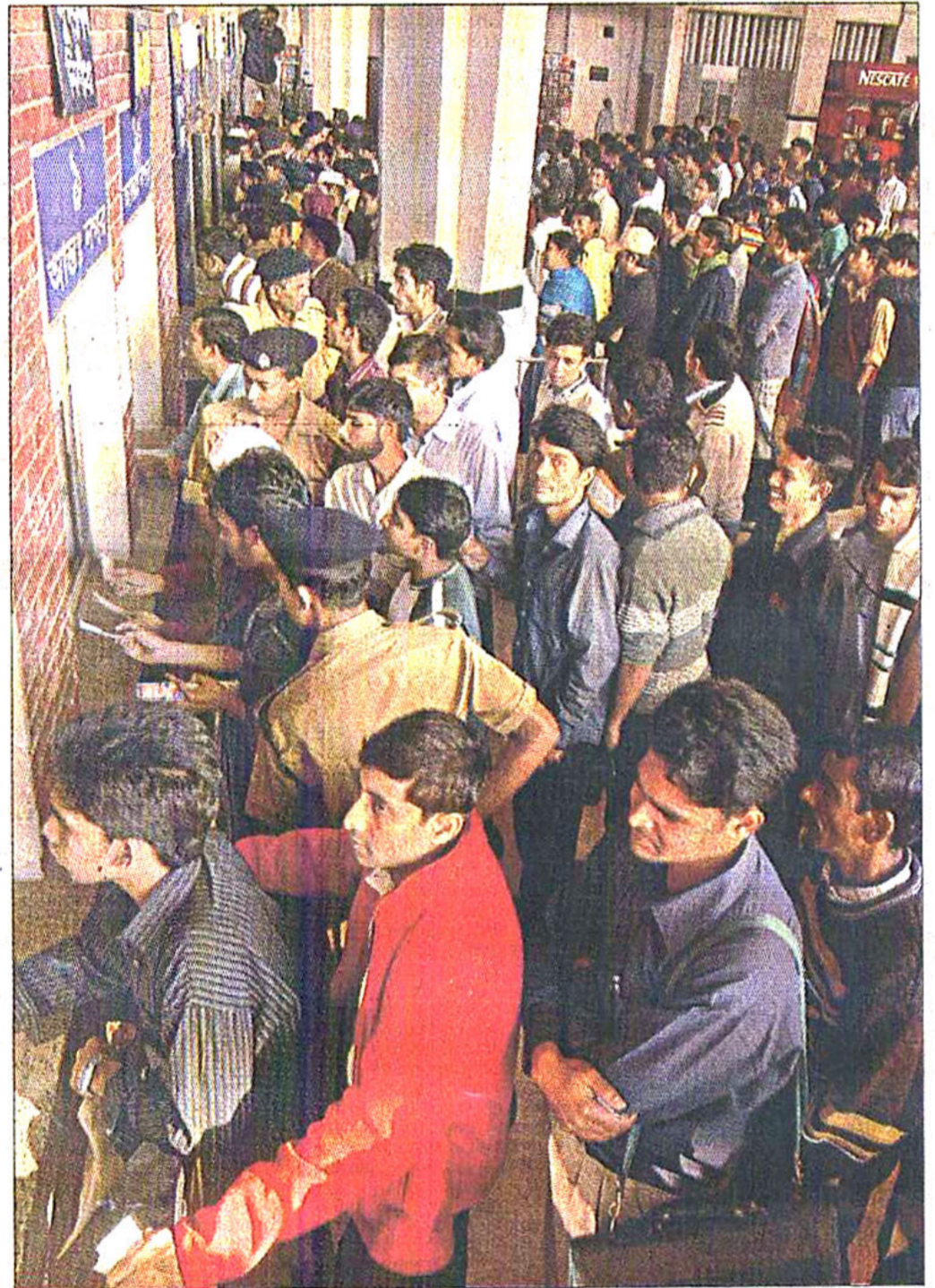
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The operation to rescue the 11 men trapped in Rangs building in the capital is set to start today.

The men were trapped there by Saturday's partial collapse of the building, leading to the confirmed deaths of four of them.

Restless relatives of the trapped demolition workers were seen waiting outside the building yesterday, desperate for news of the trapped men who could not escape the collapse of the building which was being demolished.

Bodies of the four dead could be seen trapped under the debris on the seventh floor, where they had been taking naps in between their work shifts at the time of the collapse.



People stand in long queues at the counters of Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital yesterday to buy advance tickets to go home to celebrate Eid.

**SSKOP holds rally
today demanding
revision of 6th
Wage Board Award**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sangbadik-Sramik-Kormochari Oikyo Parishad (SSKOP) will hold a rally at 11:00am today in front of the National Press Club demanding revision of the recently published 6th Wage Board.

The Parishad will also observe four-hour work abstention programme in newspaper and news agency offices from 10:00am.

The Parishad yesterday at a meeting held at the club also demanded a new gazette notification for a revised 6th Wage Board. They called for a stop to termination of journalists and workers in the Daily Ittefaq and reinstatement in their jobs. The Parishad also called for action to resolve the crises in the Daily Bangladesh Observer.

SUHRAWARDY UDYAN
HR bodies ask
CA not to hand
over land to
Dhaka Club

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of leading human rights and environmental organisations yesterday appealed to the Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed to not allocate 25 acres land of Suhrawardy Udyan to Dhaka Club for development of a golf course.

The letter, signed by Ain O Shalish Kendra, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), Nagorik Uddog, Nijera Kori, Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), Bangladesh Institute of Architecture, Resource Integration

**Battle over emissions
at climate meeting**

AP, Bali

The battle over whether to include greenhouse gas emissions targets in the "roadmap" for a new climate accord intensified Tuesday, with the Europeans and environmentalists clamouring for the targets against opposition by the US and others.

Talks at the UN climate change conference, now in its second week, stepped up with the scheduled arrival of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Australia's new prime minister, Kevin Rudd, who signed onto the Kyoto Protocol on global warming just last week.

Delegates from 190 nations have been trying to hammer out a roadmap for negotiations for a pact to succeed Kyoto when it expires in 2012 but have struggled with the wording for the text.

A draft of the final document notes in a nonbinding way a widely accepted view that reductions of 25 percent to 40 percent in industrialized nations' overall emissions would be required by 2020, calling for even deeper cuts later.

The United States is resisting

**Gathering on
streets banned
on 31st night**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday banned all kinds of assembly on streets on New Year's Eve but decided to allow celebrations as long as it is confined in an establishment.

The inter-ministerial committee on law and order yesterday made the decisions during a meeting. The committee also ordered law enforcers to bust any illegal trade of alcohol before December 31st.

**Grenades found
in Bogra, Satkhira**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four grenades and 138 bullets were found abandoned in a field at Sonaroy union under Gabtoli upazila of Bogra yesterday.

The same day four more grenades were found at Khesra village of Tala upazila in Satkhira district.

Our staff correspondent from Bogra said locals found the grenades and ammunition kept in an earthen pot while ploughing the land yesterday afternoon.

SIRAJGANJ POWER PROJECT
Five int'l companies
submit bid documents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five international power companies yesterday submitted their qualification documents with the Power Cell of the power ministry to participate in the bidding for setting up the 450 megawatt Sirajganj Power Project.

Previously the government had floated three rounds of tenders for the same project. One of the tenders was cancelled at its final stage without any reasonable explanation and the third one was

MICROFINANCE IN SIDR-HIT AREAS
NGOs won't collect
instalment for
next 3-6 months

UNB, Dhaka

Non-governmental organisation (NGOs) and micro-finance institutions (MFIs) will suspend the collection of monthly instalment of their loans in the cyclone-affected areas for next three to six months.

This was decided at a meeting of Bangladesh Bank with the NGOs and MFIs at the central bank head-

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Prayer Timing

December 12

Fajr	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation