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Biggest pullout from CHT

Govt decides to withdraw one brigade, 35 temporary army camps by Sept; 200 camps already withdrawn in phases as per the 1997 peace accord

SHAKHAWAT LITON

In a major development towards implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord 1997, the government has decided to withdraw one brigade of troops and 35 temporary security camps from CHT areas by this September.

As part of phasing out of military from the three hill districts as per the agreement, the announced withdrawal will start immediately, says an official statement disclosed yesterday. A few more steps are also being taken to implement the historic peace accord.

"This is the biggest army withdrawal from the area after the accord was signed," says the statement of the Armed Forces Division under the Prime Minister's Office.

The decision to withdraw one brigade of troops consisting of three infantry battalions and 35 security camps was made analysing the law and order in

the CHT, says a press release of the Inter Services Public Relations Directorate.

Sources in the Army Headquarters said after the withdrawal of 35 camps, more than 300 camps will remain in the CHT. These are expected to be withdrawn in phases. The brigade at Kaptai in Rangamati will be shifted to Chittagong Cantonment, they added.

According to the peace accord, the government is supposed to withdraw all military camps and security forces from CHT areas excepting the three cantonments in Bandarban, Khagrachhari and Rangamati district headquarters and those in Alikadam and Ruma upazilas of Bandarban and Dighinala of Khagrachhari, police and border security.

Two hundred security camps have so far been withdrawn in phases since the accord was signed between the then Awami League government and Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity on December 2, 1997 to bring an end to two decades of

insurgency and unrest in the hill districts.

After signing the accord, members of the Jana Sanghati Samity who had been fighting for autonomy of the CHT surrendered arms to the then AL government.

However, implementation of the accord lost momentum after the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government assumed state power in 2001. The alliance had opposed signing of the accord.

After assuming power in January, the AL again initiated steps to implement the CHT Peace Accord to bring normalcy in the region and in May made Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury the chairperson of a national committee for implementation of the accord.

"The government expects that the army withdrawal will be considered by the hill people as a milestone of implementing its pledges," the statement of the Armed Forces Division says.

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PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh players celebrate after their three-wicket victory over the West Indies in the second one-dayer at Windsor Park in Dominica. Bangladesh now lead the three-match series 2-0.

Tigers complete historic double

AFP, Roseau

Half-centuries from Shakib Al Hasan and Mohammad Ashraful trumped a maiden one-day international hundred from Travis Dowlin, and inspired Bangladesh to a three-wicket victory over West Indies in the second ODI on Tuesday to take an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the series.

It was Bangladesh's first-ever away one-day series triumph. This win comes on the back of a clean sweep by the Tigers in the two-match Test series with the third last one-dayer to be played tomorrow in St. Kitts, followed by a single T20 match at the same venue on August 2.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

PM for common power grid in S Asia

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina underscored establishing a common power grid in South Asia to overcome electricity shortage that has emerged as one of the major impediments to rapid development in the region by utilising available prospects.

She pointed out the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Conflicts hamper development

DCs inform ministers

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The country's deputy commissioners (DCs) allege that a prevailing tension among members of the parliament (MP), upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs), and elected representatives of local governments over their jurisdictions has been hampering normal functioning of local administrations as well as development activities.

Speaking in separate meetings with different ministers in Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday, many DCs pointed out that the multilateral tension was mainly sparked by disputes regarding who will have how much control over various development programmes like food for work, vulnerable group feeding (VGF), and vulnerable group development (VGD), and the row is marred by the government's image.

The issue came up prominently in the DCs meeting with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam. The DCs

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No irrigation project in Tipai downstream

Indian officials assure Bangladesh team

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India yesterday assured Bangladesh of not building any irrigation project downstream of the Tipaimukh hydro power structure in Manipur.

Indian ministries of power, external affairs and water resources conveyed the message to the parliamentary delegation from Bangladesh in an hour-long interaction at the South Block of the Secretariat Building in New Delhi.

This addresses a key concern of Bangladesh, which has been worried over a possible irrigation project downstream of Tipaimukh Dam on the Borak as it could impact the flow of water in the cross-border river.

The Indian officials, including officials from National Hydro Power Corporation, also assured the visiting delegation, headed by Awami League lawmaker Abdur Razzak, of India being ready to extend all cooperation to protect the interests of the two countries regarding the Tipaimukh power project.

During the meeting with the Indian officials a video presentation was made on the Tipaimukh project. A number of the 10-member Bangladesh parliamentary delegation raised several questions about the project and the Indian officials answered them, sources said.

The lawmakers sought documents and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



PHOTO: STAR

Torrential rain over the last few days in the capital inundates Matuail in Demra area. The photo was taken yesterday.

Many city areas still under water

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rainwater receded yesterday from most of the areas inundated in Tuesday's record six-hour rainfall in the capital in 53 years.

But waterlogging persists in many other areas, especially low-lying ones, which went under knee to waist-deep water as Dhaka had the country's highest rainfall in 24 hours till 7:00am Tuesday.

The areas include parts of Kazipara, Monipur, Paikpara, Rupnagar, Dhaka University (DU) campus and a vast area inside DND embankment.

Thousands of people in these areas continue to suffer with their houses submerged and garbage floating all around.

Aniket, a resident of Rupnagar, said yesterday houses of around 5,000 people

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Rid's syrup unauthorised, toxic element found

Says probe report on paracetamol tragedy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government-formed probe committee has found presence of poisonous Diethylene Glycol in the paracetamol syrup of one pharmaceutical company after examining 300 samples of paracetamol and vitamin syrup of 10 companies.

The seven-member body submitted its

report to Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque yesterday.

The committee headed by Joint Secretary (hospital) Abdul Jalil was formed on July 21 following the deaths of about 25 children due to renal failure in the last one and a half months. It was supposed to submit its report within five working days.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

এসবিএল মার্কেট ব্যাংকিং

শেয়ার ব্যবসায় সবচেয়ে বেশী দরকার

কেয়ার

স্ট্যান্ডার্ড ব্যাংক মার্কেট ব্যাংকিং উইং এর

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আমাদের অভিজ্ঞতা, কর্মকাঠামো এবং মতিভিলে সুবিধাজনক অবস্থান আপনাকে শেয়ার পোর্টফোলিও ব্যবস্থাপনায় নিয়ে যাবে এক ধাপ এগিয়ে

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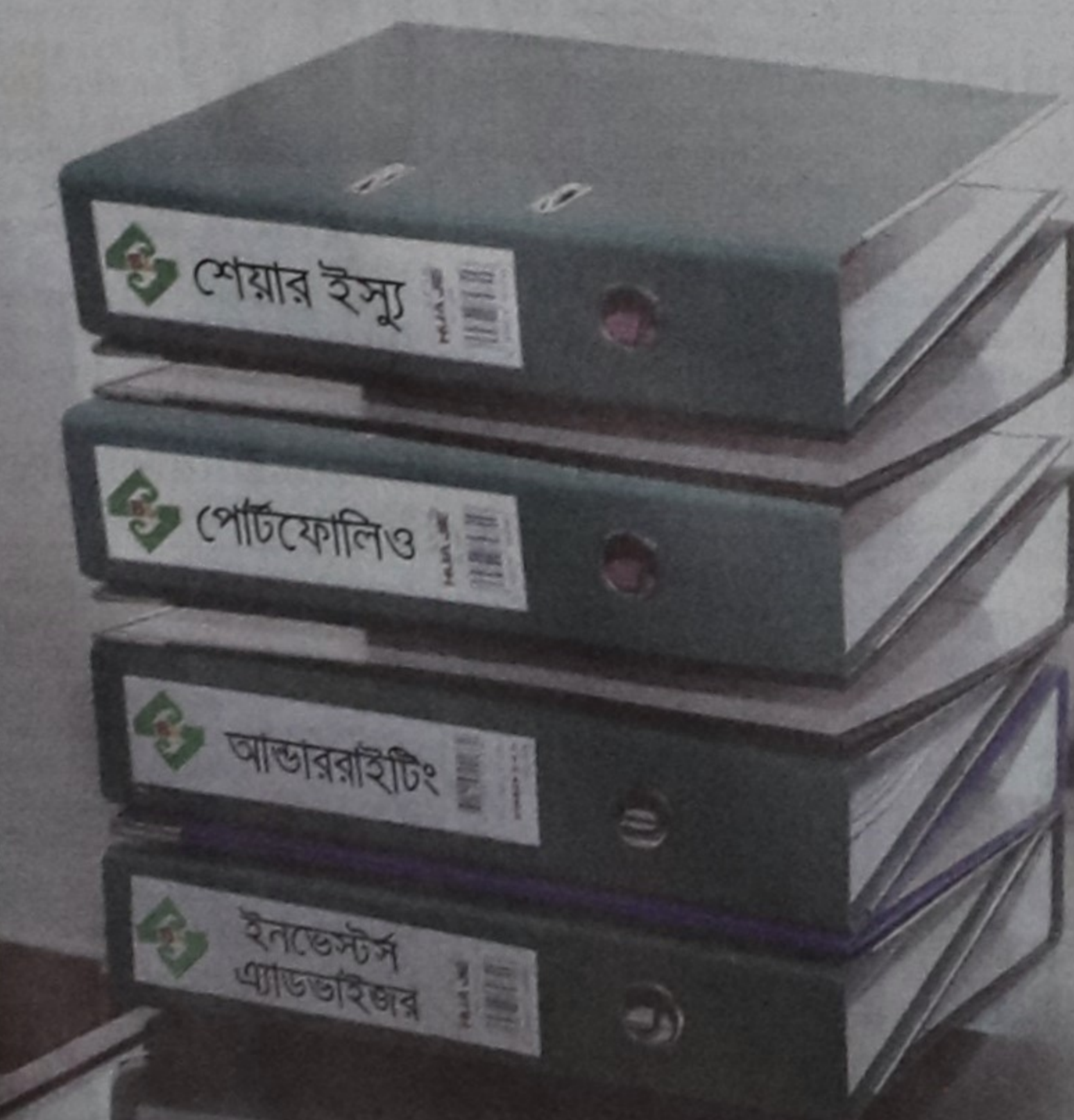
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কক্সবাজার শাখার

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