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Hasina remains upbeat

UNB, Copenhagen

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh is still hopeful about concluding soon a reasonable agreement on funding climate-change adaptation and carbon-emission cuts to protect the endangered planet.

She struck the note of optimism in her lecture titled 'Climate Change in Bangladesh: Facing the Challenges' at Lund University of Sweden yesterday noon (local time).

As the global meet concluded without any binding deal on carbon cuts and adaptation funds, Hasina called upon the countries participating in the Cop-15 climate summit to be "realistic" taking into account various aspects of the world economy and development.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

US-led accord accepted

UN skirts bitter opposition to 'note' it as 'essential beginning'; no binding deal reached; hopes pinned on Mexico City meet next year

AFF, BBC ONLINE, AP, Copenhagen

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon yesterday praised the deal at the Copenhagen climate summit as an "essential beginning" but admitted it did not achieve all that was hoped.

The UN climate conference narrowly escaped collapse Saturday as bitterly divided delegates agreed after all-night talks to recognise the political compromise that President Barack Obama brokered with China and other emerging powers.

But Obama admitted the so-called Copenhagen Accord did not go far enough. The deal puts off specific goals for cutting carbon emissions blamed for global warming which scientists warn will put entire species at risk if unchecked.

The Copenhagen Accord was bogged down for hours by protests from delegates who felt they were excluded from the process or said the



Ban Ki-moon

deal didn't go far enough in cutting the greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1
FULL TEXT OF ACCORD ON PAGE 6

Carbon cut pledge, legal string missing

PINAKI ROY from Copenhagen

The Copenhagen Accord has been noted by the UNFCCC as without any major pledges about carbon emission reduction by the developed and top polluter countries, apparently suggesting not much action in near future to reduce global warming.

Though Bangladesh and the Maldives are part of the Accord, Tuvalu, another small island vulnerable to sea level rise, says it cannot accept it.

Since the Bali Action Plan was adopted, Bangladesh and other LDCs were demanding a legally binding

document which will endorse that global temperature must not exceed 1.5 degrees than that of pre-industrial era by the end of this century with maximum 350 ppm carbon in the air.

The demands of the least developed countries (LDCs) also include a global fund of \$200 billion and preferential shares of it for the most vulnerable countries.

But the Copenhagen Accord does not have any legal status and the parties also did not agree to make it a legally binding document. Besides, whatever is pledged in the accord, any country might violate that.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Bank charges hit deposits

BB finds amounts shrink by 5-8.5pc a year, plans to act

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Amounts deposited with private commercial banks shrink by 5-8.5 percent within a year, even after interest on the deposit is added, as banks deduct different charges from the amounts, a recent study of Bangladesh Bank reveals.

Analysing customers' complaints lodged with it, the central bank has found that an amount of Tk 10,000 deposited at the beginning of a year decreases by Tk 500-850 at year-end.

After holding a meeting with the high-ups of private commercial banks last month regarding these findings, the BB is going to waive different types of charges imposed on current and savings accounts.

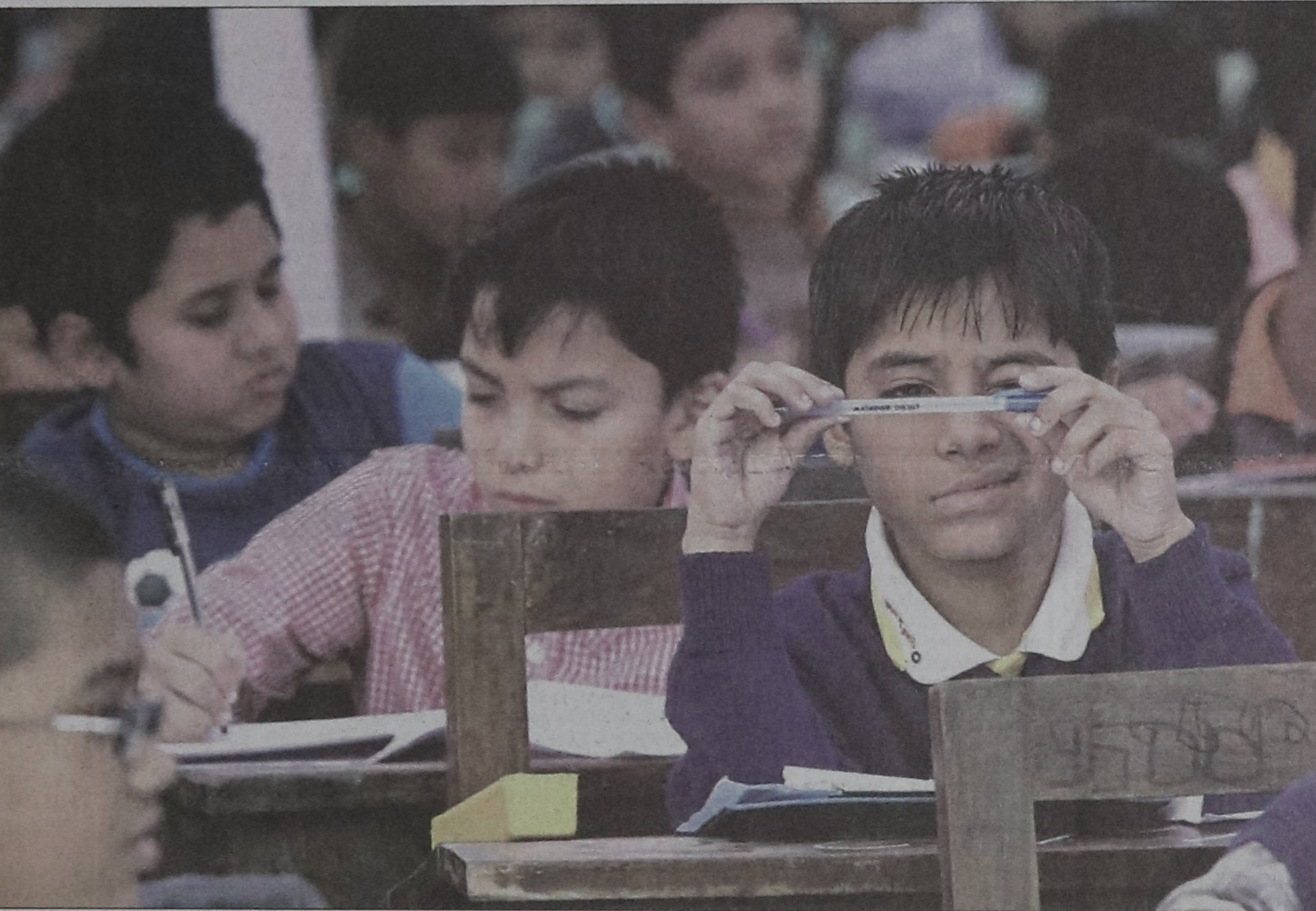
Earlier on two occasions, it reduced the excessive charges the banks used to impose on loan and service accounts.

The central bank study has detected three types of charges introduced by the private commercial banks - incidental charge, minimum balance fee and service charge.

The rates of these charges vary from bank to bank: the charge for a current account is between Tk 200 and Tk 2,000 and that for a savings account between Tk 100 and Tk 1,400.

Labelling the two ceilings as excessive, the BB is going to waive the service charge, incidental charge and minimum

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



LEAVE US KIDS ALONE: Although the admission battle for children is reaching its climax, the little soldiers seem not that much serious. The photo was taken during an admission test for class-III at Residential Model School and College in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

PM's DELHI VISIT Dhaka hopes for Teesta progress

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes yesterday said Bangladesh expects progress in the long running issue of sharing waters of the Teesta River during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to New Delhi next month.

Hasina's visit, deferred due to the Copenhagen climate change summit, is likely to take place on January 11.

During the planned visit several agreements and memorandum of understandings are likely to be signed to facilitate transportation of India's

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Time for new border

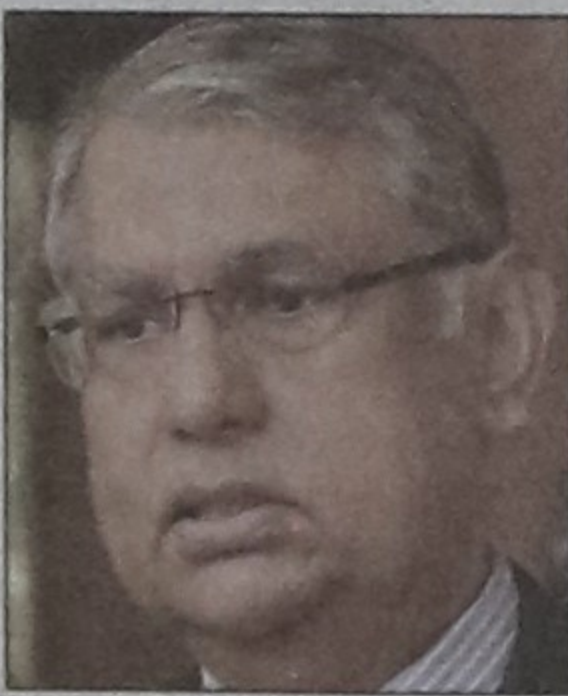
Outgoing Indian HC Pinak Ranjan tells The Daily Star

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Outgoing Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty has emphasised redrawing of Indo-Bangladesh border to comprehensively address all the old issues on land boundary and enclaves to remove sufferings of people of the two countries.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Star on Thursday, he

said the people who live in the enclaves have to cross international border every day for cultivation and they need to follow the official formalities as well as clearance from the BDR and BSE. Though the people are allowed to cross the



border for cultivation, but this everyday problem can be resolved through exchange of enclaves, which would require redrawing the international border in a small way, he opined.

Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty is due to leave Dhaka today to take his new diplomatic assignment in Thailand. His successor Rajeet Mitter, another Bengalee diplomat, will join as Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh on

December 26. Rajeet's last mission was in the Philippines as Indian ambassador.

During the lengthy interview, Pinak touched

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6
COMPLETE INTERVIEW ON PAGE 11

BANGABANDHU KILLERS No convicts in Indian jail

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India has confirmed that there is no convicted killer of Bangabandhu in custody or in Indian jail.

Referring to press reports in Bangladesh media, outgoing Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty said he has doubt as to whether the convicted killers are hiding in India.

"I think there is no confirmation about that. I think that is simply speculated report. Let me say in principle if such people are found in India, there should be no second thoughts, we will certainly

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Jamaat yet to disclose its 5 war heroes

RASHIDUL HASAN

Jamaat-e-Islami is yet to disclose the names of five "brave freedom fighters" whom it was supposed to honour for their important roles in the Liberation War in line with its announcement on December 6.

Party's Dhaka city unit on December 6 in a press release declared various programmes on the occasions of Martyred Intellectuals Day and Victory Day.

The release said the party would give honour to some freedom fighters for their "important roles in the Liberation War" on December 20.

Several top leaders of the party in the last week told The Daily Star that they don't know the names of the freedom fighters to be honoured by Jamaat and advised this correspondent to contact the party's other leaders.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

BNP takes Babar back Withdraws his expulsion order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP has withdrawn the expulsion order against former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, now detained in an August 21 grenade attack case.

In a letter issued on December 17, the party said it hopes Babar would commit himself to strengthening the organisation.

The letter, signed by Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, addresses Babar as former publication affairs secretary.

It reads, "You would be glad to know that the expulsion

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

AL critical of its poor show on a few fronts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two high-profile Awami League ministers yesterday criticised party activists for their behaviour which, they said, has made people restive.

They also admitted that the government could not perform well all its jobs including containing tender manipulation and controlling markets, the latter having often increased prices of essentials.

At a discussion meeting organised by Awami Jubo League to mark the Victory Day, the two senior leaders made the self-criticism for the first time in one year in power, evaluating the activities of party men and the performance of the government.

The present government is going to be one-

year-old soon and people will evaluate its performance against what it promised, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said at the discussion at Mohanagar Natyamancha in city's Gulistan.

"I will not deny the truth that prices of essentials often increased as the government could not monitor markets properly," said the senior presidium member of AL.

"I will not say that the government could perform all its duties properly," she said, admitting that the government is yet to ensure employment of all while tender manipulation also occurred during the last one year.

She blamed the conventional rules of public procurement regulations for tender violation.

Matia, however, pointed out several

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

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