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PM pledges full implementation of CHT accord

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reaffirmed the Awami League-led government's strong commitment to execute the CHT Peace Accord for the continuation of development programmes in the region.

"This government is pledge-bound to fully implement the peace accord and it's working relentlessly to this end," she said while addressing the 'Headmen' of Rangamati through a video conference from her official residence Gono Bhavan.

The prime minister said there was no lack of enthusiasm from the government side to execute the accord as the AL government in its previous term had struck the deal to bring peace in the troubled hill tracts.

Mentioning that there had long been no development in the hilly region, she said there was a need for socio-economic development in the area for which her government had been working tirelessly.

She also sought all-out cooperation from the CHT people in continuing the development activities.

PM's Foreign Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi, Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, PM's Special Assistants

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The Nur Hossain Square at Zero Point in Dhaka is the memorial to a pro-democracy martyr of the 80s. But it is now being used merely for partisan campaigns. The posters of pro-ruling party organisations not only spoil the beauty of the structure and violate its sanctity, but also cover the distance charts. The photo was shot yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA-PACIFIC Connectivity is the key

APJ Abdul Kalam suggests providing civic amenities for villagers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Top Indian scientist Dr APJ Abdul Kalam has suggested that his idea of providing urban amenities in rural areas (PURA) be implemented in Bangladesh to achieve "sustainable development" in the Asia-Pacific region.

This method envisages four types of connectivity -- physical, electronic and knowledge connectivity, leading to economic connectivity -- that create rural entrepreneurship, said the former Indian president at a function in the capital on Thursday.

He focused on the rural areas as around two-thirds of the world's 3 billion rural population live in the Asia-Pacific region and most of them were involved in agriculture. But these people face challenges of low per capita resources, and were vulnerable to climatic change, poverty, inequalities and social disparities.

The nuclear scientist placed the idea in his lecture on "Sustainable Development System for Asia Pacific" at the 33rd Foundation Day celebration of Cirdap (Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific) at its auditorium.

At the programme, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam said it was crucial to provide urban amenities to the villagers,

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Everything must be done in time

War crimes tribunal-1 asks counsels not to waste time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution and the defence at the International Crimes Tribunal-1 would have to do everything within the time specified by the court from now on.

The tribunal issued an order in this regard on Thursday following long cross-examination of prosecution witness Prof Muntassir Mamoon in the case against former Jamaat chief Ghulam Azam.

Defence counsel Mizanul Islam cross-

examined Muntassir for about 14 hours last week but could not finish even though the witness had humbly requested the defence and the tribunal to complete the cross-examination.

To catch up with the lost time, the tribunal, which usually goes to one-hour lunch every day, went for a 45-minute break around 1:00pm Thursday.

Chairman of the tribunal Justice Md Nizamul Huq around 2:55pm said the

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WIMBLEDON FINAL Murray in hurry to face Federer

AFP, London

Andy Murray insists there is no time to celebrate his historic Wimbledon semifinal win over Jo-Wilfried Tsonga because he must go straight to work on his plan to win the title in tomorrow's final against

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Pakistan to take up bill to curb SC powers

PTI, Islamabad

A bill aimed at shielding top leaders from contempt charges and curbing the Supreme Court's efforts to push Premier Raja Pervez Ashraf into reopening graft cases

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IN REMEMBRANCE



With fond memories we remember today, Saturday, 7th July 2012, **Late Begum Fazilatun Nessa** on her 8th death anniversary.

We feel her absence in every step of the way. Relatives, friends and well wishers are kindly requested to remember her in their prayers.

On the occasion of her **8th Death Anniversary Qur'an Khatam, Prayer and Feeding the destitutes** have been organized.

Abeda & Najmul Huq, Roushan & Golam Kibria, Monisha & Mahmudul Huq, & Grand Children.

Seven kids drown in 4 districts

STAR REPORT

Seven children, including a pair of twins drowned in four districts between Thursday and yesterday.

Six-year-old twin brothers Borhan and Raihan, sons of a farmer named Mahbulul Haq in Chandanaish upazila, drowned in a pond of

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IMF chief warns over slowing global growth

AFP, Tokyo

International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde yesterday warned the global economy was slowing and said the situation could get worse because Europe was not doing enough to fix its debt crisis.

Lagarde said the IMF would cut its growth forecast in its global outlook

to be released later this month.

"What I can tell you is that it will be tilted to the downside and certainly lower than the forecast that was published three months ago," she told an economic forum in Tokyo during a week-long Asian tour.

"And that is predicated on the right set of actions being taken in Europe in order to avoid very signifi-

cant deterioration and to eliminate major threats."

In April, the IMF hiked its global growth forecasts to an annual rate of 3.5 percent this year, accelerating to 4.1 percent in 2013, up from the January forecast of 3.3 percent and 4.0 percent respectively.

Lagarde declined to elaborate on

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PRAYER TIMING July 7		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-55	7-00
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

theSTAR
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Look out for *the Star* in today's newspaper. This week's issue explores the illegal trading of endangered animals in Bangladesh and takes a look at the terrible transformation of Dhanmandi. Also included in this issue: a visit from an astronaut and encouraging trends in the music business.

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