



PHOTO: STAR

A procession paraded Bandarban town yesterday demanding cancellation of lease of land to outsiders.

## Leasing of land in two hill districts protested

### STAR NATIONAL DESK

Indigenous people in Bandarban and Khagrachhari yesterday protested leasing of land to outsiders in the two hill districts.

Our Correspondent from Bandarban reports: Hundreds of locals yesterday protested leasing of 20,000 acres of land for rubber plantation displacing hill people in the district.

They brought out a procession and demanded cancellation of all lease orders by the divisional and district administration.

The processionists paraded the town and submitted a memorandum to Bandarban Deputy Commissioner (DC) which urged the prime minister to solve the problem immediately for the sake of 'existence' of the indigenous people.

They also warned that they will go for a strong movement if their 10-point demand was not met by the authorities.

Their 10-point demand also

include eviction of encroachers, return of 33 displaced families to their homestead at Baishari Joutha Khamar in Naikhhongchhari upazila, Kew Ching Karbari Para in Bandarban municipality area, cancellation of the on-going Social Afforestation Programme in CHT, stop setting up of Echo park at Tankabaty in Bandarban Sadar and Wild Life Sanctuary in Lama upazila.

Earlier, a meeting was held at the local Press Club under the banner of Bandarban Shacheton Nagorik Committee.

Among others, K S Mong, district president of Parbatya Chattagram Jano Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) Ching Hla Mong Sa Nue Marma, Adi O-Sthayee Bangalee Parishad leaders K M Abbas and Sadeq Ali Munshi addressed the meeting.

In a similar move in Khagrachhari, Nagorik Committee and Jumma Janogon Forum yesterday called an indefinite road blockade

from February 12.

Both of the bodies of the indigenous people demanded removal of the Bangalee settlers from their land at Kamalchhari union and Khagrachhari Sadar union.

Sources told our Khagrachhari correspondent that more than 30 Bangalee families are now making houses on the land of indigenous people.

Leaders of the forums Perachhara Union Parishad (UP) chairman Biva Bashu Dewan, Khagrachhari Sadar union chairman Babu Priti Bindu Dewan, headman Babu Dhruva Ranjan Dewan, Nagorik Committee secretary Santushita Chakma (Bakul), JSS Khagrachhari unit secretary Rosomoy Chakma earlier on February 6 met Deputy Commissioner Md Humayun Kabir and urged him to take necessary action.

But the Bangalee settlers informed this correspondent that they have legal documents of land.

## 9 JMB leaders in Nilphamari remanded

Bss, Saidpur (Nilphamari)

Nine top leaders of banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahidin Bangladesh (JMB) were placed on a seven-day remand Thursday in Nilphamari for interrogation in connection with the arms and explosives recovery case, police and (Rapid Action Battalion) Rab sources said.

Rab arrested the JMB leaders during its eight-hour drive from 9 pm on Monday to 5 am on Tuesday at different places in Saidpur, Bogra and Nilphamari district.

JMB's Rangpur 'Divisional Commander' Abdur Rashid Asif, 22, was arrested from Bogra, Nilphamari 'District Commander' Wahidul Islam Syem, 24, from Thakurgaon, former 'commander' of Nilphamari and Rangpur districts Mahfuzur Rahman Ibrahim, 26, from Rangpur, Rangpur 'District Commander' Moniruzzaman Iqbal,

25, from Thakurgaon, Kurigram 'District Commander' Abu Bakkar Siddique Nahid, 22, from Dinajpur, Ehsar (member) Ehsanul Haque Mezbah, 18, from Dinajpur, Ehsar member Rabiul Islam alias Kamal Hossain, 17, from Nilphamari, Rangpur 'Sadar Upazila Commander' Shahbuddin Ahmed Musa, 19, from Lalmonirhat and 'Commander' of Birampur organisational district in Dinajpur Faruk Hossain Amjad, 32, from Nilphamari.

Following the confessional statements of the JMB leaders, Rab raided several places in Saidpur and recovered huge quantities of arms, ammunition and explosives.

Rab filed cases against them with Saidpur thana and handed them over to police with seized materials on Tuesday.

Rab will interrogate them in Dhaka, official sources said.

## Try Belal's killers

Khulna journalists submit memo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna Metropolitan Union of Journalists (KUJ) yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Police Commissioner demanding immediate trial of killers of Khulna Bureau chief of Dainik Sangram Shaikh Belaluddin as well as ensuring safety and security of life of journalists working in the southern region.

KUJ submitted the memorandum while observing the first death anniversary of Shaikh Belal, also a 'rokon' of Jamaat-e-Islami. He succumbed to his injuries at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka on February 11 last year after being injured in bomb attack at Khulna Press Club on February 5.

Other programmes of the day

included milad mahfil, discussion meeting and offering of fateha at the grave of the slain journalist.

Leaders of BNP, Jamaat and Jatiya Party and their front organisations also offered prayers at his grave in Rayermahal area of the city.

Meanwhile, the charge sheet of Belal Murder Case is still lying in the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate.

Six people were accused in the charge sheet for planning and murdering him. They are Shahabuddin Lashkar alias Dhira, a ward level Jamaat leader including Shibir leader Eklasur Rahman and outlaws Shadhin, Hasan, Miraj and 'Goda' Yunus. Ekhlash is on bail while five others are in jail.

5X3

7.5X3

11X5

8X3