

BNP men patronise criminals to foil CHT peace accord

Grassroots level leaders tell Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) leaders of three hill districts at a meeting with party President Sheikh Hasina in the city yesterday alleged that some ruling party men including Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan MP are patronising criminals in the region to foil the CHT peace treaty signed during the AL regime.

At a closed-door meeting with Hasina at her Dhanmondi office, presidents and general secretaries of Bandarban, Khagrachhari and Rangamati informed her that a group of ruling BNP men are involved in arms smuggling to foil the peace accord, said meeting sources.

They said the ruling party men with the help of administration established a reign of terror and occupied thousands of acres of khasland in the hill districts.

Criticising the AL leader Kalparanjan Chakma, who was the minister-in-charge of hill tracts during the AL regime, at least eight leaders of different upazilas of Khagrachhari district told Hasina that Kalparanjan is no more active in politics and he did not look after the AL workers when the ruling BNP men conducted repression on

them during its present tenure. Guimara upazila AL President Jahangir Alam and General Secretary Memong Marma, General Secretary of Manikchhari upazila MA Jabbar and General Secretary of Panchhari upazila Pahar Miah requested Hasina to nominate Kujendralal Tripura, Samir Dutta Chakma, Jatindralal Tripura and Jahadul Islam in the upcoming election to ensure party's victory.

Rangamati leaders also demanded party tickets for politically active candidates in the next election.

Out of three hill district constituencies, the AL bagged only Bandarban constituency in last general election.

Addressing the meeting Hasina said they brought normalcy in three hill districts by signing the peace treaty.

These districts remained isolated for two decades from other parts of the country, she added.

The AL chief said a new era of development was ushered in for the deprived people of the region following the treaty.

"But unfortunately all potentials for developing the CHT were destroyed after the 2001 election,"



PHOTO: STAR
Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaks at a view exchange meeting with the leaders of Chittagong Hill Tracts at the party's Dhanmondi office in the city yesterday.

she said, adding the coalition government resorted to repression in the hilly areas again to destroy the treaty.

Hasina said the AL solved the problems of hilly districts politically, but the BNP had always tried to solve the problems using armed

forces.

"As per the treaty we could bring back the tribal refugees from India and rehabilitated them in their own place," said the former prime minister who signed the peace treaty on December 2 in 1997.

She said her government took a Tk 2000 crore project for massive development in the region, but the present government has looted the public money in stead of implementing the project.

The AL president said the tenure of the present regime is tainted by anarchy, killings, rape, conspiracy and corruption.

They (government) have looted thousands of crores of taka after coming to power through vote rigging in 2001, she added.

Hasina said the BNP-Jamaat coalition is again out to rig the next election, but the countrymen should resist such evil motive.

She urged the party leaders and activists to guard against the conspirators out to destroy the country's democracy.

Senior AL leaders including General Secretary Abdul Jalil, Syed Johra Tajuddin, Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Obaidul Quader were present at the meeting.



PHOTO: STAR
Myanmar nationals residing in Dhaka stage a demonstration in front of the High Court demanding immediate release of Aung San Suu Kyi.

SUU KYI'S HOUSE ARREST Immediate release demanded

UNB, Dhaka

Myanmar nationals living in Bangladesh formed a human chain in front of the Foreign Ministry in the city yesterday marking the 61st birth anniversary of democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been kept under house arrest for long by the military junta of Myanmar.

The protesters called for restoring democracy in Myanmar by immediately releasing Suu Kyi, the unyielding leader of Myanmar's democratic struggle, and allowing her to exercise democratic rights.

Women's League of Burma and Arakan Refugee Affairs Committee organized the human chain.

Myanmar nationals, wearing yellow headbands and waving portraits of Suu Kyi, chanted slogans condemning the military junta of Myanmar.

Suu Kyi, one of the world's most prominent political prisoners, spent 10 of the last 17 years in confinement.

Bullet-hit Mirpur trader dies at hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Mirpur businessman who sustained bullet wounds on June 14 succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

Shahid Hossain Shanto, 40, a businessman of garment accessories, received five bullets fired by two assailants in his office at a super market in Mirpur on June 14.

Shahid's wife Shahida Begum came to receive her husband's body from the DMCH morgue yesterday and said that before getting shot, Shahid had been talking about extortionists' demands.

Police sources said that Shahid was a close associate of Dhaka City

Hunger strike for borrower-friendly loans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Borrowers of House Building and Finance Corporation (HBFC) will observe a token hunger strike at Muktangan in the city tomorrow and submit a memorandum to the PM for making the loans borrower-friendly.

The Association of the Borrowers made the decision in a meeting on June 17 as their problems, such as complication in getting loans, computation of interest rate and repayment of the loans, remained unsolved for a long despite their appeal to the finance ministry earlier.

President of the Association Md Aman Ullah presided over the meeting while Secretary General Md Ayub Ali Khan and Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Organising Secretary Idrisur Rahman, Publicity Secretary Abdul Kadir and Finance Secretary Shamsul Alam also spoke on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR
Wearing shrouds, the members of Bangladesh Community Primary School Teachers' Association lie in the rain at Muktangan in the city yesterday on the third day of their hunger strike.

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HRD PROJECT Bangladesh Contingent trains 200 Liberians

Bangladesh Contingent deployed in United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) provided training to 200 Liberian youths under Human Resources Development Project (HRD Project), says a ISPR press release.

They offered training opportunities to participants in the areas of tailoring, generator mechanics, first aid and computer operations.

The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General for Operations and Rule of Law Luiz Carlos da Costa attended the closing ceremony of six-week HRD Project as chief guest.

He lauded the Bangladesh Contingent for going beyond their mandate of peacekeeping by engaging themselves in humanitarian activities.

The representatives of Liberian government thanked the UN for its assistance in getting the youths back into classrooms.

Poet Sufia Kamal memorial lecture today

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will hold a memorial lecture and cultural function today to mark the 95th birth anniversary of poet Sufia Kamal, says a press release.

The programme will begin at 4:00pm at the Cirdap auditorium in the city, with Parishad President Hena Das in the chair.

Prof Dr Sanjida Khatun will deliver the lecture on 'The role of Sufia Kamal in establishing a society and culture free from communalism and fanaticism'.

Iffat Ara Dewan, Khairul Anam Shakil, Salma Akbar, Shukla Guha, Sumita Das and Elora Ahmed Shukla will sing at the cultural function while Kazi Arif and Jharna Sarker will recite poems.

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