

Homage to Poet Shamsur Rahman



Different organisations pay their last respects to poet Shamsur Rahman at Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday. (Clockwise from top left) BNP leaders pay homage on behalf of the prime minister, Awami League, Bangladesh Mahila Samity, Supreme Court Bar Association, people of Paratoli village in Narsingdi, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Inu), journalist community and Jatiya Oikya Manch.

PHOTO: STAR

Implement peace accord to solve land problem in CHT

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Implementation of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord is a must to resolve the land problem of the indigenous people, said the speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

They said the acts which are appropriate for the plain land, cannot solve the land problem in the hilly areas. It should be resolved in the light of the traditional rules and regulations.

The roundtable titled 'Land in CHT: Hill peoples' rights, peace accord, laws of the land and necessary actions' was organised jointly by the Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) and Global Network for the Prevention of Torture (GNPT) at

the auditorium of Young Women Christian Association in the city.

The speakers stressed the need for establishing conventional land rights of indigenous people giving back the grabbed lands to them.

They also called for making the

land commission effective and cancelling the lease given to people who are not resident of CHT.

Deputy Minister for CHT Affairs Moni Swapan Dewan said it is not possible for his ministry alone to resolve the land problem which is very complex in nature.

"Concerted efforts of the forest and land ministries are essential to solve the land problem in CHT," he said, adding that implementation of the peace accord is a continuous process and everything will be resolved gradually.

"The present government has taken initiatives to strengthening the local district administration in this regard. Formulation of regulations to supervise the CHT Regional Council is to be completed soon," he said.

While presenting a keynote paper GNPT Coordinator Fazlous Sattar said the previous government formed a Land Commission without any prior consultation with the CHT Regional Council.

Even the act which was enacted later in this regard was also unilateral as well as in clear deviation from the provisions of the peace accord, he added.

Sattar stressed the need for developing effective strategy for advocacy both at national and international levels.

Khagrachhari District Headman Association President Shakti Pada Tripura said lack of government's willingness, absence of law as per peace accord, bureaucratic tangle and communal mentality in the administration are the main hindrances to effective functioning of land commission.

Chairperson of ALRD Khushi Kabir chaired the roundtable which was also addressed by Prof Dalem Chandra Barman, Dr Sadeka Halim, Editor of the New Age Nurul Kabir and ALRD Executive Director Shamsul Huda.

Condolences pour in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties, social and cultural organisations yesterday expressed their condolence and deep shock at the death of country's premier poet Shamsur Rahman.

In separate condolence messages, leaders of the organisations recalled the contribution of the poet to modern Bangla poetry and said his death is an irreparable loss to Bangla literature.

They also said Shamsur Rahman inspired the nation during the war of independence and all democratic movements through his powerful writings.

South Asian People's Against Fundamentalism and Communalism in a message said Shamsur Rahman was an active fighter for independence, democracy and against fundamentalism.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Binodbihari Chowdhury, Hena Das, Justice KM Sobhan, Gazul Haq, Kalim Sharafi, Kamal Lohani, CR Dutta, Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Shafiq Ahmed and Prof Hasan Azizul Haq are among the signatories of the message.

President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Mir Nasir Hossain in a statement said Shamsur Rahman inspired the nation through his write-ups during

the movements of independence and democratic rights.

Acting vice chancellor of the Dhaka University Prof AFM Yusuf Haider recalled the contribution of the poet to modern Bangla poetry.

Rajshahi unit of the Bangladesh Uddichi Shilpi Goshti yesterday organised a discussion to mourn the poet's death at its office.

Other organisations that condoled the death include Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association, Parbatya Chattagram Janasanghito Samity, Bangladesh Socialist Party, Sammilito Ainjibi Samannoy Parishad, Sammilito Samajik Andolon, Peshajibi Samannoy Parishad, Karmojibi Nari, Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR), Bangladesh Polytechnic Teachers Association, Bangladesh Council of Editors, Bangladesh Peace Council, Bangladesh Sangskriti Forum, Chittagong Journalists Forum- Dhaka, Oilija (publication house), Bangladesh Women Journalists Centre, Sonar Bangla Jubo Parishad, Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Goshti and Bangabandhu Lalitkala Academy.



The namaz-e-janaza of poet Shamsur Rahman was held at Dhaka University mosque yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Children take part in a drawing competition at the Fine Arts Institute yesterday. National Mourning Day Observance Committee-2006 organised the competition to mark the 31st death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

150MW power substation to be set up in Khulna

UNB, Khulna

A gas turbine power substation with production capacity of 150MW will be constructed in Khulna to ease the power crisis.

The project will be implemented with the financial assistance of ADB, official sources said.

Besides, ADB will also provide assistance for the renovation of 110MW and 60MW power substations at Goalpara of the district.

West Zone Power Distribution Company sources said a two-member delegation of ADB has already visited the proposed site for the construction of the power substation.

Power Department sources said the West Zone Power Distribution Company sought assistance from ADB for con-

structing a power substation to ease the acute power crisis in the region.

ADB will submit a report by this month on the estimated cost of the project and the quantity of ADB assistance for the project, the sources said.

During the last one year, 300MW to 350MW power is being supplied to Khulna region a day against the demand of 600MW during peak hours and 450MW during off-peak hours.

Due to acute power crisis, loadshedding has become commonplace, plunging many areas into darkness day after day. Frozen food exporters in the region are worst affected.

Officials hoped that with the construction of the proposed substation, power crisis in the region would be eased to a great extent.

College teachers announce fresh agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BCS General Education Association yesterday announced fresh agitation programmes to stop government initiative to amend the Absorption Rules 2000.

Under the programme, teachers of government colleges will stage a sit-in in front of the Shikkha Bhaban in the city on August 23 and form a human chain in front of their colleges across the country from 11:00am to 12:00 noon on August 28.

They will also observe six-day work abstention from September 2 to 7.

The programmes were announced from an executive committee meeting of BCS General Education Association at its Topkhana central office in the city.

The association leaders alleged that the cadre teachers recruited through Public Service Com-

mission will face trouble if the absorption rules are amended.

"The government has turned some non-government college into government college where all the teachers were absorbed. Most of them will be senior to the teachers recruited through PSC if the rule is amended," said Masum Rabbani Khan, secretary general of the association.

Promotion of around ten thousand BCS teachers will also be interrupted if the government amends the rule, he added.

Masum said the government should recruit the absorbed teachers through PSC.

The government formulated the Absorption Rules 2000 to bring the non-cadre teachers of government colleges under a common government rule.

Education ministry has already sent the amended proposals to establishment ministry, sources said.