

Rights to land, vote of CHT people won't be denied, says Nasim

Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday said the "smoke-screen of fear and confusion created by the opposition" has cleared from the minds of the Bengalees who are getting back confidence about the peace accord.

Talking to UNB at his residence, Nasim, who extensively toured the remote villages in the Hill Tracts in last five days, said the "evil designs" of BNP and its allies about the agreement have been exposed to the people in the three hill districts.

"Bengalees, living in the Hill Tracts permanently, are now assured that their rights to land and vote will not be denied and army will continue to be there," he said.

Nasim said, "Alongside the implementation of the peace agreement, all development works in the CHT will start soon to give the benefit of the accord to both tribals and Bengalees there."

Nasim, who was accompanied by Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah and State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir during his CHT trip, said steps are being taken for surrendering arms by the Shanti Bahini and to bring back refugees from Tripura as per provision of the agreement.

He said the peace agreement will be discussed in details in the coming session of parliament and broadcast live through radio and television to prove the transparency of the government.

"The present peace accord is just a modification of the local government hill district council acts, framed by the Ershad and Begum Zia governments," the minister said.

Referring to the opposition's anti-accord agitations, Nasim said having failed to make any substantive issue, the BNP and its allies, including Jamaat, have concentrated on the CHT and are trying to confuse the people.

In a pointed reference, he said some big fishes, including some former BNP ministers, who had taken lease of hundreds of acres of land in the name of rubber plantation and got huge bank loans and made no investment there, are now raising hue and cry about the peace accord.

"These parties and vested groups are trying to impose programmes like hartals and blockades on the innocent people in the Hill Tracts... but their designs will not succeed as people want peace."

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CEC visits UP polling centres

Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena, yesterday visited several centres of the ongoing union parishad elections under Daudkandi thana in Comilla district and Gazaria thana in Munshiganj district, a press release of the Commission said, reports BSS.

The centres are: Goripur High School centre, Swalpa Pelayi, Darul Uloom Islamic Madrasa centre, Pelayi Eidgah Madrasa centre, Daudkandi Union Parishad centre, Jhelatuli Government Primary School centre under Daudkandi thana, and Bhater Char Abdul Mannan High School centre under Gazaria thana.

During his visit, the Chief Election Commissioner witnessed the lining up of voters in an orderly manner and the casting of their votes peacefully.

He also observed the massive turn-outs of voters, including women.

The Chief Election Commissioner talked to the voters and the polling agents and was informed that the elections were being held in a fair and peaceful manner.

Dhaka-Yangon joint border survey meet begins

A joint meeting of Bangladesh-Myanmar survey authorities began in the city yesterday to finalise the report of joint inspection of the border lines, reports UNB.

The two-day meeting will also discuss matters relating to the incorporation of the changes, observed during the joint inspection, into the draft treaty under consideration of the two countries, said an ISPR press release.

The joint inspection of the border lines was carried out from October 1 to November 24 this year to ascertain the conditions of the boundary pillars and to erect reference markers (pillars) wherever necessary.

Director General of the Land Survey Department of Myanmar U Aung Than is leading a six-member delegation of Myanmar while the home side is being led by Surveyor General of Bangladesh Brig Shahedul Islam Mondal.



Golam Sanowar Chowdhury rendering Tagore song at the National Museum auditorium yesterday. — Star photo



The Deputy Speaker of Parliament Abdul Hamid seen distributing first prize for folk song to Nadia Akhtar Nupur at the Engineers Institute yesterday organised by Greater Mymensingh Cultural Forum. — Star photo

Death condoled

Siddheswari Puja Committee yesterday held a meeting on the premises of Kali Mandir to condole the death of former civil servant and eminent social worker KB Roy Chowdhury who died on December 13, reports BSS.

Presided over by KD Pal the meeting was addressed, among others, by Principal Narendra Chandra Ghosh, RN Dattagupta, PR Shaha, Swapan Kumar Saha, CR Sarker, Gazi Dastagir, Dr Krishna Ghosh, BN Chowdhury and Siddheswari Puja Committee Secretary Biswajit Chakrabarty.

Contribution of Begum Rokeya recalled

Speakers at a symposium yesterday acknowledged with rich tributes the contribution of Begum Rokeya saying due to the campaign initiated by her the women in today's society have started getting recognition to their works, reports BSS.

The symposium, held at the Iranian Cultural Centre here, was organised by Nari Adhikar Andolon.

Prof Sayeeda Banu of Titumir College attended the function as the chief guest, while Dhaka University Professor Dr UK Rawzatur Ruman, journalist Rasheda Amin, Dhaka University Prof Dr Uab Razia Akhtar, University Women College teacher Nargisa Khan and Jahanara Begum took part in the discussion. President of the organisation Prof Cheimon Ara was in the chair.

Dr Sayeeda Banu said the women are getting access to different professions and recognition of their works due to the movement initiated by Begum Rokeya for ensuring women's rights in society.

An appeal for help

Md Monowar Hossain, 35, a committed, young primary school teacher, appeals for help to save his life. He is suffering from kidney failure. Both of his kidneys have already been damaged and he needs to transplant at least one kidney immediately which is very expensive and barely affordable for his family. The specialist doctors suggested him to do it at Madras, India for better result and service. On humanitarian ground govt and semi-govt institutions, donors and affluent class of the society have been requested to come forward to save a valuable life of a teacher. He was under treatment of Dr Harun-ur-Rashid, Professor of Nephrology, IPGMR, Dhaka.

Please extend your cooperation to savings Account No 7050-2 Agrani Bank, National Press Club Branch, Dhaka.

What's on today....

Roundtable on CHT Treaty: A roundtable on 'Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Treaty: Economic and Legal Perspective', organised by the Society for Development and Cooperation (SODAC), will be held. Venue: BUP auditorium, House No: 33, Road No: 4, Dhanmondi. Time: 4 pm.

SSMC Silver-Jubilee: The Silver-Jubilee celebration of the Sir Salimullah Medical College (SSMC) and a reunion will be held. Chief guest: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Venue: College premises. Time: 9 am.

Engineering Shilpa Malik Samity: The 13th annual general meeting of the Bangladesh Engineering Shilpa Malik Samity will be held. Venue: Wari Community Centre, Tipu Sultan Road. Time: 10 am.

Scientific seminar: A scientific seminar on 'Recent advancement of radiology and imaging', organised by the Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd, will be held. Venue: Marie Curie conference room, Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd, 19, Dhanmondi. Time: 10 am.

CDRB seminar: A seminar on 'Mapping rural women's perspectives on nonformal education experiences', organised by the Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDRB), will be held. Venue: WVA auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 4 pm.

SAGN Convocation: The 1st annual convocation of South Asia Gender Network (SAGN) will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 9:30 am.

Bangla Academy: In observance of Mir Mosharraf Hossain's death anniversary, a memorial meet will be held. Venue: Academy's seminar room. Time: 4 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Midtown: The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Greater Dhaka: The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Officers' Club, Baily Road. Time: 5:15 pm.

Science, technology exhibition begins

The two-day long science and technology exhibition began at the premises of BCSIR in the city yesterday in observance of the Victory Day, reports BSS.

Organised by the Ministry of Science and Technology, the exhibition was inaugurated by Science and Technology Secretary Muhammad Fazlur Rahman.

The secretary lauded the organising committee for arranging this exhibition first of its kind in the country. He termed the exhibition as a technomart. Entrepreneurs may get their suitable formula and processes from this technomart for proper application in the industries, he added.

The secretary urged upon the scientists and technologists to be devoted to research works utilising their merit for the interest of the nation. BCSIR, BAEC, National Science and Technology Museum, Bangladesh Computer Council and BANSDOC are taking part in this exhibition.

'Tell the truth to children about Liberation War'

The Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation, Mohammad Hanif said yesterday that it is the national and moral obligation to tell the truth to the children about the Liberation War and independence of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at the conference of Dhaka Metropolitan Unit of Bangabandhu Shishu-Kishore Mela at the auditorium of Shishu Academy, the mayor said that the true history of the country had been distorted for the last 21 years under a blue-print prepared by anti-liberation elements in collaboration with identified alien forces.

He referred to establishment of the Awami League government under the able leadership of Sheikh Hasina, the daughter of the father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and said time has come to equip the new generation with the correct version of the country's Liberation Struggle.

Earlier, national poet Shamsur Rahman inaugurated the conference through hoisting the National Flag at the premises of Shishu Academy.

Impact Evaluation Consultancy Services

A UN agency based in Dhaka is planning to conduct a number of impact evaluation studies for the development projects which it assists and which focus on the poorest people in the rural areas, especially the poor women. The agency intends to prepare and maintain a roster of potential institutions to conduct and analyse surveys and facilitate Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRAs) as well as prepare impact evaluation reports.

The studies will focus on the socio-economic profiles of the female and male project participants and their households as well as the change over time. PRAs will complement the surveys and focus on the perceptions of the project participants and other section of the rural society about the projects.

An expression of interest is invited from the qualified local consultancy firms, research and university establishments. They are requested to submit information on their: (i) organisational profile; (ii) relevant experience in quantitative and qualitative field research; and (iii) logistic support services (office, computer, vehicles etc); and submit (iv) CVs of up to ten key experts, half of them being qualified women (gender-balance will be an important determinant for being put on roster).

The agencies that are put on the roster will be duly acknowledged. The expression of interest should be addressed to Box No. D 1161, C/o The Daily Star, House # 11, Road # 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. The deadline for receipt of submission is 15 January 1998. D-1161

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