

8TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHT PEACE ACCORD

AL did not implement it, BNP violating clauses: PCJSS

Rivals demand scrapping of 'discriminatory' agreement

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The PCJSS and its rival Somo Odhikar Andolon yesterday held programmes in the hill districts, the former demanding full implementation of the CHT peace accord and the later pressing for its cancellation.

The PCJSS (Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti), a body of indigenous people, held rallies and brought out processions in the district towns demanding full implementation of the accord.

The programmes were held marking the 8th anniversary of signing of the CHT Peace Accord by the then Awami League government with PCJSS in 1997 that ended decades of bush war by indigenous people for self-rule.

In addition to holding rallies, the Somo Odhikar distributed black flags to Bangalees for hoisting those atop houses and shops to protest implementation of the accord,

saying it is discriminatory to Bangalees.

Though there was tension in certain areas, no report of clash was received.

A Correspondent reports from Khagrachhari: PCJSS leaders at a rally held at Larma Square in Mohazon Para in the town said there has been no achievement in the hills from the peace accord in last eight years as the government is not sincere to implement it.

PCJSS activists and indigenous people brought out a procession protesting what they called government's indifference towards full implementation of the peace accord and ensuring rights of the indigenous people.

PCJSS leaders at programmes in the district town bitterly criticised government's 'reluctance' to implementation of the peace accord and urged indigenous people to continue agitation to realise their rights.

A large number of indigenous

people from all upazilas attended the rally and procession, chanting anti-government slogans.

PCJSS leader Rosomoy Chakma presided the rally, also addressed by its Assistant Secretary Tatindra Lal Chakma, CHT Regional Council member Roktaut Tripura, refugee leader Brozo Kishor Tripura, Bokul Sadhan Charka, and Nagorik Committee (citizens' committee) leader Hemanta Tripura.

They alleged that events in the last four years proved that the government 'has no intention' to implement the peace and establish peace in the hills.

If this continues, the indigenous people will have no option other than launching tougher agitation to realise their demands, they said.

On the other hand, activists of Somo Odhikar Andolon distributed black flags for hoisting those atop houses and shops in the district town to protest the peace accord.

Some shopkeepers told this correspondent that the flags were supplied by local BNP men, who also threatened them if they do not hoist those.

At a rally held at the Mukhtangan with BNP lawmaker Wadud Bhuiyan as the chief guest, Somo Odhikar leaders demanded cancellation of the CHT accord.

Speakers at the rally said it is a 'black accord' for the people of Hill Tracts and called for resisting it. The speakers included Mostafizur Rahman Millat, Jainul Abedin, Abu Yusuf Chowdhury and Nurul Absar.

UPDF (United Peoples Democratic Front), another organisation of indigenous people opposing the peace accord, held a discussion meeting and brought out a procession in the town demanding self-rule in the hills. It terms the peace accord a compromise by PCJSS. Security forces patrolled the town streets during the programmes.

Our Rangamati Correspondent reports: Speakers at a rally here

yesterday marking the eighth anniversary of signing of the CHT peace accord alleged that the government is instigating anti-accord elements through various ways to complicate the situation in the hills.

"Successive governments does not behave like a friend of the hill people, rather they supported anti-accord elements through vested quarters", Comrade Khalekuzzaman Ratan told the rally organised by the Committee to Observe the Eighth Anniversary of CHT Accord. It was held in front of Gymnasium in the town.

Presided over by Sukumar Chakma, secretary of Upazatya Samajik Forum, the rally was addressed by, among others, PCJSS leader Usaton Talukder, Chittagong University teacher Dr Hossain Kobir, Nirmolendu Tripura, Mriganiko Khisa, Suprova Chakma, Uzzal Chakma and Dhoro Kumar Chakma.

Usaton blamed the past Awami League government for not implementing the accord fully and the present government for violating its vital clauses. "An influential quarter in the coalition government instigates anti-accord elements", Usaton told the rally.

The PCJSS observed the accord signing anniversary as a 'protest day' as there has been a stalemate in its implementation, the speakers said.

Later, a protest procession paraded the main streets of the town.

The Parbattya Chattagram Somo Odhikar Andolon held a rally in front of the municipality and brought out a procession demanding cancellation of the accord claiming that it is 'discriminatory' to Bangalees.

Parbattya Bangalee Chhatra Parishad also held a rally at Bonorupa in the town in the evening against the accord.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Chhatra League, students wing of opposition Awami League, brought out a procession in Barisal city yesterday protesting recurring bomb attacks and demanding a ban on Jammal-Shibir politics in the country.

20 officials among 400 hurt as villagers clash in B'baria

Situation under control, SP says: Injured include ADM, ASP: Police, BDR fire shots: 71 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

After three days' intermittent clashes involving hundreds of villagers that left a boy killed and at least 400 people injured, the situation in Sarail is under control, Brahmanbaria Police Superintendent AKM Masudul Alam said yesterday.

Two platoons of Armed Police headed by two Magistrates have been deployed in the area, the SP said over cell phone from the spot.

The injured included ADM Banamali Bhaumik, ASP (Circle) Md Kamruzzaman, NDC Habibur Rahman, Sarail thana OC Md Rafiqul Islam and Sarail upazila UNO.

They were injured while trying to quell the violence that ensued from a trifle during a cricket match and then spread to 20 villages in Sarail Sadar and nearby Kalikatcha union. The match was being played at Sarail Degree College ground

between first year and second year students on Monday.

It then turned into a veritable battle for supremacy between influentials in Sarail Sand and their rivals in Kalikatcha union, witnesses and officials said.

Clashes involving armed people spread as the influentials called upon their supporters over mikes to take on their opponents, villagers said.

The SP said arbitration meetings for peace were going on yesterday.

Among the injured, two policemen -- Mazammel Haque and Md Majibur Rahman -- were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital. This correspondent saw more 10 injured people including a woman from the villages being treated at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital yesterday.

Over 300 people took treatment at Sarail Upazila Health Complex and Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital,

sources there said.

As the clashes spread, ADM Banamali Bhaunik, NDC Habibur Rahman, Addition SP Md Jahangir Hossain and BDR Captain Md Shahria along with a large number of law enforcers rushed to the spot. Police fired 73 rubber bullets and lobbed nine tear gas shells, the SP said.

BDR sources said they fired 84 blank shots to disperse the clashing groups.

Police arrested 71 people including Kalikatcha Union Parishad Chairman Ahmedur Rahman.

During clashes, at least seven shops were set ablaze at Sarail market.

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Saidur Rahman, SP AKM Masudul Alam, ADM Banamali Bhaumik were at the spot when the report was filed yesterday afternoon.

JMB threatens Channel i journalist in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Unidentified Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) cadres threatened a Channel i journalist here over mobile phone for three consecutive days.

They threatened Jahid Hasan to kill him and all his family members by blasting bombs if he publishes any more news against JMB.

Jahid received the last threat at 7.31 pm on Wednesday, made from mobile phone No-0172460273.

Journalists here working in different dailies and electronic media condemned the threat and urged the administration to trace out the criminals and punish them.

Teenage girl abducted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A teenage girl was abducted by a gang of four young men at arms point from Muggunni Wednesday evening.

Abducted Yesmin Nahar Ritu, 15, is a student of class eight of Khalishpur National High School in the city.

According to eyewitnesses, the abductors left the place in a white microbus.

An FIR was lodged at Khalishpur Police Station naming Paltu, 25, Arman, 27, Rabiul, 28, and Shohag as accused.

Police could not rescue the girl and arrest any one till 5 pm Thursday.

Body formed to probe Benapole fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Benapole Port Authority has formed a 6-member probe body to investigate Wednesday's fire incident at shed no 10 (A-new) under customs warehouse.

The probe body includes representatives of customs, audit department and district administration.

Chairman of the Port Authority visited the spot on Thursday. Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam and Shipping Minister Col (Rtd) Akbar Hossain visited the spot yesterday.

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