

# No step yet to start pry edn in mother language of indigenous communities

JASIM MAJUMDER, *Khagrachhari*

The government is yet to take any step to start primary education in mother languages of the people of 13 indigenous communities living in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) which was mandatory as per CHT peace accord.

It has been alleged that both the governments of the BNP and the Awami League (AL) failed to show good intention in implementing the programme.

As per Article 33 of CHT Peace Accord, 1997, the government should ensure primary education of all indigenous children in their mother languages.

CHT Affairs Ministry sources said, members of 13 minority indige-

nous communities who speak in 10 indigenous languages had been demanding for a long time to start primary education in their own languages to ensure their equal rights.

The government signed a peace treaty with the Parbatya Chattagram Jano Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) on December 2, 1997.

The government should start primary education of all indigenous children in indigenous languages, according to Article-3 of the Parbattay Zila Parishad Act, 1989.

However, Save the Children, an international organisation, has been implementing the programme in Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari hill districts.

The project was launched under banner of 'Shishur Khamatayon Prakaipa' early this year.

The programme was aimed at ensuring quality education, increasing children's ability to learn, to have a clear conception of their own languages and tradition, stoppage of child marriage and child labour, decreasing school dropouts and increasing attendance in schools.

Save the Children has been implementing the five year project titled, 'Ongkur' in Khagrachhari at a cost of Tk 3 crore in collaboration with Zabarang Kallayan Samity, a local NGO. Save the Children has been spending much more money in two other hill districts of Rangamati and Bandarban for the

purpose.

Sixty schools of three upazila including Khagrachhari Sadar, Dighinala and Panchhari were earmarked for its implementation. All the schools were situated in remote areas of the district. About 1,255 indigenous children are pursuing studies in their mother languages.

Zabarang Kallayan Samity sources said, Chakma language is being used at Chakma villages, Kokborok language is being used at Tripura villages and Marma language is being used at Marma villages.

In the process, the children are learning their own culture and tradition. Schooling has become enjoyable to indigenous children. They come to school regularly.

Monotosh Chakma, Project Officer (PO) of Panchhari upazila said, Shishur Kamatayon Project has brought new hope to indigenous children. They are learning about their rights and privileges, he said.

Indigenous writer Deshmoni Tanchanga has expressed his pleasure and happiness at the initiative.

Zabarang Kallayan Samity executive director Mothura Tripura said they are trying to set up more schools for the purpose. 'It will encourage our indigenous children to go to school and learn practically,' he said.

Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC) chairman Monindra Lal Tripura lauded both the Save the Children and Zabarang Kallayan Samity for implementing the project.

'It is heartening to note that indigenous children are learning in their own languages'. 'More schools will be brought under the project', he said.

## Arrestee's body recovered from Netrakona Police Station

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrakona*

A magistrate here yesterday recovered a dead body of an arrested accused from a bathroom of Netrakona Police Station.

First class magistrate Md Shahidul Islam recovered the body of Ziaur Rahaman, 20, son of Abdul Wahab of Chalkpara area in Netrakona town at about 2 pm.

Police sources said, Netrakona DB police arrested him with a packet heroin and a sharp weapon from Barail in Netrakona Sadar upazila Tuesday evening.

The on-duty officer and assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of Netrakona Police Station, Golam Mostafa said Zia committed suicide by hanging.

But Mahfuzur Rahman Pankaj, younger brother of the dead, claimed police beat him to death for his failure to pay them their demanded Tk 10,000 bribe.

On contact, magistrate Shahidul Islam denied to comment before the postmortem report.

A three-member inquiry team headed by Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Basir Ahamed was formed to find out the clue of the arrestee's death.

## Tk 9.25 lakh hemp seized in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Magura*

Police and Narcotics Control Department (NCD), in a joint drive yesterday, seized 92.5 kilogram of hemp worth Tk 9.25 lakh from the house of an infamous drug-peddler.

Acting on a tip-off, the raid was conducted at the house of Zahidul Islam at Niznanduali in Magura town. Members of the law enforcement agencies seized the contraband hemp contained in eight polythene bags.

However, none was arrested in this connection as both Jahid and his wife who assisted to run drug trade fled away before the raid.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Abdur Razzak said they have already made a list of 200 drug traders and launched it as part of special drive against drug traders.

## Acid attack on woman in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

A woman sustained burn injuries as her cousin threw acid on her at Amirabad village under Nalchhity upazila in Jhalakati on Wednesday night.

The victim was identified as Laizu Akter, 22, a divorcee and daughter of Mofazzel Howladar of Nalchhity upazila.

Sources said, Laizu came to her maternal uncle Khalek Howladar's house few days ago and on Wednesday night when she came out to respond nature's call, Shahidul Howladar, son of another maternal uncle Latif Howladar, threw acid on her. She was immediately rushed to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medicle College and Hospital (SBMCH).

Laizu was the victim of her two-metarnal uncle's land related dispute.

## FLOOD IN DISTRICTS



(Top to bottom) A submerged village at Rajapur village in Kamlakanda upazila, Netrakona; a flood affected family shifting to safer places with domestic animals at Thoipara village of Shalikh upazila, Magura and army personnel distributing relief goods among flood victims at Rajrajeswar island in Haimchar upazila, Chandpur.



Indigenous children learning at a primary school in their mother language at Heladulapara, a remote village in Panchhari upazila, Khagrachhari hill district.

## Two illegal sand lifters held in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bandarban*

Police yesterday morning seized a sand loaded truck and arrested its driver and two labourers on charge

### 3 die in Manikganj boat capsized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Manikganj*

Three members of a family died in boat capsized at Bohora Beel under Daulatpur upazila in Manikganj Tuesday night.

The deceased are naval staff Shahidul Islam, 38, his seven years old son Badhon and his brother's eleven years old daughter Taru.

Family sources said, they were going to a relative's house with 9 members of his family by boat. The boat capsized due to heavy current.

of lifting sand illegally from Painchara canal in Bandarban town.

Police filed a case against truck driver Abdur Rahim and his helper with Bandarban police.

The arrestees were produced before a court in the evening from where they were sent to jail hajat. The truck was taken to Bandarban Police Station.

Meanwhile, security forces arrested two toll collectors at Balaghat Bazar in Bandarban town on charge of collecting illegal toll yesterday morning.

The arrestees are Biswajit Barua and Aminur Rahman. They were being interrogated till filing of this report yesterday afternoon.

## DOCTOR'S 'NEGLIGENCE' Housewife dies at private clinic in Jhenidah

A CORRESPONDENT, *Jhenidah*

A housewife died at a private clinic in Kaliganj upazila due to alleged negligence of a physician Tuesday night.

Family sources said, Poly Khatun, 30, wife of Mohiuddin Biswas of Hashadah village of Jibonnagar upazila, was admitted to Kaliganj Ibne Sina Private Clinic at about 4 pm. She was suffering from uterus complications. She was operated upon by Dr Ayub Ali, medical officer (MO) of Harina Kundo Health Complex without keeping her in observation. After several hours, the patient's condition worsened.

When contacted, Dr Ayub Ali who is now undergoing a training course at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) said he came back to

Jhenidah town after conducting the operation. 'I did not know that Poly was an asthma patient'. 'Because of asthma, her condition worsened', he said.

However, Poly's nephew Farid said her aunt was operated upon without conducting any test. This is why she died, he said. 'We are taking preparation to file a case against the doctor', he said.

After Poly's death, clinic owners Abdur Rahman and Hafizur Rahman ousted all the patients and left the clinic under lock and key. They could not be contacted although this correspondent tried to contact them several times.

## BB enlists former BNP lawmaker Shahidul as a 'corrupt suspect'

HOSSAIN SERAJ AND AZIBOR RAHMAN, *back from Jhenidah*

The name of a former BNP lawmaker here has been enlisted as one of the corrupt suspects among 198 others.

Bangladesh Bank (BB) has enlisted the name of Shahidul Islam master, former lawmaker elected from Jhenidah-3 constituency, according to a report published on The Daily Star on August 6.

BB has sent the list to the commercial banks asking the financial institutions to submit account details of the enlisted persons, the report said.

Party in power came as a magic lamp for Shahidul Islam master. Misusing power, he became a rich man in the area from a simple physi-

cal instructor. Because of his alleged involvement in different crimes, he went into hiding to evade arrest, just after promulgation of the state of emergency.

With his unbridled power during the 4-party Alliance rule, Shahidul Islam, once a physical instructor of Maheshpur Secondary High School, allegedly amassed several crores of taka and wealth through extortion, tender manipulation, relief goods grabbing and various illegal means. But despite several raids by joint forces, he remained out of the law enforcers' dragnet.

He has built a luxurious palatial building at his native village at Valaipur in Maheshpur upazila at a cost of about one and half a crores taka.

Locals and his aggrieved party

men alleged that he was a member of the parliamentary committee for ministry of power and energy affairs for which he gave electric connection in different villages of his constituency in exchange of bribe.

He allegedly took golden chains and other ornaments as a token of presentation in a novel way.

Joint forces in a raid in February this year, recovered more than one hundred empty boxes of gold ornaments from his house.

Besides, allegations have it that Shahidul formed a strong syndicate for tender manipulation of development work in many departments including LGED (Local Government and Engineering Department) and for occupying haor, baor, bills (water bodies) and local bazaars in the name of lease.



The Sherpur-Mirzapur portion of the Bogra-Dhaka highway has become unfit for traffic following development of numerous ditches and potholes on it in the ongoing rainy season.

7x2

8x3