

# Vow to maintain peace in CHT

Bangalees, ethnic people join peace rallies, public meeting in Baghaichhari



Ethnic people and Bangalees bring out peace rallies in Baghaichhari upazila in Rangamati hill district yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

JASIM MAJUMDER, back from Baghaichhari, Rangamati

Indigenous and Bangalee people in their thousands yesterday joined peace rallies in Badhaichhari and vowed to ensure communal harmony and resist those trying to create discord in the hills.

Joining a massive car rally that drove through the hilly upazila and a peace procession in Baghaichhari Bazaar, they also chanted slogans and carried banners for peace and harmony in the hills.

Leaders of indigenous and Bangalee communities along with army and administration officials led the rallies.

Amid cheers, the community leaders released pigeons as a mark of peace at a public meeting held on Sajek Union Parishad office premises at Baghaichhari Bazaar in Baghaichhari upazila of Rangamati district, from where a peace pro-

cession followed. The car rally was brought out from Baghaichhari upazila headquarters.

At the meeting, also attended by army and civilian officials, the community leaders said the CHT peace accord was signed to bring back peace in the three hill districts but that remained far away due to 'terrorism' by a some vested quarters. This also hindered development of the region.

Termining them as 'terrorist', the speakers urged the local administration to take steps against them.

Baghaichhari Zone Commander Lt. Col. Sajid Imtiaz was the chief guest while Baghaichhari Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Shibir Bichitra Barua presided over the meeting.

Termining the April 20 incident as pre-planned and designed to destroy peace and harmony among Bangalees and ethnic communities, they said such incidents took place in CHT several times earlier

also as some people always want to create unrest and hamper development of the area.

As the CHT is part of Bangladesh, there is no division between Bangalees and ethnic people. All are Bangladeshis and have to work together for peace and development, they said.

The scenic beauty of hills bestowed by nature can make the CHT region the most attractive tourist spot, which can change life of people here. But all the prospects are unutilised due to disturbance created by the vested quarters, they said.

The Army is constructing roads and bridges in the area for development and this will continue, they said.

They called upon all irrespective of religion, caste and creed to work together and remain united to maintain peace to ensure development in the hills.

Government officials,

Khagrachhari Municipal chairman Joyal Abedin, Sajek Union Parishad Chairman L. Thanga Pangkhuya, Baghaichhari Upazila Jana Sanghaty Samity (JSS) secretary Diptiman Chakma, Baghaichhari Bazar Traders Association President Golum Mowla and secretary Bimol Kanti Chakma and Baghaichhari Upazila Samo Adhikar Andolon President Selim Bahari were present at the meeting.

The rally at Baghaichhari upazila was led by 9 Rifles Battalion Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Amir Mohammad Arif.

On April 20, some unidentified criminals burnt at least 132 houses of Banagalees all of a sudden. This ensued a clash between Bengalee and indigenous people, leaving nine persons injured at Baghaichhari, bordering Rangamati district.

Chief of Army Moeen U Ahmad visited the spot on April 29 and distributed relief and Tk 500 to each affected family.

## Attack on Star reporter condemned

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Journalists of different newspapers and electronic media in Sirajganj and Netrakona yesterday protested and condemned the barbaric attack on The Daily Star Tangail Correspondent Mirza Shakil while doing his professional duty at Tangail prison compound on Saturday.

Our Netrakona Correspondent reports: A protest meeting was held at the News Media Centre at Chotobazar in the district town at about 10.00 am.

Netrakona Correspondent of The Daily Star Jahangir Alam presided the meeting.

Speakers demanded exemplary punishment to the jailor and the guards of Tangail jail.

Our Sirajganj Correspondent reports: Sirajganj Zila Sangbadik Forum and Sirajganj Zila Press Club jointly organised an emergency meeting protesting the attack at Sirajganj Zila Sangbadik Forum Office.

Sirajganj Zila Press Club convener and Sirajganj District Correspondent of The Daily Sangbad Abdul Kuddus was in the chair.

Condemning the attack, they demanded immediate punishment to the attackers.

## Another kingpin of Allaher Dal held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Gaibandha police arrested another important leader of banned Islamist militant outfit Allaher Dal from Gaibandha Poura Park yesterday.

The arrestee, Mehdi Hasan Palash, an inhabitant of Sayerdabad in Sirajganj district, is the 'third in command' of the militant outfit, police said.

During interrogation, Liton Mia, a regional leader of Allaher Dal, named Mehdi Hasan as a leader of the outfit's central command. Police managed to collect the mobile number of Mehdi Hasan and trapped him into being arrested at Gaibandha Poura Park.

Under interrogation, Mehdi Hasan said he is a follower of Matin Mehdi, chief of the militant outfit Allaher Dal.

Police is interrogating Mehdi Hasan, Gaibandha Superintendent of Police Mollah Nazrul Islam said, adding that he will be produced before the court today.

## Rape case against ex-chairman of Srimongal pourasava

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A rape case has been filed against former chairman of Srimongal Pourasava and former president of Srimongal upazila BNP Md Mohsin Miah Modhu.

A terminated primary school teacher of Sri Govindapur Tea Estate filed the case with Kamalganj police station on Saturday.

The tea garden is owned by Mohsin, who is on the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) list of corruption suspects. He is now in Canada, sources close to him said.

In the case, the teacher said she was allotted a quarter in the garden. As she reached the quarter on the day of her joining, she was called at the manager's bungalow on the same night and raped by Mohsin, she said in the complaint.

She was also threatened that she will be removed from service if she disclosed the incident. She was subsequently removed from service on May 10 last year as she refused Modhu, she said in the complaint.

Officer-in-Charge of Kamalganj police station Md Shahidullah said they are investigating the case.

Mohsin Miah Modhu was not available for comment. Contacted, the garden manager said the allegation is false. She was removed from service for irregular attendance, he claimed.

## Outlaw held, arms seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

An arrested regional leader of outlawed Gono Mukti Fauz got bullet injuries when he attempted to shoot police at Berbari village under Shaikupa upazila in Jhenidah yesterday morning.

Police recovered two firearms following his information.

The outlawed leader is Asaduzzaman alias Samrat, 28, of Berbari village under Shaikupa upazila in Jhenidah, was arrested from the village on Saturday afternoon.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Baduzzaman of Shaikupa Police Station said.

Following his confessional statement, police took him to his house and recovered a light gun from there early yesterday. Then he led police to a nearby tobacco storeroom where he found out a revolver and got ready to fire at the police who promptly shot him, injuring him on the hand and leg.

# 3-day Nazrul celebrations begin at Darirampur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A three-day programme marking the 109th birth anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam began at 'Nazrul Mancha' at Darirampur in Trishal upazila yesterday.

Mymensingh district administration organised the programme which will continue till Tuesday. The three-day programme includes discussion, musical soiree, dance drama, poetry recitation and drama.

Mymensingh Deputy Commissioner (DC) Md Shamsul Alam inaugurated the programme which was attended by eminent

personalities of the district.

On the first day, a discussion on life and work of the great poet was held with the DC in the chair. Poet Nurul Huda was present as chief guest while Engineer Abul Kasem and Major Humayan Kabir of Joint Forces were present as special guests.

Among others, Poet Mosharrif Karim, Dr Abdul Karim and Dr Marufi Khan addressed.

A three-day Nazrul Mela began at Darirampur to mark the occasion.

Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam Biswabidhalaya in Trishal chalked out a three-day programme marking the occasion. The programmes

include discussion, drama and dance drama and events of classical music.

University Grants Commission (UGC) chairman Prof Nazrul Islam inaugurated the programme as chief guest yesterday. Vice-Chancellor (VC) Prof Dr M Shamsur Rahman chaired the occasion. Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiquee, former VC of Jahangirnagar University attended the opening day's programme as special guest.

Earlier, colourful rallies were held at Darirampur and Trishal. Different cultural organizations chalked out cultural programmes throughout the district.



Children perform a dance drama at Nazrul Mancha as part of three-day Nazrul celebrations in Darirampur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Ariful has specific graft charges

Former ACC secy says in deposition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) had made specific allegations of corruption against former Sylhet city BNP chief Ariful Haque Chowdhury, who had been charged for amassing wealth beyond his known sources of income.

Former secretary of ACC, Delwar Hossain (present director general, Public Administration Training Academy, Dhaka) yesterday said in his deposition in the much-talked case against Ariful.

With this, deposition of 24 PWs has been recorded in the court of

Sylhet District and Sessions Judge Md Abdul Gafur, also the Special Tribunal.

Recording of deposition by the investigation officer, assistant director of ACC, Comilla regional office -- Shahin Ara Mumtaj will be held today, court sources said.

The court on April 22 framed charges in the ACC-filed case against Ariful. As many as 27 people including the complainant had been made witnesses in the case.

The ACC filed charge sheets against Ariful and his wife Shama Haque Chowdhury on charge of accumulating wealth worth over Taka 2 and a half crore through

corruption. ACC Assistant Director Shahin Ara Mumtaj filed these with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in Sylhet on March 3.

A close aide to former finance minister BNP stalwart M Saifur Rahman, Ariful was one of the first list of 50 corrupt suspects prepared after declaration emergency in January last year. Ariful, also a ward commissioner of Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) and the chief of development sub-committee of the SCC, surrendered before the joint forces in Sylhet on February 25 last year.

### Tender Notice

Sealed Quotations are invited from bonafide manufacturers/ dealers/distributors for supply and install for the following Equipments & Accessories of Pan Pacific Sonargaon. The detail Specifications, terms and conditions are mentioned in the Tender Schedule.

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Interested bidders can obtain tender schedule from the Purchasing Department on submission of a letter on their respective letterhead up to **June 11, 2008** during office hours on payment of Tk. 1000 for Sl. No. -1, Tk. 500 for Sl. No. -2, Tk. 300 for Sl. No.-3, Tk. 200 for Sl. No.-4, (non-refundable). The quotations will be received up to 02:30 p.m. on **June 12, 2008** and will be opened on the same day at 03:00 p.m. in presence of the bidders, if any.

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# Four accomplices of jail-breaker outlaws held in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police Saturday night arrested four accomplices of the convicted outlaws who escaped from Chuadanga Jail on May 15.

The arrestees are -- Abdus Salam, 36, of Srikol village in Sadar

Promotion after 14 months of death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A late lecturer of Srimongal Government College has been promoted to the post of assistant professor after 14 months of his death.

As the education ministry in a gazette notification on May 13 promoted several government college lecturers to the post of assistant professor, the name of late Md Azizul Haque, who was a lecturer of management in Srimongal Government College, appeared in the promotion list, sources said.

Education ministry Deputy Secretary Sayeda Afroza Begum signed the official gazette.

Azizul Haque died on December 22 in 2006.

upazila, Basiar Rahman, 38, of Senerhuda, Majnu Mia, 40, of Nehalpur, Noor Islam, 39, of Mrigamangla in Jibannagar upazila in Chuadanga.

Salam is cousin of Aktaruzzaman Sohag, one of the escaped outlaws.

Tipped off by different agencies, a team from Sadar police station arrested Salam from his house at about 8:30pm, while Jibannagar police arrested the three others, police said, adding that they have got important information from the four arrestees.

After breaking out the jail, Sohag at first went to Salam's house at Srikol village, 12 kilometres from the district jail on Friday morning, sources said.

Later the outlaws went to Senerhuda area, known as a strong den of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML), and went into hiding after holding a secret meeting.

One of the four escaped outlaws, Abdul Hamid was arrested on May 17 while another one, Asiqur Rahman Tagar was killed in 'crossfire' with Rapid Action Battalion Rab in Kushtia on Thursday.

Two others -- Akhtaruzzaman Sohag and Jorap Ali -- are still evading arrest.

# Daughter seeks father's recognition after 39 yrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Halima Begum Rubi, now a 39-year-old woman with four children, wants recognition by father and paternal rights.

"If my father does not recognise me as his daughter, I would go for legal action, even for DNA test to prove myself as his daughter," Halima said at a press conference at Mymensingh Press Club yesterday afternoon.

Halima said her father Hafizuddin Dulal of Digarkanda in Mymensingh Sadar left her mother Jahanara Begum, daughter of late Afsar Sarker, hailing from Sharishabari in Jamalpur, in 1969 after five months of their marriage.

By then her mother had conceived her for three months, she said.

Jahanara started living at her father's house at Malgodam in Mymensingh town and Halima was brought up by her grandfather, she said.

Halima said when she was seven years old, she first met her father at Machua Bazar in Mymensingh town with the help of his maternal uncle Chand Miah and at that time her father assured her of bearing all her expenses including that for education. But he did not keep his



Halima Begum Rubi

promise, said Halima.

"Many years have passed but my father did not meet me. Later my mother married Abdul Aziz of Swandip. At her 60, my mother still reminisces my father."

"Recently I happened to find my father at Purahitpara in the district town but when I met him at his residence, I did not get proper response from him, let alone recognition as daughter," Halima said at the press conference.

Halima's husband SA Hossain, among others, attended the conference organised by Sammito Mohila Parishad and Bangladesh Mohila Parishad.

### World Food Programme Bangladesh

#### CALL FOR ENLISTMENT FOR SERVICING & MAINTENANCE OF MILLING & FORTIFICATION UNITS (MFUs) OF WFP AND SUPPLY OF SPARE PARTS

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) invites applications from interested engineering firms/manufacturers for enlistment in the WFP Supplier's list. Currently, WFP has 22 milling and fortification units (MFUs) and the day to day maintenance work is done by the manager of the respective MFUs. On the other hand, the major and consumable spare parts are procured by WFP. As the non-routine maintenance works of the MFU is increasing day by day, WFP is planning to outsource the major maintenance works of the MFUs as well as supply of consumable spare parts like: Hammer blades, Net, Bearing, Roller Bearings, Ball bearings, sewing machines, small platform scales switches (200 amps) etc.

Interested engineering firms/manufacturers may collect the Terms of Reference from WFP Procurement Unit. Upon review of the TOR, interested bidders should send their detailed proposals in a sealed envelope marked "Expression of Interest for Enlistment as Service Providers for MFUs" and submit to the Staff Assistant at DCD's office on the 17<sup>th</sup> floor by Thursday, 8 June 2008 on or before 14:00 Hrs addressed to the Country Director, World Food Programme, IDB Bhaban (17<sup>th</sup> Floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Sher-e-Banglanagar, Dhaka. More information may be obtained by consulting Mr. Nurul Afsar, Programme Officer, World Food Programme (Tel: 8116344-8, ext: 2125)

celebrating Life Standard Chartered The Daily Star

### A Film, Photography & Lyrics Contest 2008

The film contest is a short documentary and fiction film competition based on the theme "Knowing Bangladesh Better". Contestants have been invited to make films on the aspects of our country, culture and heritage. The theme is quite broad; and filmmakers are allowed to choose to depict any aspect of Bangladesh. We encourage a focus on rural Bangladesh and not just on urban centres.

The length of the films should not be less than 20 minutes, and we recommend not more than 45 minutes. The submissions must be in DVD format for preview purposes. Only winners will be asked to provide master copies of their awarded films in DVCAM master format. Submissions must be original and unscreened work of the filmmakers.

The awards are: Best Documentary, Best Short Fiction, Special Jury Award Documentary, and Special Jury Award Short Fiction. Cash awards in the amount of Tk. 100,000 each will be given to the two Best films, and Tk. 50,000 each to the two Special Award films.

The winning films will be broadcasted on Channel I. The winning films will also be screened in a touring festival program at the district level throughout Bangladesh.

For more information, log onto "www.celebratinglifebd.com"

THE LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION IS 30th JUNE 2008.

For any further enquiry, please contact:

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