

## Forge strong unity to establish rights

### Shantu Larma urges indigenous people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parbatya Chattagram Janasanghati Samity (PCJSS) Chairman Jyotirindra Bodhipriyo Larma alias Shantu Larma yesterday called on the indigenous people to forge a strong unity and launch a movement to establish their rights.

"Condition of indigenous people in the hill districts is getting worse. The result can never be good," he said at a discussion marking the 11th anniversary of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord at Women's Voluntary Association auditorium in the capital.

Larma also warned that the consequences of non-implementation of the peace accord would not be good. "I got a feeling from the experience of the last 11 years that there is a conspiracy to destroy the existence of Jumma people and their political, cultural and land rights," he said.

He also said that harassment and torture of local

Bangalees and indigenous people in the last two years have made the situation worse.

Presenting a keynote paper, PCJSS Information and Publicity Secretary Mangal Kumar Chakma said more than 50 leaders and workers of PCJSS who have been vocal for implementing the CHT treaty have been implicated in false cases and that the drive to evict indigenous people has been strengthened.

Houses of indigenous people in seven villages at Sajek in Rangamati were set on fire on April 20, he said.

Bangladesh Adivasi Forum General Secretary Sanjeeb Dron said the indigenous people are now subject to more persecution and that the peace accord is violated frequently.

Even the land commission has not started functioning in the last 11 years to settle land dispute, he said.

Prof Mesbah Kamal said, "The CHT accord is an issue of human rights and dignity and cultural diversity. We must

recognise this."

CPB General Secretary Muzahidul Islam Selim said the movement to implement the spirit of the Liberation War and the movement to implement the CHT accord are interlinked, which calls for united action.

Gono Forum leader Pankaj Bhattacharya, writer Selina Hossain, journalist Kamal Lohani, Editor of the Samokal Abed Khan, Editor of the Saptahik Golam Mortuza, Tribal Welfare Association President Promod Mankin and indigenous woman leader Choitali Tripura also spoke.

**Larma meets Hasina**

Shantu Larma called on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence at Dhanmondi last night.

They discussed the situation in Chittagong Hill Tracts and election-related issues during two-hour meeting, sources said.

Earlier, Gono Forum leader Mostafa Mohsin Montu called on Hasina at her residence.

## VoIP equipment worth Tk 1 cr seized, one held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Officials of Bangladesh Telephone Regulatory Commission (BTRC) in association with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members seized huge voice over internet protocol (VOIP) equipment worth over Tk 1 crore in separate drives in the city's Ramna and Malibagh areas on Monday night.

They also arrested one Sobrah Hossain, 28, in this connection.

Rab and BTRC officials said in a joint drive at a Bailey Road house they arrested Sobrah with huge VOIP equipment.

In a different drive at Hosaf Market at Malibagh, they also recovered different VOIP equipment.

## Public Admin society launched

BSS, Dhaka

A new organisation named 'Bangladesh Society for Public Administration (BASPA)' was launched with a commitment to help develop the skills of officials and employees working in government and non-government organisations.

The formal launch of the organisation was announced at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday, with its President Prof Dr Mohammad Mohabbat Khan in the chair.

BASPA Vice-president Dr Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah and Secretary General Dr M Abul Kashem Majumder were also present.

A 19-member full-fledged committee was also formed.

Other office-bearers are: vice-presidents - Sharful Alam, Molla Wahiduzzaman, Prof GM Shahidul Alam, Prof Shaiful Mashreq, Dr Begum Rukhsana Mili and Anwara Begum; treasurer - Mohammad Abul Bashar Mia; joint secretaries general - Nusrat Jahan Chowdhury and Saber Ahmed Chowdhury.

Executive members are Ershadul Haque Bulbul, Firdous Zareen, Dr Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, Dr Mujibar Rahman, Zebunnesa, Nafisa Rashid and Asif Mohammad Shahan.

## Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Two sisters have sought financial assistance for the treatment of their father, Md Zamiul Haider, additional chief judicial magistrate in Jhenidah, who has been suffering from liver cirrhosis due to hepatitis C infection.

He has been undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) for the last three months, says a press release.

According to doctors, Zamiul needs to undergo liver transplant abroad, which involves a huge amount of money. But it is not possible for him to afford such an expensive treatment.

His two daughters, Zamiul Safa, 7, and Rafa, 5, have appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand to save the life of their father.

Contributions can be sent to Md Zamiul Haider, Savings Account No. 002313036, Sonali Bank, Jhenidah branch, Jhenidah, or Md Zamiul Haider, Savings Account No. 8664-6, Pubali Bank, Shishu Park branch, Dhaka.

**Saiful Islam**

METRO DESK



Saiful Islam, a 25-year-old labourer from Kishoreganj, has been suffering from cancer for long, says a press release.

He needs a lot of money for his treatment but his family could not afford to continue his treatment.

His father, who is blind, and mother have appealed to generous people and philanthropic organisations to extend a helping hand to save the life of their son.

Contributions can be sent to Saiful Islam, Account No. 19176, Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd, Dhanmondi branch. Phone: 0190883175, 01723933975.



International Press Institute Director David Dudge calls on Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

## HC stays admission process of 7 DU depts for 4 weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday stayed for four weeks the operations of additional admission process in seven departments under its 'Kha' and 'Gha' units since the new conditions are related to the admission process.

The departments include Bangla, English, International Relations, Mass Communication and Journalism, Economics, Women and Gender Studies and Linguistics.

Upon an application filed by five DU admission seekers, an HC bench comprising Justice Mir Hasmat Ali and Justice Shamim Hossain also fixed December 14 for hearing of the rule earlier issued by this court in this regard.

Counsel for the petitioners

barrister Belayet Hossain told The Daily Star that following the HC order, the authorities cannot continue admission process in seven departments under its 'Kha' and 'Gha' units since the new conditions are related to the admission process.

The additional conditions inserted in the admission guidelines of the Dhaka University are discriminatory for the Aleem graduates, he said, adding that Aleem students will not be eligible to study in these seven subjects under the units.

Earlier on October 26, following the writ petition, the HC issued a rule upon the DU authorities to explain why the new admission conditions that disqualify Aleem graduates for their admissions to

seven departments should not be declared illegal.

As per the new admission rules, an admission seeker must study English and Bangla courses of 200 marks each in HSC or equivalent examinations to be eligible for admission to those departments.

Economics department also introduced a condition that only the students who studied economics, not health economics or Islamic economics in HSC and equivalent exams, will be eligible for admission to the department.

Madrasa students study English and Bangla of 100 marks each and Islamic Economics. The writ petitioners yesterday filed the application to stay the operations of the additional guidelines.

## JMB man held with explosives in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) of Dhaka yesterday arrested a member of banned Islamite outfit Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and recovered explosives from his possession from Sonapara village at Ghoraghat in Dinajpur.

The arrestee was identified as Md Shahidul Alam, 55, but his particulars could not be known immediately as the raid was going on till filing of the report.

Rab sources said acting on a tip-off, a Rab team led by Major Shah Ali raided Abdullah Hil Kafi's residence at Sonapara and arrested him. Rab recovered huge explosives, including detonators, a time bomb and nine hand bombs, four revolvers and two cocktails from his possession.

Rab sources said that Abdullah Hil Kafi has not yet been arrested till filing of the report.

Earlier, Rab arrested one Shahin and upon his confessional statement they raided Kafi's residence.

## Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the 10th death anniversary of Prof Md Yusuf Ali, one of the organisers of the War of

Liberation and first education minister, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held in Dinajpur.

Prof Yusuf, read the Charter of Independence of Bangladesh and conducted the oath taking ceremony of the Mujibnagar government in exile.

## Rokanuzzaman Khan

DU CORRESPONDENT



Today is the ninth death anniversary of Rokanuzzaman Khan Dada Bhai, founder

director of Kachi Kanchar Mela and a journalist, says a press release.

He was also the first director of Kachi-Kanchar Ashor, feature editor of the daily Ittefaq and director of Weekly Begum.

Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his residence (38 Saratgupta Road, Narinda) in the city.

## Kazi Ashraf Mahmud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 25th death anniversary of Kazi Ashraf Mahmud, a poet and scientist,

says a press release.

He was elected the general secretary of All India Students' Forum in 1925.

He has a close relation with Kazi Nazrul Islam and Comrade Mozaffer Ahmed. He was also a close aide of Mahatma Gandhi.

## Abdullahil Baki

METRO DESK



Today is the 37th death anniversary of martyred Abdullahil Baki Birpratik, says a press release.

Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his residence after Asr prayers in the city.

## Ashrafuddin Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



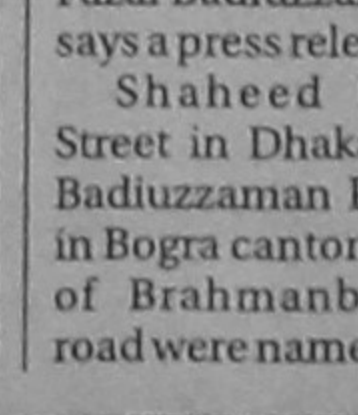
Today is the 9th death anniversary of Ashrafuddin Ahmed, legal guardian of the family of

poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, says a press release.

Special prayers will be offered at his son's Pallabi residence today.

## Ibne Fazal Badiuzzaman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 37th death anniversary of martyred Ibne Fazal Badiuzzaman, Birpratik, says a press release.

Shaheed Badiuzzaman Street in Dhaka cantonment, Badiuzzaman Parade Ground in Bogra cantonment and part of Brahmanbaria-Akhaura road were named after him.

## SC upholds HC order granting bail to Pankaj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday upheld the High Court (HC) order granting bail to Awami Swechchhasebak League General Secretary Pankaj Debnath in a corruption case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

The apex court also upheld the HC verdict quashing the proceedings against Pankaj in a tax evasion case filed by the National Board of Revenue.

Upon separate appeals, the four-member full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin passed the orders.

Pankaj's counsel advocate M Enayetur Rahim yesterday told The Daily Star that there is no legal bar on way to his client's release from the jail following the SC orders.

On August 26 last year, the Special Court No-1 set up in the MP Hostel in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban complex sentenced Pankaj to 13 years' imprisonment in connection with the case for amassing wealth illegally and concealing the information to the ACC.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof M Shariful Islam, former principal of Mohammadpur Central University College, member of the advisory committee of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh and former secretary general of Bangladesh Shikshak Karmachari Oikyajote, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Birdem hospital in the city at the age of 67, says a press release.

His body will be kept at the Central Shaheed Minar from 11:00am to 12:30pm today for the people to pay last respect to him.

## ANM Golam Mortuza

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ANM Golam Mortuza Mukul, a cultural activist and son of late Zahiruddin Ahmed, passed away on Monday at the age of 58, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one daughter, one son and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

His kulkhwani will be held at his residence (34/6, Ahmedbagh) in the city after Asr prayers on Friday.

## We will support pro-people party after elections

Says Mannan Bhuiyan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expelled BNP secretary general Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said he along with his fellow reformist colleagues would support the political party which will work in favour of the people after the general election.

The veteran politician further said that he and his colleagues, who are known as reformists in BNP and, therefore, did not get party nominations, may take the side of both treasury or opposition benches.

"We will remain with the party which will work in favour of the countrymen. Therefore, we can remain in the treasury bench or in the opposition bench," he told reporters at his Nam flat in the city's Gulshan area.

Bhuiyan, who was expelled a day before BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was arrested in September 3 last year, hoped that many individual candidates may win in the next election as people this time will cast their votes considering the quality of the candidates.

About his colleagues who were sided with him after 1/11 changeover and filed nominations as independent candi-

dates, Bhuiyan said, he is not in contact with them at this moment, "but I will communicate with them in future."

The former secretary general further said that qualitative change has not yet entered the politics.

Asked about launching of a new political party or platform, he said, they will take a decision on this issue after the December 29 election.

"I did not want to split BNP, I still believe in late president Ziaur Rahman's philosophy," he added.

## 11 police inspectors promoted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eleven police inspectors were promoted to assistant commissioner yesterday.

They were posted to various branches and ranges of police. The police personnel are Saiyeed Akter Newazi, Md Abdul Hannan, Md Obaidul Huq, Md Shah Alam Bakul, Md Nurul Alam, Nirmalendu Bikash Chakraborti, Md Jahangir Alam, Syed Mostofa Kamal, Mohammad Azad, Md Abdul Motalib and Md Abdul Latif Bhuiyan.



## No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country having chances of light rain or drizzle at one or two places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 30.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sandwip and lowest 14.8 degrees Celsius at Srimangol.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11pm today and rises at 6:27am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.0	18.0	64	69
Chittagong	29.0	19.4	79	75
Rajshahi	28.5	15.2	90	80
Khulna	28.5	18.4	91	84
Barisal	29.0	17.0	81	91
Sylhet	29.4	17.5	74	72
Cox's Bazar	30.0	19.0	64	75