

Demilitarisation of CHT admin a must

Int'l CHT Commission recommends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission (ICHTC) members yesterday said activating land commission, pursuing voluntary relocation of settlers and demilitarisation of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) administration within a declared time frame must be considered on priority basis to ensure full implementation of the CHT peace accord.

"CHT administration must be demilitarised as far as it is possible. Land commission must be activated and illegally occupied lands must be recovered and returned to its real owners," said Dr Shapan Adnan, one of the delegation members,

at a press briefing at the National Press Club in the city.

The commission also recommend the government for engaging an impartial and accountable body to review vexatious cases to ensure effective redress and reparation to the affected indigenous people who very often fell victim to false cases.

The commission came up with the recommendations after completing its second mission in CHT and urged the government to initiate concrete and time-bound actions for full implementation of the treaty.

Commission Chairman Lord Eric Avebury said, "ICHTC agrees with the gov-

ernment that the problems of the CHT are primarily political in nature and therefore demand political rather than military solutions."

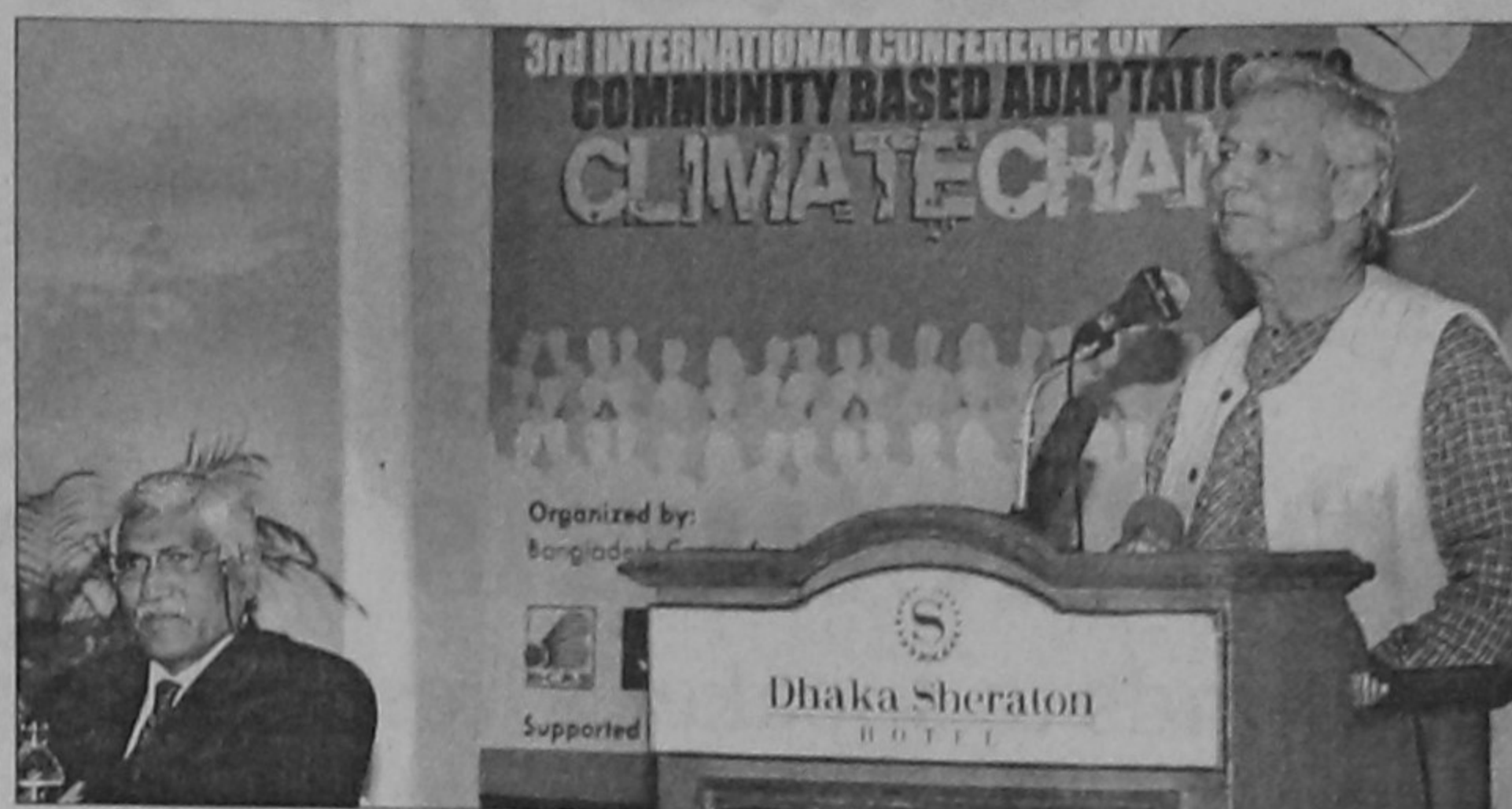
The recommendations focused on enhancing the 'power of civil administration in CHT and protecting human rights and ensuring access to justice in the areas.

The recommendations also mentioned that the ongoing Operation Uttoron in CHT confers on the military rights to intervene in civil matters beyond their proper jurisdiction and urged the government to publicise text of the operation for public scrutiny, saying, "The commission would like to see the phased withdrawal of troops

from the areas as mentioned in the accord to be completed within a declared time frame."

Other recommendations include activating Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Doman Tribunal in every CHT district, implementing provisions for resettlement and rehabilitation of repatriated hilly refugees, survey and updating land records and compiling voter list in the hill district councils, activating land disputes resolution commission and cancellation of unduly prolonged provision for free rations to Bangalee settlers in the areas.

Barrister Sara Hossain and Sultana Kamal also took part in the programme.



Prof Muhammad Yunus speaks at the Third International Conference on 'Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change' at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

Social business key to making a better world

Prof Yunus tells int'l confce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday underscored the need for doing social business to change the world for a better living place.

"We can make this world more beautiful by doing social business utilising modern technology as well as our creativity," he added.

The microcredit guru said this as the chief guest at the seven-day international conference on 'Community-based adaptation to climate change' kicked off at a city hotel on February 18.

The event was jointly organised by Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), International Institute for Environment Development (IIED), the UK and Regional and International Networking Group (RING) in association with the ministry of environ-

ment and forest.

Prof Yunus said profit maximisation is the key issue of present business in the world which makes everyone busy in making profits and selfish as well.

"Are human beings money-making machines or robots? Human being is much bigger entity," he said, urging, "Let's build a business of selflessness which I call social business just to save the world from man-made disasters."

He emphasised the importance of rebuilding the existing systems in order to tackle the crises the world is reeling from.

Mentioning 2008 a year of unprecedented crises in financial, food and energy sectors, Prof Yunus said though the crises apparently seem went away, they can explode anytime.

"The basic crisis is in the way we think, the way we design our world and the way

we make our policies, but we never look back to the fundamentals," he added.

Though the year 2008 faced enormous crises, it also gave an opportunity to redesign the existing systems, he said, adding, "This is the time to rebuild the systems, including all sectors, and it will be a total blunder if we rebuild the same thing."

The Nobel laureate further said that poverty is created by the systems, policies, institutions and concepts which we are still holding on.

Bangladesh will be affected seriously by the impacts of climate change, though the country is less responsible for polluting the climate, he said and suggested taking preparations apart from adaptation efforts.

BCAS Executive Director Dr Atiq Rahman also spoke.

Around 200 participants from home and abroad are taking part in the conference which will end on February 24.

BTTB Ordn (Amend) 2008 challenged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule upon the government to explain why its actions turning Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) into Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited (BTCL) and transferring the services of BTTB officials under BTCL should not be declared illegal and without lawful authority.

Upon a writ petition jointly filed by 313 BTTB officials, including Md Giasuddin and Md Abdul Hannan, yesterday, an HC bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Quamrul Islam Siddiqui issued the rule.

Authorities concerned, including secretary of the telecommunications ministry, were asked to reply to the rule within four weeks.

The immediate past caretaker government in 2008 proclaimed the BTTB Ordinance (Amendment) 2008 by amending the BTTB Ordinance 1979 with provisions of turning the state-owned Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) into Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited (BTCL), a public limited company.

On July 1, 2008, the government issued a notification in the light of the BTTB Ordinance (Amendment) 2008 transferring the services of BTTB officials to the BTCL.

Govt to establish accountability in public, pvt sectors

Says Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government will establish accountability in public and private sectors in order to curb corruption.

She made the remark when a five-member delegation of German Friendship Parliamentary Group led by its chairman Sebastian Edathy MP called on her at her parliament office in the evening.

Hasina observed that corruption could not be eliminated in the past as democratic process was halted many times, which also led to a lack of accountability.

The German delegation congratulated Hasina on her forming the government through a free and fair election on December 29, 2008.

Hasina sought German support for power and energy sector, particularly for renewable energy sources, to resolve the electricity crisis.

Earlier, a seven-member delegation led by Japanese State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Sieko Hashimoto called on the prime minister at her parliament office.

As the Japanese delegation greeted her on her assumption of office as the prime minister, she said the people have given the new government a big responsibility to work for their

betterment.

Hasina said that all in the government are working hard to meet the needs of the people. "The government always keeps the responsibility in mind," she was quoted as saying by the press secretary.

Hasina singled out poverty as the main problem of Bangladesh and said only sustainable development can remove poverty from the country.

She urged the Japanese government to increase its investment in various sectors, including health, education and communications.

Australian edn exhibition begins Feb 25

BSS, Dhaka

A two-day Australian Education Exhibition will begin at Hotel Sonargaon in the city on February 25.

Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Justin Lee is expected to inaugurate the exhibition organised by the Australian High Commission and IDP Education.

The exhibition is aimed at creating an opportunity for Bangladeshi students to get admission related information.

FORGERY CASE

BNP lawmaker Harun gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

After a two-day confinement in jail custody, BNP lawmaker Harunur Rashid from Chandpur-4 constituency yesterday obtained bail in a forgery case filed by a BNP leader.

Second Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Habibur Rahman Siddiqui granted the bail upon a bond of Tk 30,000 with two guarantors after he (accused) submitted a bail petition and made submissions on the issue.

Metropolitan Magistrate Rashed Kabir on Thursday rejected a bail petition of the lawmaker and sent him to jail after he appeared before a Dhaka court along with his lawyers.

Mohammad Abdul Hannan, a BNP leader from Chandpur, filed the case against Rashid with Ramna Police Station on January 5 on charges of bringing false allegations against him (the complainant).

In his first information report (FIR), Hannan said that he had submitted nomination papers to the election commission to contest the December 29 election from Chandpur-4 constituency.

But Rashid attached a forged BA (pass) degree certificate with his (Hannan) nomination forms and then he informed the election commission that Hannan's certificate is fake. Following the complaint, the election commission rejected Hannan's nomination.

The complainant said the accused had tarnished his image in the society as well as the political arena and had also caused him a monetary loss of Tk 50 crore.

The investigation officer (IO) of the case, Sub-Inspector (SI) ABM Masud, investigated the case and found that Rashid added a forged certificate to Hannan's nomination forms.

Following the submission of the charge sheet, the magistrate issued an arrest warrant against the accused.



Birth anniversary of Ramakrishna on Feb 27

METRO DESK

A five-day celebrations marking the 174th birth anniversary of Sri Ramakrishna will begin on the Ramakrishna Mission premises in Dhaka today, says a press release.

On the first day, the annual function of the Ramakrishna Mission High School will be held, with Prof Dr Israfil Shahin as the chief guest. A drama titled 'Sadhu Sanga' will be staged by the students of the school.

Discussions on 'Sri Ramakrishna: Ideal of Harmony', 'The Mother of Love Sri Sarada' and 'The Ideal of Vivekananda and the World Peace' will be held on February 24, 25 and 26 respectively.

The 174th birthday of Sri Ramakrishna will be observed on February 27 with special puja, homa, devotional songs and recitation from the scriptures.

WB launches competitive programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank launched its competitive Development Marketplace (DM) programme in Dhaka yesterday to encourage different organisations to work towards improving the nutritional status of the people.

Under the competitive grant programme, up to \$40,000 will be provided in grants for the implementation of winning projects.

DM will also create a platform for the civil society and grassroots organisations so that they can contribute to improving nutritional status of the poor.

Titled 'Family and Community Approaches to Improving Infant and Young Child Nutrition', the DM programme is looking for entrepreneurial organisations across South Asia to submit proposals for local and small-scale projects that have the potential to be scaled up and replicated.

The competition is open to civil society groups, social entrepreneurs, youth organisations, private foundations, academia and private sector corporations in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan

and Sri Lanka.

The winners will be selected by an international jury of development and nutrition experts at the DM event in August this year in Dhaka.

"We all look forward to welcoming these nutrition entrepreneurs from Bangladesh and around the region to Dhaka later this year and making awards to the most innovative proposals," said Tahseen Sayed, acting country director of the World Bank Bangladesh.

However, effectively implementing these interventions and implementing them is a major challenge, said Andrea Vermehren, World Bank team leader for the DM.

South Asia suffers seriously from the problem of malnutrition, where child malnutrition rate is higher. Progress in combating child underweight rates has slowed dramatically since the mid 1990s, the speakers said.

Carel de Rooy, country director of Unicef, John Ayliffe, country director of WFP, Jean-Olivier Schmidt of GTZ and Zeba Mahmud, director of Micronutrient Initiative (MI), also spoke at the launching ceremony.

Govt mulls new pay scale for primary teachers

Staff Correspondent

The government is planning to introduce a new pay scale for all primary school teachers in a bid to end wage discrimination in the government, registered and community schools which will be implemented from the next fiscal year.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Motahar Hossain said, "Huge wage discrimination is existing at different types of primary schools. But the government wants to remove it. We will introduce a new pay scale for primary teachers so that the same qualified teachers can receive equal salaries."

The minister said this at a meeting with community primary teachers at the secretariat in the city yesterday.

He further said that the new pay scale will be implemented from June, the next fiscal year, so that teachers can give due attention to bring all the children to schools by 2012 and ensure cent percent literacy by 2014.

The government will take the initiative with a view to making 'Digital Bangladesh' by 2021, Motahar added.

At present, a government primary teacher gets Tk 5,100 per month and a registered primary teacher Tk 3,300, while a community primary teacher receives only Tk 1,200.

Teachers of the community primary schools demanded nationalisation of their jobs.

Obituary

BSS, Sherpur

Habibur Rahman, a language movement veteran and organiser of the War of Liberation, and journalist, died of brain hemorrhage at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital on Saturday night at the age of 78.

He is survived by his wife, four daughters, a son and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Habibur Rahman joined the language movement when he was a student of class seven of Sherpur Victoria Academy. In 1958, he was arrested for his role in the anti-Ayub movement and spent 11 years in the jail.

His body was kept at the Shaheed Minar at Chakbazar of the town yesterday afternoon to let people of all walks of life to pay their last respect.

Leaders of Sherpur district unit of Awami League, BNP, Press Club, Bangabandhu Parishad and Uddish expressed deep shock at the death of Habibur Rahman.

Rokeya Chowdhury Noni

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rokeya Chowdhury Noni, daughter of former minister late Kafil Uddin Chowdhury and younger sister of former president AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, passed away at her Baridhara residence due to a cardiac arrest in the early hours of yesterday at the age of 58, says a press release.

Her namaz-e-janaza was held at Azad mosque in Gulshan after Maghrib prayers yesterday.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 32nd death anniversary of freedom fighter Lt AM Ataul Haque, acting chief of Bangladesh Navy after independence, says a press release.

Ataul Haque, who joined the Royal Indian Navy in 1945, served as the acting Chief of Bangladesh Navy until April 1972.

He had been serving in the Pakistan Navy in 1971 but joined the War of Liberation renouncing allegiance to the Pakistan Navy. He passed away due to a cardiac arrest on this day in 1977.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Education

FROM PAGE 16

Interestingly the government, however, decided to ratify both Bangladesh University of Professionals Ordinance - 2008 and Rangpur University Ordinance 2008 promulgated during the interim government.

UGC chairman Prof Nazrul Islam on Friday night told the Daily Star that he met education minister and law minister and urged them to ratify the ordinance. "The ordinance was an important step to bring private universities under strict discipline," he added.

He also urged the government to formulate a similar law if the present ordinance could not be ratified due to constitutional obligation.

Owners of private universities, in contrast, think no new law is needed for the private universities as previous laws can be amended, if needed.

"New laws will stand in the way of development of private universities," Abul Quasem Haider, vice president of the Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh told the Daily Star.

He also said government can amend previous laws on private universities formulated in 1992 and 1998.

The new ordinance stipulates that private universities cannot open their outer campus before permanent registration, they cannot strike a deal with foreign universities and the ordinance even bars them from providing distant learning failing which will be punishable offence.

As per the ordinance, one must have 20 years teaching or administrative experience or 10 years teaching and 10 years administrative experience to be eligible to become a vice-chancellor (VC).

The provision was made to prevent owners of universities from assuming the post of VC as most of them are businessmen and without any required academic qualification.

The legislation also suggests formation of a Trustee Board for every university that includes representative from the UGC, educationists and professionals.

It also stressed the need for adequate number of regular teachers where temporary teachers must not be over one third of the regular teachers. UGC sources say around 2,000 public university teachers are engaged in part-time teaching with different private universities.

The ordinance also includes a provision for 'accreditation council' to improve the quality of education and it suggested raising the amount of fixed deposit receipt (FDR) for the universities to Tk 25 crore from the earlier Tk 5 crore for operating a private university.

As per the UGC report 2007, at present the number of students in 51 private universities is 1,70,410.

MASS SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN

Call for trial of war criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The people of the country want to see the trial of war criminals and a ban on religion-based politics as soon as possible, members of Bangladesh Internet Bloggers' Community said at a press conference yesterday.

To mobilise public opinion to this end, the community has already started a campaign to collect mass signatures from across the country.

In the first phase of the campaign from January 3 to February 21, members of the

community collected around 2 lakh signatures, speakers at the press conference said at the National Press Club.

Responses from non-resident Bangladeshis have also been extremely encouraging, they added.

The signature form can also be collected online. Anyone can print it to put their signatures and send it to the Bloggers' Community.

"We want to show that we, the citizens of the country, are disappointed that the war criminals are still moving freely and giving

speeches claiming there are no war criminals in Bangladesh," said Irine Sultana, a blogger.

"It is shocking that thirty-eight years have passed without any action being taken against the people who betrayed us during the War of Liberation and tried to take the victory away from us," she added.

Bloggers' Community members said they intend to collect another eight lakh signatures in the second phase of the campaign from February 22 to March 26.

DHAKA TODAY

Roundtable
Brac University organises a roundtable on career in electronics and communication technology sectors. Venue: Brac Centre auditorium. Time: 2:30pm.

Discussion
Bangladesh Sangbadik Oikya Parishad organises a discussion marking the 25th death anniversary of Bangabir Osman. Venue: Press Institute auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

Roundtable
A forum of the student leaders of '80s organises a roundtable on transit, corridor, taskforce and sovereignty of Bangladesh. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Reception
Citizen Council for Father Rigan's Reception will accord a reception to Father Rigan. Venue: Liberation War Museum auditorium. Time: 5:30pm.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light fog may also occur over the river basins of the country during late night till morning. Met Office said in a forecast.

It said that night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 13.2 degrees Celsius at Srimongol.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:58pm today and rises at 6:25am 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
Dhaka	32.0	20.3
Chittagong	29.5	17.3
Rajshahi	32.5	15.5
Khulna	32.5	17.0
Barisal	31.5	17.8
Sylhet	30.1	15.0
Cox's Bazar	30.5	17.2

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FROM PAGE 16

appeared before the HC bench of Justice Syed AB Mahmudul Huq and Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury about 2:00 pm and prayed for the bail in the cases.

The HC bench directed Hazari, wanted in 19 criminal cases, to surrender before the trial courts within eight weeks in connection with eleven criminal cases.

The court, however, asked the law enforcement agencies not to harass or arrest Hazari in the eleven cases within the weeks and also granted him ad-interim bail for two months in a carjacking case.

Hazari's counsels told the newsmen that the HC bench also sought records of two other cases, which were earlier stayed by this court and after examining whether the stay orders are now in force, the HC will pass orders on the two cases today.

The bench granted bail to

Hazari in the carjacking case since there was no evidence of filing the case against him, they said.

The lawyers said separate petitions for bail in the five cases, in which Hazari was convicted with imprisonment, are now pending with the HC.

His principal counsel Abdul Baset Majumder told the court that his client tried to appear before the HC in 2001 in connection with the cases against him, but he could not do that due to the drives of the law enforcement agencies against him during the caretaker government.

He also said Joynal Hazari was staying abroad for treatment as he has been suffering from heart disease and asthma problems.

Advocate M Shajahan Shajia, a lawyer for Hazari, told The Daily Star that Hazari left the country on August 17,

2001, and returned to the country on February 14 this year. He was staying in Kolkata of India since August 17, 2001.

He added that Joynal Hazari was made accused in 19 cases, which were filed with different police stations of Feni district on different charges, including those of killing, possessing illegal arms, money laundering and arson attack.

On August 17, 2001, the joint forces raided 'Shaila Kutir' of Hazari at Masterpara in the district town and they recovered some arms and ammunition, including one rifle, two revolvers loaded with bullets, magazines of sub-machine gun, 431 bullets, lethal weapons and some contraband items in his absence.

Hazari, alleged godfather of the district, fled the country on the same day.