

Cancel land survey before resolving disputes in CHT

Adivasi Odhikar Andolan urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday demanded cancellation of land survey in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) before resolving the land disputes in the hilly areas.

"The resolution of land disputes is more important than conducting the land survey. The survey activities before resolving the land disputes will intensify the complexity in CHT," they added.

The press conference on 'Cancellation of land survey and resolving the land disputes on the basis of CHT Peace Accord' was organised by Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolan at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

In a written statement, Prof

Mesbah Kamal, general secretary of the organisation, termed the government initiative for land survey a threat to land rights of the indigenous people.

"According to the CHT Peace Accord 1997, the government will resolve the land dispute first, and then it will take necessary initiative for land survey after discussion with the CHT Regional Council. But the CHT Land Commission Chairman Khademul Islam Chowdhury has announced to launch the land survey there without any discussion with others," he said.

Prof Kamal also asserted that it is impossible to complete the land survey in CHT within five months (from October 15, 2009 to March 15,

2010 as announced by the commission).

Lauding the government for withdrawal of temporary army camps from the CHT, he said, "The government is pledge-bound to implement CHT Peace Accord 1997. These are some positive signs for full implementation of the accord."

He also placed some demands that included amendment to CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission Act 2001, identification of land dispute in different places in CHT and formation of a database in this regard, initiative to resolve land dispute after discussion with the CHT Regional Council, District Council, circle chief and the ministries concerned and

allocation of adequate money for strengthening the commission.

"In a democratic country no one can do anything beyond the constitution. Similarly any activities in the CHT should be run on the basis of CHT Peace Accord 1997. But the initiative of land survey before resolution of land dispute goes against peace accord," said former Justice Golam Rabbani.

He urged the government to put emphasis on resolving the land disputes first and then conducting the survey.

Prof H K S Arefin, president of the organisation, Sanjib Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, were present at the press conference.



Teachers and staffs of Alhaj Mokbul Hossain College form a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday protesting alleged irregularities of Alhaj Mokbul Hossain in the college.

Int'l seminar on flight safety begins

METRO DESK

A two-day international seminar on flight safety organised by Bangladesh Air Force began at Falcon Hall at Tejgaon in the city yesterday.

The aim of the seminar is to increase flight safety awareness through mutual interaction and knowledge and experience sharing while the theme is 'Flight Safety: A Means to Efficient Task Achievement'.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister GM Quader inaugurated the seminar as the chief guest, says an ISPR press release.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that the seminar being the first of its kind in Bangladesh with participants from the Air Forces of various continents would set a benchmark in instituting flight safety.

"To achieve a zero accident rate is indeed an unrealistic goal, but we in the aviation community must wholeheartedly and unequivocally strive towards obtaining the mindset to promote a 'Safety Culture'," he added.

Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman in his brief speech as special guest said that this unique platform would provide the opportunity for mutual interaction on current trends in flight safety and help overcome flight safety challenges.

Besides host Bangladesh, Air Forces of the USA, Australia, China, Sri Lanka and Thailand are taking part in the seminar.

Obituary

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Prof Mozammel Haque, a teacher of Psychology department of Rajshahi University (RU), passed away due to a cardiac arrest at his residence at Raniganj in the city yesterday at the age of 65.

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

Family sources said he went to bed on Monday night as usual and was found dead on his bed yesterday morning.

He was buried at Tikapara graveyard in Rajshahi city.

RU Vice Chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan, Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Muhammad Nurullah, Treasurer Prof Abdur Rahman and Registrar Prof MA Bari expressed shock at his death and prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed their sympathy to the bereaved family members.

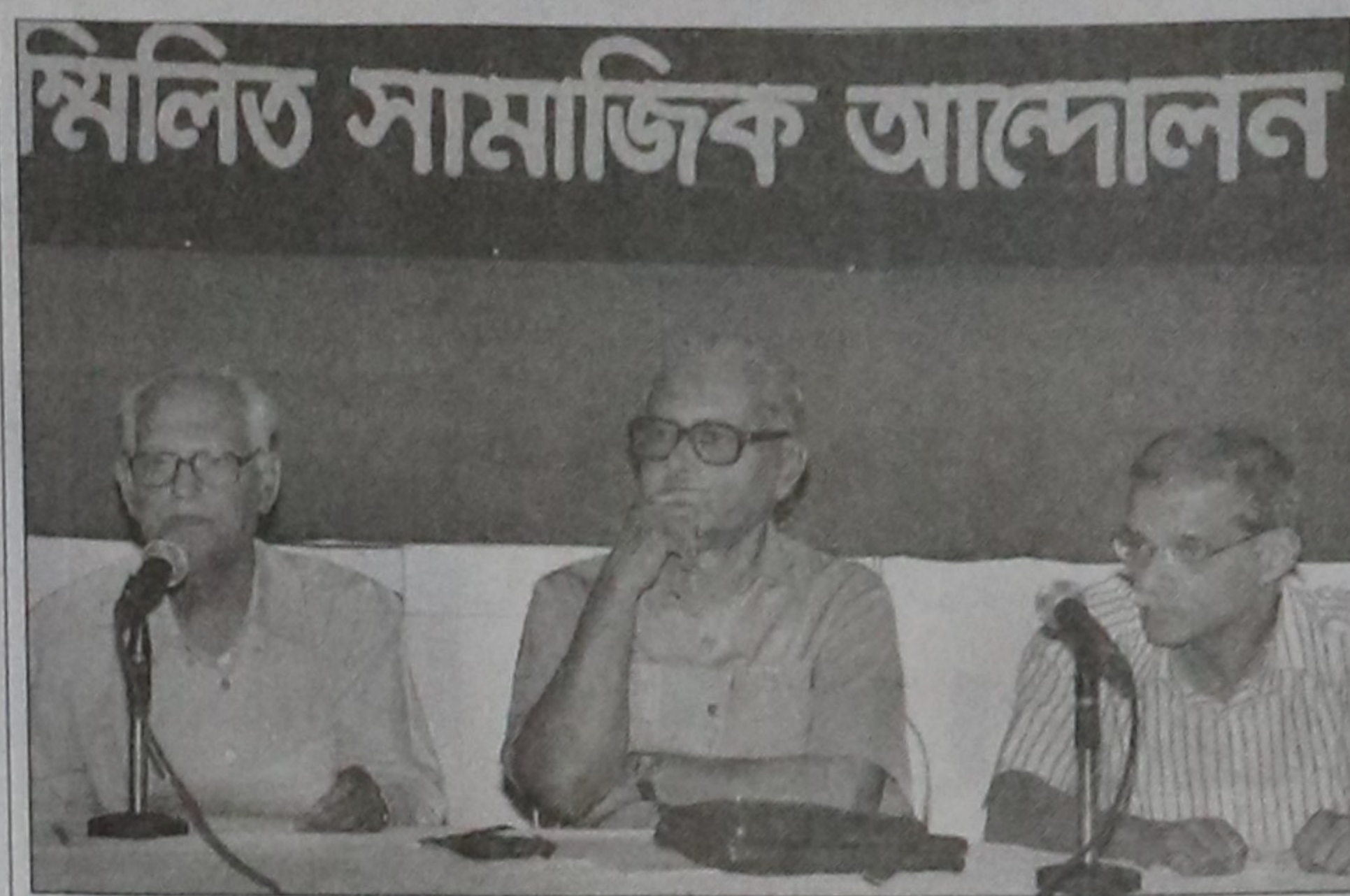
Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the fifth death anniversary of Engr Hasan Rahim Wahab (Rimu), an instructor at Technical Training Centre in Rajshahi and son of Abdul Wahab Miah, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Begunbari Jame Mosque at Tejgaon in the city and at Teacher's Training Centre at Shapurin in Rajshahi.

Friends and relatives are requested to pray for his departed soul.



Prof Rangal Sen speaks at a discussion at the Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday. On his left are Ajoy Roy and Ziauddin Tariq Ali.

Ensure unitrack edn up to class VIII

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reviewing the draft national education policy, Sammita Samajik Andolon yesterday placed its nine-point demand, including ensuring unitrack education system up to class VIII.

At a discussion at Liberation War Museum, the speakers suggested fixing a specific timeline to implement the policy in phases.

Hailing the government for formulating the policy, they said the nation wanted to see an education policy which would ensure unified, universal, non-discriminatory and non-communal education system of the country, but there is no structural plan of non-government education institutions, cadet, English medium and madrasa education in the policy.

Dr Shaheen Kabir, a member of the education policy formulation committee, however, said the issue of primary education written on the primary draft has not been reflected on the final draft perhaps due to some 'misunderstanding'.

"In the primary draft we had recommended unitrack education up to class VIII and the medium of learning would be Bangla, but that was not reflected here. There was no mention of any medium of education - general, madrasa and English - up to class VIII in that draft," she said.

There must be a misunderstanding as there was no flaw in the activities of the committee, she said adding, "Still we have time as the policy is not implemented yet and the issue of unitrack education will have to be implemented."

Prof Shaheen of Jahangirnagar university said there is no mention of the subject of formal religion in the primary level, rather it was moral education.

Apart from the policy, standard of education is also an important thing to be emphasised, she mentioned.

Prof Rangal Sen of Dhaka University said the society is divided and there is no proposal in the proposed policy to eradicate the division.

He suggested incorporating a synopsis of all religion in the primary level in order to

help the children build up with a spirit of non-communal.

Prof Syed Anwar Hossain of Dhaka University said the study of religion should be practised in the family, not in the school.

Though the policy made some subjects mandatory for the students of general, madrasa and vocational institutes, it hasn't said anything about the English medium and cadet colleges, he noted.

Dr Shawkat Ara Hossain said introducing science education in the madrasa is a 'dual policy'.

She also said the policy is superficial not complete and the nation does not want such policy after 38 years, suggesting reformation in madrasa education.

In his keynote paper, Ziauddin Tariq Ali, a trustee of Liberation War Museum, demanded that moral education be made mandatory in the primary level and religion as optional.

Ajoy Roy, president of Sammita Samajik Andolon, presided over the discussion.

ARGES GRENADES

Arrestees taken on five-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three persons who were arrested with 10 Arges grenades were taken on a five-day remand yesterday after Jhinaigati police produced them before a Sherpur court.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Brojendra Nath of Jhinaigati Police Station in Sherpur told The Daily Star that they produced the trio - Rafiqul Islam, Pang Vang Sangma and Nipin Sangma before the court of Judge Palash Chandra Roy with a prayer for a seven-day remand.

Police said Deputy Assistant Director Mohammad Joyal Hossain of Rab-1 filed the case on Monday night under Explosives Act and handed over the arrestees to the police with the grenades.

Pang Vang Sangma told reporters at Sherpur that Rab personnel tortured him in Dhaka and took his signature in a blank paper after his arrest.

SI Brojendra said in preliminary interrogation the trio informed police that the arrestees used to steal timber from the forest and sell them in local markets.

At times, they went to India illegally for smuggling goods.

The arrested tribal youths told police that Rab personnel arrested them while they were coming back home in a drunken state while Rafiq said he was caught while he was sleeping and he knew nothing about the grenades.

Commander Abul Kalam Azad, director of the Legal and Media Wing of Rab, said the trio will be quizzed in Taskforce for Interrogation (TFI) Cell during their five-day remand.

Serial killer Rasu on fresh remand

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Faridganj police took serial killer Rasu Khan in a two-day remand for second time yesterday.

Chandpur judicial magistrate Amirul Islam granted the remand. Police sought remand for three days but the court granted two days.

Ranjit Kumar Palit, officer-in-charge of Faridganj Police Station, said the court has given permission to revive two more cases regarding the killing of women by Rasu. Police filed all the three cases.

Chandpur assistant police super Sirajul Haque said no other person was arrested in connection with these killings. He, however, said police is working to unearth each incident.

A Qatar expatriate Bangladeshi from Narsingdi district Md Kamal Uddin has announced Tk 5,000 award for Faridganj Police Station Sub-Inspector Mir Quasem, who unearthed the killing of 11 women by Rasu.

DAB to boycott BMA polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) announced to boycott the election of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) slated on November 5 terming it a farce.

The announcement came from a press briefing at the National Press Club yesterday.

They also announced some programmes that include forming a human chain today and a rally on Saturday to realise their demand of rescheduling the election and resignation of the election commissioner.

They will also collect signature of doctors across the country in a bid to create public opinion and realised their demand.

Earlier, they placed an eight-point demand and warned the government to meet the demand within 48 hours. But the government did not pay heed to it.

Acting Secretary General of DAB Dr SM Rafikul Islam Bachchu read out a keynote paper at the press briefing, while DAB President Dr Azizul Haque, Vice President Dr Mohammad Shahidul Alam, Mostafa Rahim Swapan and Syed Akram Hossain were present, among others, at the press briefing.

Activate repression prevention body to stop domestic violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers (BNWL) yesterday urged the government to activate the women and children repression prevention committee to stop domestic violence.

They also proposed to use the upazila building, health complexes or abandoned government building to use as temporary shelter home for the repressed women.

They placed the recommendations at a workshop titled 'Institutional preparations to address domestic violence' organised by BNWL at LGED auditorium in the city.

Salma Ali, executive director of BNWL, said the social welfare officers and women affairs officers of the

government could play a vital role to stop domestic violence in remote areas that are increasing day by day.

DU Pol Science Alumni Assoc Reunion Oct 23

METRO DESK

A reunion of Dhaka University Political Science Department Alumni Association (DUPDAA) will be held on October 23 at the TSC of the university.

Interested alumni are requested to register their name by October 20 to the following persons: Roquibul Hasan (cellphone: 01713-014333), KMA Bari (01711-527147), KM Mojibur Rahman (01553-540473) and Rezaul Mannan (01711-679571).

Social Welfare Minister Enamul Haque Mostafa Shahid who attended the programme as the chief guest assured that his ministry would work to stop domestic violence on women.

He said that poverty is a very important cause for increase of domestic violence and dowry related deaths. So the government and NGOs have to work together to stop domestic violence and eliminate poverty.

Sitangshu Sen, director general of Social Services Department, attended the programme as special guest. He emphasised on education to stop the domestic violence and said, "Our mother and sister always become victim of violence that should be stopped."

Entries invited for RDRS Media Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

RDRS Bangladesh, an NGO committed to changing through empowering the rural poor, on Monday invited reports from the journalists working in different electronic and print media in Rangpur and Dinajpur districts to offer 'RDRS Media Award'.

The awards would be offered on the development reports in print or electronic media published between 2008 and June 2009, says a press release.

Interested reporters have been requested to submit copies of their reports (three sets) for print media and three CDs/VCDs for electronic media by October 25 to the following address: Sabrina Sharmin, Communications Manager, RDRS Bangladesh, House-43, Road-10, Sector-6, Uttara, Dhaka-1230.

WINNERS OF MEDIA AWARD Meanwhile, seven reporters of different print and electronic media were selected for Disaster Management Media Award-2009 under Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) of UNDP Bangladesh.

The winners include Ashraf Haque and Chayan Rahman of NTV, Jannatul Bakiya Keka and Mostafa Malik of Channel i, Salahuddin Bablu of the Inquilab, Mohammad Selim of the Independent and Mahmud Moni of the Azadi, says a press release.

RU admission seeker succumbs to burns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A female admission seeker of Rajshahi University, who burned herself on Monday, expired in the early hours yesterday fighting for her life for 12 hours at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

Anjumand Ara, 24, daughter of Afzal Hossain of Manda upazila in Naogaon, died around 12:15am.

She torched her body pouring kerosene in her room at a private dormitory in Hatimkhan Sabjipara area in the city.

Sources said when one of the victim's friends attempted to enter her room around 11:00am on Monday, Anjumand told her to come back five minutes later.

Few minutes later, Anjumand's friend heard her crying and discovered fumes pouring out of her room.

Other students of the dormitory rushed to the spot and rescued her by breaking open the door which was locked from inside.

The girl was rushed to RMCH around 12:00 noon with most parts of her body got burned, said hospital sources.

In a dying declaration,



Anjumand told police that she did not know why she burned her, said Jasim Uddin, officer-in-charge of Boalia Police Station.

The victim was staying at the dormitory since August and was also prepared to attend her admission test at RU on Monday, said the police.

Her friends told police that Anjumand used to spend her maximum time talking over mobile phone, but they were unaware of her affairs.

The hospital authorities referred her to Dhaka as her condition was deteriorating fast and there was no burn unit at RMCH.

But the patient could not be shifted, as her poor family could not afford her taking to the capital.

Muktijuddho Projanmo Digital Survey Parishad forms a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding appointment of all seasonal surveyors and chainmen under Directorate of Land Records and Survey.

Recognise primary education as fundamental right

Demand speakers at consultation meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a consultation meeting yesterday demanded primary education be constitutionally recognised as a fundamental right to ensure primary education for all children in the country.

Amar Odhikar Campaign, a network of some rights organisations, held the meeting on 'Proposed National Education Policy: Primary education as a fundamental right' at the National Press Club in the city.

The speakers also stressed the need for establishing at least one school in each village since many children do not want to go to the school because of the distance.

Noted educationist Prof Anisuzzaman presided over the meeting while Principal Sheikh Ekramul Kabir, member secretary of Education

Policy Formulation Committee, its member Principal Kazi Farruque Ahmed, also the treasurer of National University, AN Rasheda, editor of the Shikkha Barta, Liakat Ali, principal of Rajarbagh Police Line School and College, and Rokeya Kabir, convener of Amar Odhikar Campaign, also spoke.

Prof Anisuzzaman said without some points the proposed education policy tried to cover all sides and it will help the nation move forward if the policy is properly implemented.

If the policy mentions primary education as a fundamental right it will put pressure on the state to take the responsibility, he added.

He also stressed recruiting more teachers and providing them with proper training to ensure quality education.

"The age for pre-primary students will be four plus while the primary students five plus," he said adding it is also important to specify in the policy that how many teachers would be available at which level.

The meeting also recommended arranging meal for the students, increasing salary of primary teachers, making admission to the nearest school compulsory, introducing stipend for poor and meritorious students, imposing ban on education in religious institutions, recruiting subject-wise teachers, establishing residential schools in hilly and char areas, providing same books and other education materials in all schools by the government and providing the students with vocational training from class six to eight.