

Implement CHT peace deal fully to ensure development: Larma

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Rangamati

Chairman of CHT Regional Council Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma yesterday again urged the government to activate the regional and hill district councils for development of the region.

Stressing the need for strengthening the local government institutions, including upazila and union parishads, Larma said devolution of power is a pre-condition for development of the rural areas.

Development works in hill districts are not taking place rightly due to lack of coordination between the institutions. He said while speaking at a workshop on 'Hygiene Practice-Water and Sanitation (Hysawa) Project' funded by Danish government in the conference room of Rangamati Hill District Council.

Larma, also the chief of Parbatya Chattogram Jana



Santu Larma

Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), reiterated his demand for full implementation of the peace deal. After implementation of the treaty in full, the government should undertake massive development programmes in CHT region for the development of hill people, he said.

He demanded that the government take up development projects and involve local institutions for their (projects) successful

implementation.

Larma said water and sanitation in hill areas is in sorry state and people of inaccessible areas are still ignored about hygiene. So, many children and adults are dying of water-borne diseases, he added.

Taka 13.5 crore Hysawa Project is being implemented in three hill districts--Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari--for ensuring safe water and sanitation for the hill people.

Chaired by Councillor of Rangamati Hill District Council (RHDC) Aungsui Prue Chowdhury, Chief Executive Officer of RHDC Dipak Chakrabarty, Project Director of Hysawa Project Krishna Chandra Chakma, District Coordinator Rupa Chakma and Sumet Chakma also spoke at the workshop.

Charmen of upazila and union parishad, headmen, karbaries, journalists, government and NGO officials attended the workshop.



Around 150 street urchins have a good time as they join a river cruise at Chandpur yesterday. A few humanitarian organisations arranged the day-long programme to give the underprivileged children, coming from different areas of the country, an occasion for merriment.

PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: STAR

Slain Mongal Hasda's wife Phulmoni Hemrom, a mother of two kids, speaks at a press conference arranged by Jatiya Adivasi Parishad at Dinajpur Press Club yesterday.

Police not taking Mongal murder case, family says

Eight arrested for grabbing land of indigenous people in Tanore

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Family members of a murdered indigenous person in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur have alleged that police is intimidating the victim's family instead of recording the murder case.

In Tanore upazila of Rajshahi district, police yesterday arrested eight people when they were erecting a makeshift house to occupy a piece of land inhabited by indigenous people.

On Tuesday afternoon, criminals including Md Aminul Islam forcibly took Shuren Hasda alias Mongal Hasda, 22, son of Channu Hasda of village Mahanpur under Birganj, onto a motorcycle from his residence. Mongal's wife Phulmoni Hemrom, 18, said at a press conference at Dinajpur Press Club yesterday, reports our correspondent.

On Wednesday evening, Md Aminur along with others including Helal Miah, Ansar Ali and Jahangir brought Mongal's body to his home, she said.

Threatened and tortured by the criminals, the family members had to bury the body against their will the same night.

Police also created pressure on the victim's family members to perform funeral of the deceased without conducting any autopsy, the family members said at the press conference.

Birganj police did not accept the case as of yesterday, they said.

Another person Laxmi Kanta Roy has also remained missing since Tuesday. Jatiya Adivasi Parishad leaders including its General Secretary Shital Maddi were present at the press conference, among others.

On Thursday, around 300 indigenous people of Birganj upazila brought out a procession and submitted memorandum to the prime minister through the upazila nirbahi officer demanding justice for the brutal murder of the indigenous man.

They alleged that police is harassing them for trying to file a murder case.

When contacted, Birganj police station officer-in-charge (OC) Md Shahidul Islam said, "We have nothing to do with the case as Mongal was murdered in Thakurgaon."

Our Staff Correspondent reports from Rajshahi: Police yesterday arrested eight people while they were erecting a makeshift house to occupy a piece of land inhabited by indigenous people at Chawk Badhair village in Tanore upazila.

Police also seized a truck by which the arrestees had brought materials for the tin-roofed house from neighbouring Chapainawabganj district.

The arrestees are -- Fazlur Rahman, 48, Ziarul, 20, Isarul, 22, Abdul Khaleq, 26, Shariful Islam, 30, Atikul, 26, Shyam Chand and truck driver Yusuf Ali, 38.

Some indigenous families have been living on the one, bigha of khas land for long but Fazlur Rahman suddenly started erecting a house on five decimal land there yesterday claiming that Shyam Chand, an indigenous person, had sold the land to him, sources said.

"The arrestees were erecting house on a disputed khas land although a Rajshahi court had issued injunction on the land following a case," Bazlar Rashid, officer-in-charge of Tanore Police Station, told reporters.

PLUNDER OF FOREST Police submit preliminary probe report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The three-member probe committee formed by police in Chittagong has completed a preliminary investigation into the plundering of green forest at Sonaichhari coast in Sitakunda.

"We have already submitted a preliminary report along with a number of suggestions to check any recurrence of such plundering of forest in future," said Additional DIG Moqbul Hossain Bhuiyan who headed the probe committee.

"But, we would need a few more days to investigate the incident further," said the additional DIG.

The probe report has been submitted to the office of DIG, Chittagong Asaduzzaman Khan, he said.

Meanwhile, no further arrest was made in the last two days in connection with plundering of coastal forest that took place at Sonaichhari under Sitakunda upazila on November 29.

The department of forest filed a case with Sitakunda police station accusing 14 FIR named people and over 1100 others in connection with the incident.

Police also arrested five people, all hired labourers, on November 30 and scrap iron trader Didarul Alam who allegedly engaged workers for felling trees to make space for setting up his ship-breaking yard, on Monday night.

All the arrestees were sent to jail custody after primary interrogation, said Sitakunda police.

Three bombs recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police on Friday night recovered three 'powerful' bombs from Radhakantpur village in Sadar upazila of Meherpur district.

On information, a police team from Sadar Police Station went to the village at about 10:30pm and recovered the bombs kept in a polythene bag at a place near the house of one Abul Hashem.

Police also searched the nearby area on suspicious but no more bombs were found.

Police said criminals might have kept the bombs there for committing crimes later.

Kidnapping and killing by outlaws now rampant in SW region

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

"If I had Tk 15 lakh, I could have bought my son's life from his captors," said Arif Hasan, the bereaved father of Mehedi Hasan Sohag who was recently abducted and killed by the cadres of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party.

The PBCP cadres kidnapped Sohag, 24, on November 1 and brutally killed him as they were not paid the ransom on deadline.

The body of Sohag was recovered from a graveyard in Taragunia area of Daulatpur upazila on Tuesday.

The law enforcers recovered two more bodies from the graveyard the same day. They found one here at Harbhanga in Gangni upazila of Meherpur last month. They suspect all three had been killed after being abducted by PBCP cadres for ransom.

The southwestern region of the country has recently seen a drastic rise in criminal activities, especially abduction which has often resulted in the killing of the abducted, and according to police, cadres of the outlawed PBCP have been involved in these incidents.

"They [outlaws] initially demanded Tk 30 lakh and after bargaining it was fixed at Tk 15 lakh... But how could I manage such a huge amount of money?" said Sohag's father Arif, who works at a private bank in Kushtia.

He filed a general diary with Kushtia Sadar Police Station on November 2 after his son had been kidnapped. But police failed to trace Sohag.

Police recovered the two other dead bodies following a confessional statement of Manik Joardar, a top PBCP cadre who was arrested on Monday in connection with the abduction.

The victims were identified as Jahangir Hossain, 38, an employee of Caritas in Dhaka, and Russell, a grocer of Jhenidah.

Police said the two also had been abducted by other groups of the outfit for ransom and killed after their families

failed to pay.

Jahangir was kidnapped when he came to visit his village home in Sharsha upazila of Jessore on November 4 and Russell from Chuadanga bus stand area in Jhenidah on November 8.

The outlaws had demanded Tk 5 lakh from Jahangir's family and Tk 3 lakh from Russell's. Both were confined in a den of PBCP at Taragunia.

Police said the two might have been killed between November 15 and 20.

Earlier on November 27, Kushtia police recovered the body of businessman Kajol from Harbhanga in Gangni upazila of Meherpur. Son of Delwar Hossain of Boria in Mirpur upazila, Kajol was abducted by PBCP cadres on July 12. The criminals demanded Tk 5 lakhs ransom.

Kushtia Assistant Superintendent of Police Alamgir Hossain told The Daily Star on Thursday that a police team under his leadership raided Taragunia area on Tuesday and recovered the bodies of Sohag, Jahangir and Russell.

Police first arrested PBCP cadre Zakir in Majampur area of Kushtia town on November 26 and then Shawkat at Gangni in Meherpur on November 27. Acting on their statements, the law enforcers recovered the body of Kajol on November 27.

The same day, police arrested Wasim at Daulatpur, who revealed the name of Manik Joardar as their team coordinator.

Manik has links to a top PBCP leader who has been absconding in India, police said.

Talking to The Daily Star about the law and order situation in southwestern region, Superintendent of Police Shahabuddin Khan said, "Hardly any crime takes place in this area where cadres of these outlawed parties are not involved."

The SP expressed his determination to take all-out steps to eliminate crimes and criminals from Kushtia.

SNIPPETS

Fugitive criminal held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A hardened criminal sentenced to 32 years of rigorous imprisonment by a court 23 years ago in connection with a murder case was arrested by detective police on Friday morning from a shrimp enclosure at Arashnagar village under Dumuria upazila. Arrestee Abdul Majid Biswas, now 62, is son of late Arjan Ali Biswas of Tolna village under same upazila. According to police, fugitive Majid was the lone accused in a case filed in 1986 with Phultala police station for murdering fish trader Abed Ali of Piprail Bazar. The killing took place on March 12 while the case was recorded on the following day, police said. The accused went into hiding soon after committing the murder. The court of Khulna District and sessions Judge after trying the case in absentia sentenced Majid to 32 years and six months jail.

2 held on abduction charge

UNB, Nilphamari

Two young men were arrested on Thursday night on charge of kidnapping two teenage girls at Bakdokra Dangapara village in Domar upazila. The arrested persons are Hamidul Islam, 25, of Jadurhat Berabhanga village in Sadar upazila and Mahazin Hossain, 24, of Panialpukur village in Kishoreganj upazila. Locals said, Munni, 14, a student of class VII and daughter of Abul Hossain of Bakdokra Dangapara village, fell in love with Mahazin after they came to know each other over mobile phone. After some days, Mahazin tactfully picked up Munni and her friend Parvin, 14, daughter of Zahurul Islam and took them to the house of Hamidul of nearby Berabhanga village while the girls were returning home from their school. They confined the two in the house for 16 days. On secret information, family members of Munni and Parvin rescued them on November 30. Later, they also caught Mahazin and Hamidul on December 3 and handed them over to police. A case was filed in this connection.

Housewife beaten to death

UNB, Sirajganj

A woman was beaten to death allegedly by her husband for dowry at Ramkrishna village under Solonga police station on Friday. The victim was identified as Sonavan, 28, wife of Alal Sheikh of the village. Police said, Sonavan, daughter of Khurshed Mondal of Rupsara village, was married to Alal seven years ago. Alal used to torture her frequently for dowry since their marriage. On the fateful day, Alal beat his wife mercilessly following an altercation over the issue at about 12 noon, leaving her dead on the spot. On information, police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy. Alal went into hiding after the incident. A case was filed.

Criminals stab trader

UNB, Natore

Criminals stabbed a paddy trader grievously at Zamtali in Singra upazila and looted Tk 2.40 lakh from him on Friday morning. Locals said trader Moinul Islam of Chanchkai area of Gurudaspur upazila went to Singra to buy paddy. Two local criminals, Jewel and Raja, who followed Moinul stabbed indiscriminately and took away his money. The incident took place while Moinul was going to Bansbaria bazaar from Zamtali at about 11 am. The victim was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in critical condition. A case was filed.

Man held with 50 cartridges

UNB, Sylhet

Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) personnel on Thursday arrested a man along with 50 cartridges from Dakkhin Bagha in Golapganj upazila. The arrestee was identified as Shahabuddin, 55, of Bagha village in the upazila. Acting on secret information, a team of the elite force conducted a drive in the area at noon and arrested Shahabuddin. A case was filed in this connection.

Drug peddler arrested

BSS, Benapole

Benapole port police on Friday night arrested a drug peddler from Namag village under Sharsha upazila in Jessore district. Arrestee Mahamudul Hasan, 25, is son of Monir Kasai of the same village. Police said, acting on a tip-off, a team of the police conducted a raid in the village and arrested him with 50 bottles of Indian contraband phensidyl. Hasan was handed over to the local police station and a case was filed.

Scouts rally in Rajbari

BSS, Rajbari

A five-day-long scouts programme began in the town on Friday. Inaugurated at Baliakandi Stadium it was jointly organised by Bangladesh scout Baliakandi upazila unit and Baliakandi upazila administrator. Lawmaker (Rajbari-2) Zillul Hakim attended the inaugural session as the chief guest and joined a rally. On the occasion, a discussion was also held at the stadium. A total of 300 scouts from 30 high schools are taking part in the programme.

Thousands from two villages protest drug peddling

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Several thousand people from all walk of life on Friday brought out a procession protesting sale of harmful drugs in villages.

The processionists hailing from Natiabari and Nagarbari in Bera upazila chanted different slogans against the drug peddlers.

Bera upazila parishad chairman, also AL leader, Khandaker Azizul Haque

Arzu led the procession that paraded the main roads of the village.

Later at a protest meeting the speakers demanded immediate step to stop illegal drug trade in Natiabari and Nagarbari villages.

Vice chairman of Bera upazila parishad Lutfar Rahman, villagers Abdul Malek, Fazlul Haque, Abdul Alim, Abdul Mazid spoke at the rally.

People from different occupation and political

parties joined the demonstration.

They alleged that some shops in Natiabari and Nagarbari are openly selling harmful drugs ruining the young generation of the villages. The drugs include wine, hemp, heroin and other things, they said.

They said the local administration is yet to take action against the illegal drug peddlers despite lodging several complaints.



Locals bring out a procession at Natiabari in Bera upazila of Pabna district on Friday protesting open sale of addictive substances in the area.

PHOTO: STAR