

Review controversial land commission act: Larma

Ban on 'anti-peace' UPDF demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Regional Council Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma yesterday urged the government to review the Land Commission Act 2001 to resolve land disputes in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

Santu Larma, also the president of Parbatya Chhattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), raised the issue in a press briefing after a meeting of CHT Land Commission at Khagrachhari Circuit House.

Mentioning some sections of the Land Commission Act as discriminatory and controversial, he urged the government to amend those sections for the betterment of the indigenous people.

Santu Larma on anti-peace accord organisation United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) for allegedly attack on his car in Khagrachhari yesterday morning.

Local PCJSS leaders alleged that the vehicles carrying Santu Larma and Chakma Raja Devashis Roy came under gun attack at three places-- Batchhari, Nunchhari and

Maichchhari--while they were coming from



PHOTO: STAR
The vehicle carrying Parbatya Chhattagram Jana Sanghati Samity President Santu Larma, inset, gets damaged in an attack by criminals at Lemurchhari in Mohalchhari under Khagrachhari district yesterday.

Rangamati to Kharachhari town to attend the Land Commission meeting.

CHT Land Commission Chairman Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury said they have discussed several points, including the controversial sections of the Land Commission Act and decided to urge the government to amend those.

Land Commission mem-

ber Chakma Raja Barrister Devashis Roy, Khagrachhari Hill District Council Chairman Ruhity Karbary, Rangamati Hill District Council Chairman Nikhil Kumar Chakma, Additional Divisional Commissioner Mohammad Nurul Islam, Bakul Chakma and Land Commission Secretary Abdul Hamid were present.

manpower for its smooth functioning also came up for discussion, he said. Mong King Saching Prue Chowdhury said they have discussed several points, including the controversial sections of the Land Commission Act and decided to urge the government to amend those.

Land Commission mem-

10 hurt as BCL, JCD clash in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

At least 10 people were injured in a clash between the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in the town yesterday afternoon.

The clash followed attack on a JCD procession by BCL men, alleged former BNP lawmaker Mashiur Rahman.

Mashiur Rahman said, the JCD leaders were taking preparation to hold a protest meeting at the local office to protest killing of BNP activist Ripon. Ripon was shot dead by a hired goon at about 8:20 pm on Monday.

He said some BCL men yesterday all of a sudden swooped on the JCD men. In the attack general secretary of Jhenidah district JCD Asif Iqbal Makhan, Humayun, Miraz, Shamim, Tariqul and five others received injuries. Of the injured, Makhan was rushed to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.

On the other hand, Jhenidah district AL secretary Azizur Rahman claimed that the JCD men attacked his student front activists without any provocation.

He said, 11 BCL men including Jhenidah district joint convener Biswajit were injured in the attack.

Contacted, OC Motiar station said, the situation was under control.

No case was lodged till filing of this report at 7:00 pm yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR
Mentally challenged Jewel tied up with a chain in front of their makeshift house at Enayetpur in Tangail town.

Helpless mother keeps hapless boy in chains

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Twenty-one-year-old Jewel is kept in chains most of the daytime when his mother works as domestic help at others' houses.

The story dates back 16 years ago when Zahura started keeping five-year-old Jewel chained at home in fear of missing.

"I go to work in the morning after feeding my son and return with food in the evening. And this has been my daily routine for the last 16 years," Jewel's mother Zahara Begum said during this correspondent's recent visit to their makeshift house at Enayetpur in Tangail town.

The youth seems hearing and speech impaired and shows unusual behaviour.

When this correspondent went to Jewel's house, he saw him chained with the door as his mother Zahura had gone out for work.

After returning home in the afternoon, Zahura talked to this correspondent.

"Jewel's father left me when Jewel was in the womb. He was born in 1988 and since then I have been working as part-time domestic help at others' houses," Zahura said.

"I went to work taking him with me and my employers felt disturbed. But I could not leave him alone at home in fear of miss-

ing. When he grew five, I decided to go to work tying him with a mango tree at my rental house at Akur Takur Para in Tangail town," she said.

But Jewel fell sick a few days after the process started and he eventually became mentally troubled.

"Jewel fell ill as I kept him outside the house most of time -- even in rains and during storms. I am responsible for making my son mad," said a lamenting Zahara.

About 10 years ago, she took Jewel to Pabna mental hospital where doctors prescribed some medicines for him and asked them to come again after 40 days, she said, adding, "But I could not go to the hospital anymore due to lack of money."

Zahura shifted to Enayetpur in the town along with her son in 2001 and started living at a makeshift house.

When Jewel's mother goes out, he tries to draw attention of the passing primary school children but they often tease him, causing him cry in anger, said Probbati Pal, a neighbour.

"I still believe that my son will be able to lead a normal life if proper treatment can be arranged," Zahura told this correspondent.



PHOTO: STAR
The principal's room at Dinajpur Government College lies ransacked as activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League go on rampage yesterday, right, teachers and general students of the college bring out a procession protesting the incident.

8 houses looted in a night in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Armed robbers looted eight houses in Purondopur and Muktarpur villages in Jibonnagar upazila of Chuadanga district on Tuesday night.

According to police, several gangs of robbers stormed into the adjacent houses belonging to Mrinal, Jugol, Chitta Pal, Animesh and Subol at Purondopur at about 10:30 pm, held the inmates hostage at gunpoint and looted cash, gold ornaments and other valuables.

Another group swooped on the house of Sariful, Serajul and Sanowar at Muktarpur at about 10:00 pm and looted cash and valuables.

The robbers exploded several bombs in Muktarpur while decamping with the booty.

On the same night, an armed gang went to the house of Ashraf Ali, a businessman at Roylakhmipur in Alamdanga upazila at about 12:30 pm.

The criminals called Ashraf to come out of his house. As Ashraf did not do so, the robbers opened fire at the house of Ashraf and blasted two crackers on the spot. A General Diary (GD) has been filed in this connection.

In another incident in Chuadanga, muggers attacked a grocer at Duttanagar in Jibonnagar upazila on Tuesday night.

Police said the muggers waylaid Imran Ali, 28, son of Golam Khondokar of Sutia village in Hanadah-Duttanagar area when he was returning home from local market after closing his shop at about 9:30 pm.

The criminals asked Imran to surrender all his belongings. As Imran was hesitating to do so, the muggers stabbed him indiscriminately.

Dinajpur college closed again as BCL goes on rampage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Dinajpur Government College was closed sine die again yesterday as the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) went on rampage on the campus.

The college reopened yesterday after a 12-day closure due to a BCL-Shibir clash.

The college authorities yesterday urged the students to vacate all residential hostels by this morning.

Sources said, the BCL activists of the college unit yesterday went on the rampage and confined the principal to his room for an hour for allowing Chhatra Shibir students to reside at Muslim Hostel.

Dr Alauddin Miah, principal of the college, alleged that some BCL leaders picked him up from his room yesterday afternoon and took him to an unknown location. Later police rescued him.

But police said they rescued him from his office room.

Earlier on January 15, the college was closed for an indefinite period following a clash between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League and Islami Chhatra Shibir.

Sources said, the college authorities yesterday reopened the college and the

hostels as per decision of an academic council meeting Tuesday night.

When the college reopened, the BCL activists at night occupied Muslim Hostel which had been occupied earlier by the Chhatra Shibir.

The college authorities the same night instructed the BCL men to immediately vacate the hostel for the Shibir students.

This triggered violent protest and the BCL unit of the college brought out a procession yesterday on the campus.

They besieged the principal's room for four hours. The BCL men then entered his room and locked in an altercation. At one point, the BCL activists ransacked the principal's room and damaged chairs, tables and windowpanes.

Sensing danger, the Shibir activists vacated the hostel and left the campus to avoid any clash.

After the incident, the teachers and student of the college brought out a silent procession on the campus and held a meeting protesting BCL activities.

Later the members of college academic council held a meeting and decided to close the college for indefinite period.

RUMA'S SUICIDE IN MUNSHIGANJ Accused blames plaintiff, brings murder charge

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Mother of Rajib, the main accused in the case for investigating suicide of college student Ruma Akter, filed a case claiming that family members including Ruma's mother and brother killed her.

In the murder case filed with a Munshiganj court, Rajib's mother Halima Begum also claimed that Ruma was her daughter-in-law, court sources said.

Rajib, 25, a resident of Chathadipara village in Tongibari upazila, used to tease Ruma Akter, a first year student of Bikrampur Tongibari College and a resident of the same village, on her way to and from college, locals said.

As she informed her family of the matter, Rajib grew angry and prepared a false kabin nama (marriage



Ruma Akter

document) with the help of four or five people including Mostafa Bepari and Aminul Islam and circulated the false news in the area.

Failing to cope with the humiliation, Ruma committed suicide by hanging herself on Monday.

Ruma's brother Shamim filed a case with Tongibari Police Station in connection with the incident.

An appeal has been made with the court to grant five

days' remand for Mostafa Bepari, 40, arrested in connection with the incident, said Tongibari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abdullah.

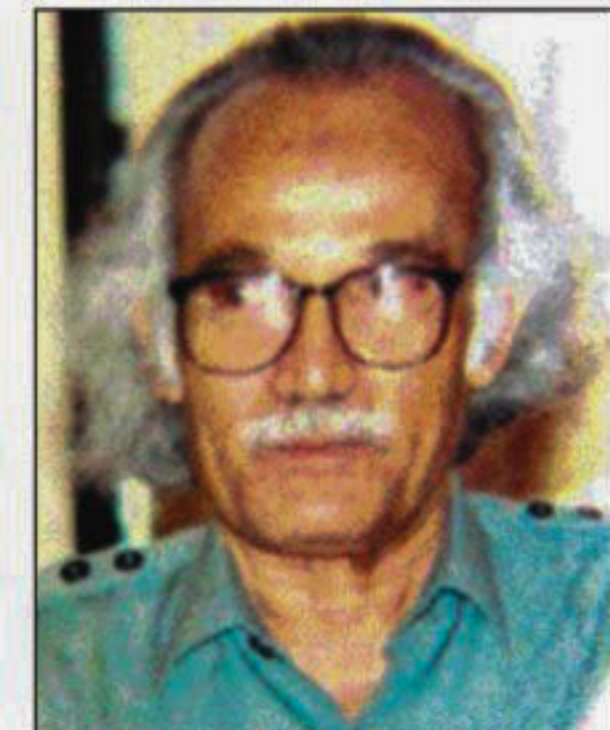
Rajib has gone into hiding.

Syed Miah, a resident of the area, said Rajib's family backed by an influential quarter is trying to use the false marriage document to suppress the crime.

Police superintendent Md Shafiqul Islam, who along with other officials visited the spot yesterday, said they are trying their best to arrest Rajib and ensure fair trial for the incident.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad in a statement yesterday demanded proper investigation into the incident and punishment to the culprits. They also urged the administration to take necessary steps for security of Ruma's family members.

Verdict in Prof Yunus murder case today



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Rajshahi court hands down the verdict in the sensational Professor Muhammad Yunus murder case today.

On completion of arguments in the case on December 31, Rajshahi Speedy Trial Tribunal fixed the verdict date on January 15. As the tribunal judge was on leave, the court deferred the judgment to January 28 (today), said Public Prosecutor Entajul Haque Babu.

Prof Yunus of economics department of Rajshahi University was murdered while on morning walk near his Binodpur

Abdul Kashem on December 24, 2004.

Inspector Mohammad Helaluddin of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) pressed charges against eight militants of the banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh on September 10, 2007.

The accused are Shafiullah Tarek (follower of Asadullah Al Galib), Shahidullah Mahbub (husband of the executed JMB leader Siddikul Islam Bangla Bhai's niece), JMB's regional commanders Abu Isa Enamul and Golamur Rahman Mostafa, militants Abdul Kashem Tufan, Abdul Matin, Abdur

Rahman Arif and Mujibur Rahman.

In the charge sheet, the CID brushed aside previous police findings of Shibir men's involvement in the killing despite two witnesses in separate judicial statements said that Shibir men were involved in the murder.

Helaluddin explained that the investigation into the murder took an abrupt turn from the blame on Shibir men including former Binodpur area Shibir president Sirajus Salekin and Shibir cadre Zafar Babu as the JMB militants gave confessional statements before the tribunal.



PHOTO: STAR
Students of the Medical Assistant Training School run by Thengamara Mohila Sabuj Sangha demonstrate on Dhaka-Dinajpur road yesterday protesting death of their teacher Dr Md Mozaffar Rahman in a road accident at Baghopara in Bogra.