



PHOTO: STAR

Rashed Khan Menon inaugurates a programme marking the 155th anniversary of the Santal Revolution by releasing balloons at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday.

## Govt has failed to fulfil promises

Says Shantu Larma

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League government has failed to fulfil any of its promises made to the indigenous community even 18 months after it assumed office, Chairman of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) Jyotindra Bodhipriyo Larma alias Shantu Larma said yesterday. "The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) peace accord has not yet been implemented. The government has, in fact, made some moves that pose a threat to the lives of Adivasis," he said at a discussion, organised by the Jatiya Adivasi Forum, marking the 155th anniversary of the Santal Revolution.

Criticising the role of the CHT Land Commission, he said, "It is trying to conduct a land survey in CHT instead of settling land disputes first, which will

actually benefit the Banglees, not the Adivasis."

Larma, also the chairman of the CHT Regional Council, criticised the two Adivasi ministers in the present cabinet for failing to work for the well-being of their community.

He said State Minister for CHT Affairs Dipankar Talukdar and State Minister for Cultural Affairs Promod Mankin did not make any efforts to include the word 'Adivasi' in the recently passed Ethnic Minority Cultural Organisation Bill-2010.

"The situation that led to the Santal revolution in 1855 still exists. The party in power has changed many times, yet the fate of the indigenous community remains the same," Larma said.

Other speakers at the discussion called on the government to give constitutional recognition to the indigenous people,

ensure their right to practise traditional land management and take steps to protect their language.

Termining the indigenous people 'missing population', economist Abul Barkat said, no governments carried out a proper census of indigenous people or made a move to give them constitutional recognition.

"Without ensuring the rights of the Adivasis, it won't be possible to achieve the 'Vision-2021' or turn Bangladesh into a welfare state as promised by the AL government," he said.

Information Commissioner Prof Sadek Halim, lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha, Jatiya Adivasi Parishad Chairperson Anil Marandi and General Secretary Rabindranath Soren also spoke.

## Debate festival begins in Ctg today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Daily Star-Mutual Trust Bank Debate Festival will begin at Chittagong Shilpakala Academy in the port city today.

Leading debaters, teachers and cultural and political personalities will join the two-day festival organised by Drishty, Chittagong.

Popular TV personality and Bangladesh Debate Federation President Abdun Nur Tusher will inaugurate the 4th debate festival while former vice chancellor of Chittagong University Prof MA Mannan will be present as the chief guest.

The final round of the 18th Inter-school debate and the 7th inter-university national debate competition will also be held during the festival.

CUVC Prof Dr Abu Yusuf will attend the concluding ceremony of the festival as the chief guest at the same venue at 5:00pm tomorrow.

## 25 students fall sick after inhaling toxic fumes at lab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 25 students of the Institute of Medical Technology fell sick after inhaling toxic fumes at one of its laboratories at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

Toxic fumes filled the laboratory on the ground floor of

the three-storey institute building soon after an explosion took place with a bang at around 12:30pm when the students were attending their practical class, witnesses said.

The explosion took place about five minutes after a generator was turned on in the lab following power outage,

they added.

"We heard a big bang and soon fumes filled the tiny room," said Anwar Hossain, a student who fell sick.

The police said toxic fumes might have resulted from chemical reactions in the lab.

Eleven sick students were rushed to Adhunik Hospital in Pallabi, eight to NICVD and the others to local clinics.

Quoting doctors at the Adhunik Hospital, Officer-in-charge (OC) Iqbal Hossain of Pallabi Police Station said the students fell sick after inhaling toxic smoke, which might have been produced from chemical reactions.

However, the principal of the institution Abdul Malek Sarker was not available for comments despite repeated attempts to contact him.

## Shamsher Mobin gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to BNP Vice-chairman Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury and six others in connection with a case filed against them on charges of preventing police from discharging their duties during the June 27 hartal.

Metropolitan Magistrate

MA Salam passed the order upon a bond of Tk 5,000 each with two guarantors.

They were earlier produced before the court on completion of their one-day remand.

Metropolitan Magistrate Rokshana Begum Happy of Dhaka placed Mobin on one-day remand on June 28.

Six other BNP activists are Babul, Yahiya, Mostafa Ahmed, Sultan, Motiur Rahman and Musa Kalimullah.

Police picked up BNP leader Mobin and six others from Mohakhali in the city during the daylong hartal.

Meanwhile, he was shown arrested in another case filed with Ramna police station yesterday for preventing police from discharging their duties during the June 27 hartal hours.

Police also prayed for a seven-day remand in the case at the same court and the hearing on the remand prayer will be held on July 4 at the CMM's court.

## MARITIME DISPUTES WITH MYANMAR

# Dhaka sends documents to int'l court to end disputes

REZAUL KARIM

Bangladesh has sent necessary documents to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) for settlement of maritime disputes in the Bay of Bengal with Myanmar.

"We have sent the memorial to the Hamburg-based ITLOS as the deadline for submission is July 1," a foreign ministry high-up said yesterday, preferring anonymity.

Myanmar is due to submit its counter-memorial by December 1, 2010.

The official said

Bangladesh made the claims on the basis of the "equity system".

Bangladesh sought UN arbitration to settle maritime disputes with Myanmar and India in December 2009.

Bangladesh and Myanmar will turn in reply and rejoinder by March 15 and July 1 next year.

There will be 23 judges -- 21 from ITLOS and one each nominated by Bangladesh and Myanmar -- during the hearing of Bangladesh's objection to Myanmar's claim.

According to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), any coastal country can have first 12 nautical miles from its baseline as territorial sea, 24 nautical miles as contiguous zone, and next adjoining 200 nautical miles as exclusive economic zone.

International law says sea boundaries of the states opposite to each other will be delimited as per "equidistance" formula while those of adjacent states through "equitable sharing of the sea" principle.

It is difficult in cases of Bangladesh, India, and Myanmar, as their coasts follow a curve creating overlap of territories.

Bangladesh favours principle based on equity which creates an area of overlap, while India and Myanmar favours line-based equidistance system to get bigger maritime areas.

Settlement of maritime disputes with Myanmar and India will take a long time because of their nature and complexity, said a source at the UNCLOS Wing.

As the festival of Eid approaches, The Daily Star is putting together the Star Fashion- Eid Album 2010, right ahead of the country's largest shopping season.

If you wish to participate, send outfits and accessories you would like to feature in the album.

**Last date for submission**  
**July 07, 2010**

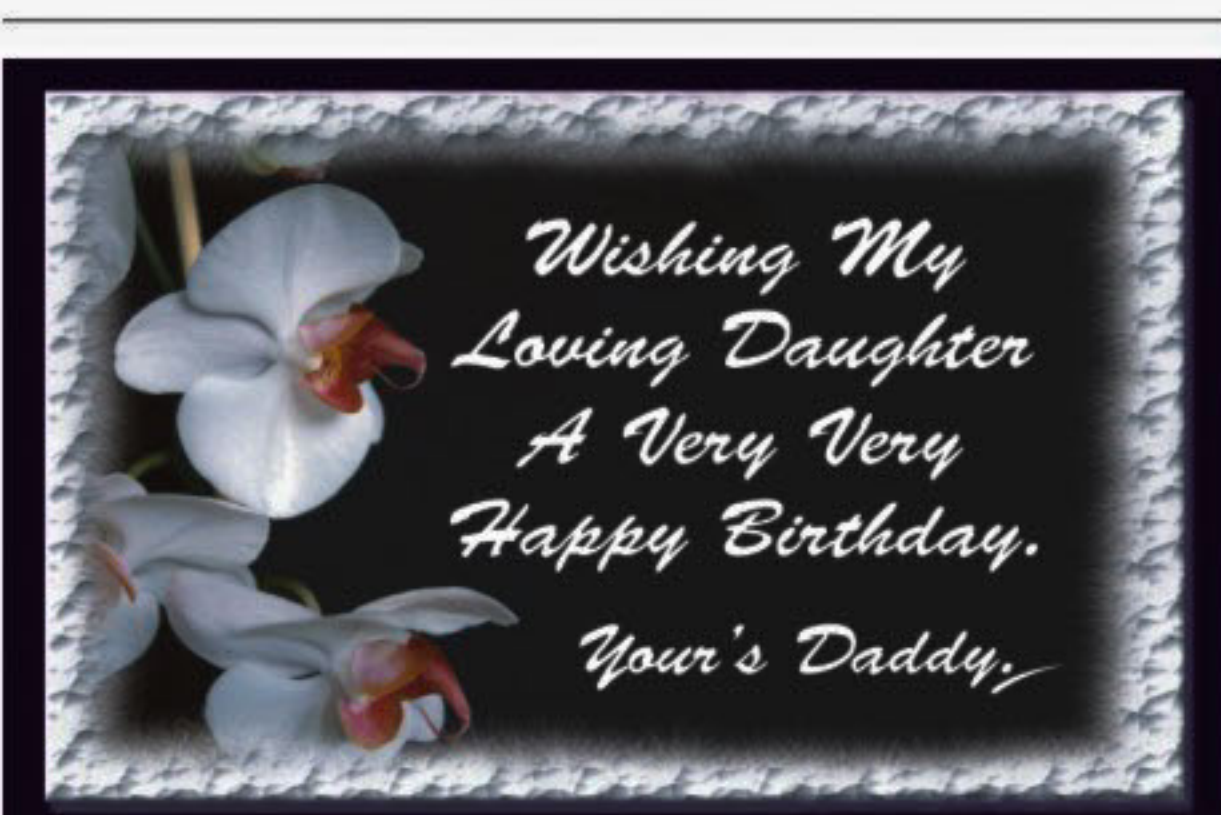
**ATTENTION**  
Designers & Boutiques

**Contact:**  
(For submission of products)  
Selim S H Chowdhury  
Production & Events Manager  
email- selim@thedailystar.net  
Cell- 01675744501

**Criteria for Participation:**

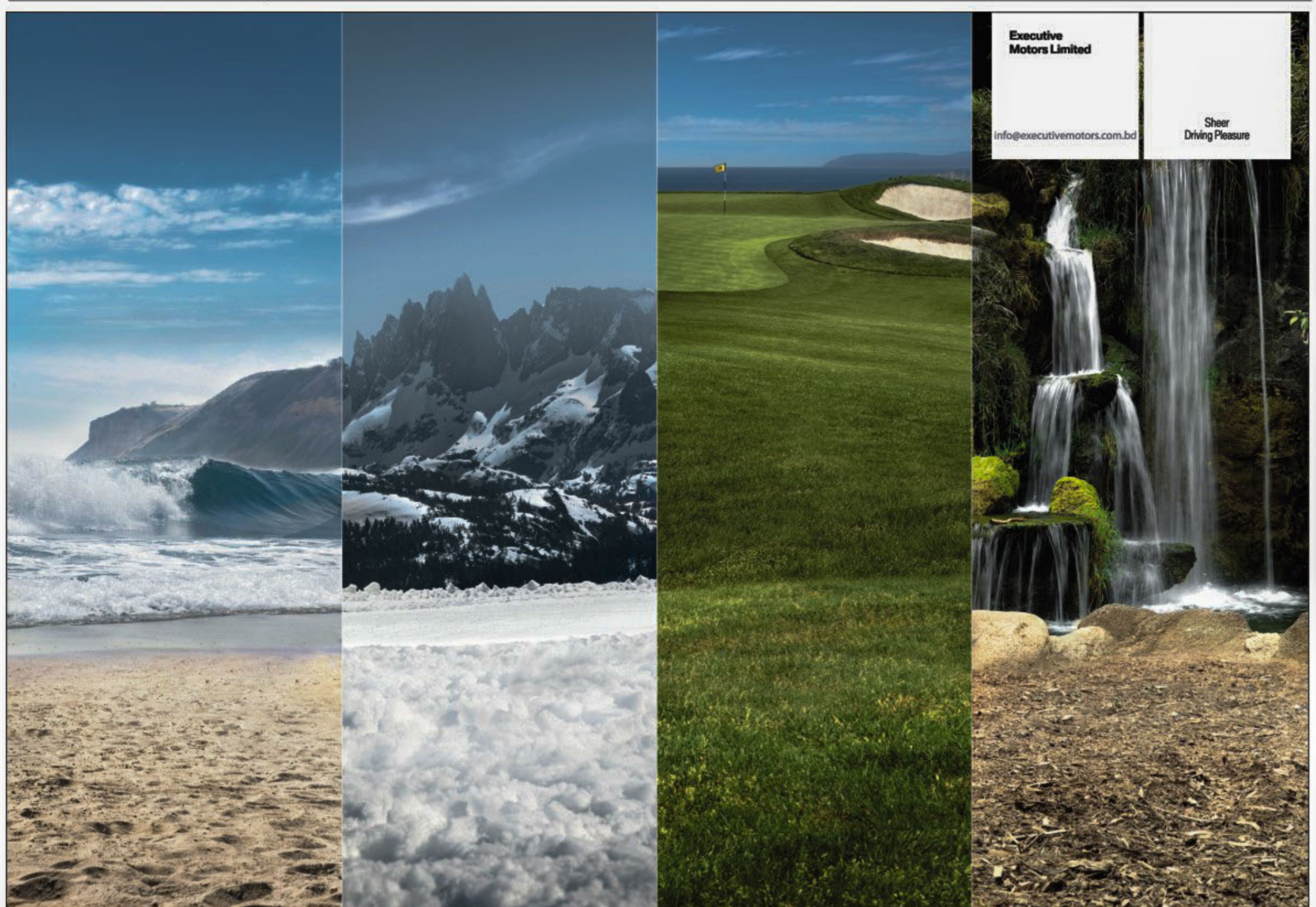
1. Dresses, saris and accessories should express the mood of the festival.
2. Materials used should be locally produced.
3. All submissions must be accompanied with a short description of the product, including price.
4. Designs should be original and fabrics should suit the weather and environment.
5. The attires and accessories sent for the album are returnable.
6. Entry fee per entry is Tk 300 (minimum 3 entries for each participating house).

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