

# Govt not sincere about peace deal: Larma

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamat



Shantu Larma

Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council (CHTRC) Jyotindra Bodhipriya Larma yesterday said not a single clause of the CHT peace deal has seen implementation in last 19 months as the present Awami League-led grand alliance government is not sincere about this matter.

The CHTRC chairman, also president of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), said this while speaking as chief guest at the opening ceremony of the two-day-long fourth conference of PCJSS district committee at Poursabha hall in the town.

Popularly known as Shantu Larma, the PCJSS chief said the CHT people are captive due to activities of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) and role of some security persons in the name of 'Operation Uttaran'.

The armed cadres of UPDF have killed 96 leaders and activists of PCJSS, he said,

adding that the ethnic people in CHT are still facing harassment, repression and torture. Communalism, fundamentalism and anti-progressive activities still prevail in the country, the PCJSS chief said.

He recalled the role of PCJSS founder late Manobendra Narayan Larma in the struggle for achieving the rights of jummo people.

Blaming state minister for CHT affairs ministry Dipankar Talukder for remaining 'silent' about the solution of CHT problems, the PCJSS chief

urged the jummo people to be alert about any politics that is not favourable for them.

Presided over by president of district unit of PCJSS Gunendu Bikash Chakma, the meeting was also addressed, among others, by member of CHT Regional Council Sneha Kumar Chakma, its district unit Secretary Bodhi Satta Chakma, Youth Affairs Secretary Suvas Basu Chakma, Chairperson of CHT Mohila Samity Madhabi Lata Chakma, central committee Secretary of Pahari Chhatra Parishad Nitul Chakma and district committee President of Hill Women's Federation Jonaki Chakma.

The speakers called upon the PCJSS leaders and activists to be more united and dedicated to continue strive for full implementation of the CHT peace deal and establishment of the right of self-determination of the jummo people.

Hundreds of leaders, activists and supporters of PCJSS from different upazilas joined the conference.



Police arrest a leader of Jamaat-e-Islami and seize around 1.5 lakh leaflets and 10 thousand posters from his printing press in Jessore town yesterday, right, five leaders and activists of Jamaat and Islami Chhatra Shibir held in Natore town as they were preparing to bring out a procession yesterday.

# Posters, leaflets seized from Jamaat leader's press

### More leaders and activists held as crackdown continues

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Jessore police on Tuesday night recovered a huge number of leaflets and posters in the district and arrested a local Jamaat leader and two others in this connection.

Meanwhile, more leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student organisation Bangladesh Chhatra Shibir were arrested yesterday and the day before as crackdown on the party continued across the country.

Jessore police raided a printing press of a Jamaat leader on Tuesday night and seized at least 1.5 lakh leaflets and 10 thousand posters, reports a correspondent.

They also arrested Zillur Rahman, former secretary of Chaugachha upazila Jamaat and owner of Nahar Printing Press and press workers Alamgir and Al-Amin.

Police said, acting on a tip-off, they raided the press at about 11:30 pm and seized the leaflets and posters.

"We seized the posters and leaflets as those were anti-government and aimed at disturbing peace and stability," said Kotwali police station SI Hafiz, who conducted the raid.

Asked whether it was a part of an organised move, police could not give any details immediately.

"We are yet to know as to who are the financiers or whether it is an isolated incident. The arrestees are being interrogated," said another police official.

The contents of the leaflets and posters demanding unconditional release of the arrested Jamaat leaders were inflammatory and aimed at inciting people to create unrest, police sources said.

Jamaat Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, its secretary general Ali Hossain Mohammad Mojahid and Nayeb-e-Ameer Delwar Hossain Sayedee were arrested by police on June 29 on various charges.

On Tuesday afternoon, two more top leaders of the party, Abdul Kader Molla and Md Kamaruzzaman, were

picked up by police in the capital.

Side by side crackdown on leaders and activists of Jamaat and Shibir continued to take place in the districts.

Police arrested five leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami in separate drives in Natore and Chapainawabganj districts yesterday.

In Natore, police arrested five Jamaat-Shibir men, including municipal unit Jamaat Ameer Atiqul Islam Russell, in the morning while preparing to stage demonstration in Harishpur area of the town demanding release of their top leaders.

The other arrestees were identified as Jamaat activists Jamal Hossain, Nurul Islam and Mehedi Hasan and Shibir worker Abdullah Al-Mamun, reports a correspondent.

In Chapainawabganj, a Jamaat leader was arrested from Krisha Govindapur College ground in Sadar upazila early yesterday while trying to hold a clandestine meeting.

The arrestee was identified as Entazul Haque, 51, Sadar upazila 'Sura

and Karmaparisad' member and also a teacher of local Chunakhali Madrasa.

According to our staff correspondent in Khulna, police picked up Mian Mujahidul Islam, former president of Khulna city unit of Islami Chhatra Shibir from Ibne Sina Welfare Hospital at Kalyanpur in the capital yesterday evening.

Mujahid is younger brother of Khulna city Jamaat Ameer Mian Golam Parwar.

Police will bring the arrested Shibir leader to Khulna today from Dhaka, Sadar OC Mamun Khan said.

Besides, police arrested a top leader of Khulna district unit of Chhatra Shibir at 9:30pm on Tuesday from his house in Kachua upazila of Bagerhat district.

The arrestee was identified as Md Ariful Islam, who is also chairman of governing body of Khulna Siddiqia Kamil Madrasa.

Both the Chhatra Shibir leaders are among the 47 chargesheeted accused in the recently filed case under Speedy Trial Act.

# Threat to besiege coalmine for indefinite period

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Thousands of people of 15 villages around Barapukuria Coal Mine have threatened fresh agitation to realise their demands for rehabilitation and compensation for subsidence due to underground mining.

Jibon O Sampad Rakkha Committee, a platform of the affected villagers, submitted a memorandum to the authorities of Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Limited (BCMCL) on July 12 to meet their demands by July 15. Otherwise, they threatened to besiege the coalmine for an indefinite period from July 19.

The affected villagers went on hunger strike on March 10 this year to press home their demands for resettlement and compensation for subsidence. The called off their strike following an assurance given

by the authorities concerned that compensation would be given to the affected villagers by March 30.

Jibon O Sampad Rakkha Committee convenor Md Ibrahim Khalil said, "We have given the ultimatum to the BCMCL authorities as they are yet to start giving compensation to the affected people."

People 15 affected villages including Kalupara, Bolorampur, Baddyanathpur, Barapukuria and Moupukur have been agitating for last two years demanding their permanent resettlement and compensation for subsidence due to underground mining.

Sources said the villagers launched agitation programme in January this year as the BCMCL authorities failed to make any progress on the villagers' demands according to the MoU signed in May last year. They also held rallies and sit-ins demanding

compensation and their rehabilitation.

Since a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in May last year, no progress had been made for meeting the demands, the affected villagers alleged.

On February 28, 2009, the affected villagers submitted a memorandum to the power adviser thorough Dinajpur deputy commissioner. Subsidence at BCMCL project area was first detected in May 2006. The plunging of 646 acres of land affected about 2,600 families.

Ibrahim Khalil and Belal Hossain, convenor and general secretary of Jibon O Sampad Rakkha Committee, said this time they would not return home empty-handed. They said the BCMCL and Petrobangla have been given enough time to resolve the issue, but to no effect.

# Titas Gas office besieged in N'ganj

UNB, Narayanganj

Hundreds of people yesterday morning laid a siege to Titas Gas office at Chashara in the town demanding smooth gas supply.

Later, they formed a human chain in front of Narayanganj Press Club to protest severe gas crisis that has been persisting in Fatulla upazila and Chashara for several months.

An ultimatum was issued to the authorities to ensure smooth gas supply to residents and industrial units in Isdair, Masdair, Gabtoli of Fatulla and adjacent areas within seven days failing which the organisers of the agitation threatened of greater movement.

# Six BCL men sued on tree felling charge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Six Chhatra League leaders were sued on Tuesday night on charge of felling four big mahogany trees owned by Sundarban Forest Division.

Forest ranger Md Alamgir Hossain filed the case with Kachua police station in Bagerhat district.

The complainant stated in his case that the accused forcibly took away four big mahogany trees on the Kachua-Bangram highway on Sunday night. While felling the trees, they closed traffic movement for over three hours by putting up barricade on the road, he said.

Later they took the trees on a boat on the Baleswar River and left the place hurriedly.

When brought to his notice, Kachua UNO Mehdi Hasan asked forest ranger Alamgir Hossain to take legal action after proper investigation against those who felled the trees.

Accordingly, six leaders and activists of Kachua upazila unit of Chhatra League have been sued by the ranger.

The accused in the case are Akmal Hazra, Sabuj Hazra, Sajib Hazra, Haider Hazra, Shohag Shikder and Fazal Shikder.

All of them hail from Tengrakhal village under the same upazila.

# JAMAAT-SHIBIR ARRESTEES IN RAJSHAHI, KHULNA Charges pressed against 6, to be framed against 47

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Police yesterday pressed charges against six Jamaat-Shibir leaders in the case for creating panic in Rajshahi city by bringing out a militant procession and blasting cocktails on June 30 this year.

The accused are Jamaat Rajshahi city unit acting general secretary Abu Bakar Siddiq, Rajpara upazila unit Jamaat Ameer Abdul Malek, secretary Mahubul Ahsan, RCC ward no 2 Jamaat secretary Moklesur Rahman, and Shibir city unit leaders Md Hasan and Naimul Haque.

Meanwhile, the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Khulna, will frame charges against 47 Jamaat-Shibir men in a police assault case on July 19, our staff correspondent quoting court sources said.

In Rajshahi, Sub-Inspector (SI) Md Imaul Haque of Boalia Model Police Station, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet against the six Jamaat-Shibir leaders with the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate Amirul

Islam, reports our staff correspondent.

According to court inspector Debendra Nath Das, the case will be referred to the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court today for trial.

In the charge sheet, the IO stated that 15 to 20 Jamaat-Shibir men, equipped with sticks, rods, pipes, and machetes, brought out a procession in the city on June 30 demanding release of Jamaat Ameer Matiur Rahman Nizami, Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid and Nayeb-e-Ameer Delwar Hossain Sayedee.

He said the processionists paraded through RDA Market, Kaporatty, Swarnapatty and Shaheb Bazar areas, chanting provocative slogans.

They also blasted cocktails in those areas, creating panic among the city dwellers and clashed with the law enforcers who went to the scenes to maintain law and order, the IO further said.

In Khulna, the Speedy Trial Tribunal yesterday rejected bail prayers of 47

chargesheeted Jamaat-Shibir men and fixed July 19 for framing charges against the accused.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Monirul Islam, also the investigation of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the CMM Court on July 12, accusing 47 leaders and activists of Jamaat and Shibir of attacking law enforcers at Dakbungalow square during a demonstration on June 30 this year.

SI Rezaul Karim lodged an FIR with Khulna Sadar Police Station the same day naming 21 Jamaat-Shibir men as accused of assaulting police including officer-in-charge Munirul Gias who sustained severe head injuries.

The FIR was later recorded as a regular case under sections 4 and 5 of Speedy Trial Act.

The number of accused in this case rose to 47 as investigation officer detected 26 more Jamaat-Shibir leaders and activists from video footages and statements of witnesses, said Mamun Khan, acting OC of Sadar Police Station.



PHOTO: STAR

Driven by the urge to reach workplace on time, two women take risky journey standing on the step of an overloaded three-wheeler while the 'helper' sits on its roof. The photo was taken from Jamal Khan Road in port city Chittagong recently.

# 2-day transport strike in Ctg from Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Road Transport Workers' Federation has called a two-day transport strike in Chittagong from Sunday to press home 15-point demand including freeing the association's office in Fatikchhari upazila.

The federation leaders at a press conference in the city yesterday announced their decision to enforce strike on 36 routes of North Chittagong from 6:00am of July 18 to 6:00am on July 19 and in all routes in greater Chittagong from 6:00am to 6:00pm on July 19.

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan, who was

once executive president of the transport body's central committee has been informed about the strike, claimed the leaders.

The demands of the federation also include an end to 'extortion' and 'requisition trade' by police, building new terminals and stopping the activities of so-called owners' and workers' associations being run without registration.

Chittagong region president of the federation Mrinal Chowdhury read out a written statement and said that freeing the office is one of their main demands.

The office of workers' union under the federation at

Fatikchhari upazila was captured a few months ago by Zila Car Micro Jeep Workers' Union led by local union Awami League leader Mohammad Ismail, the federation leader alleged.

"We earlier had informed the matter to the Association Executive President and Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan who asked the administration to take step in this regard. We have now decided to enforce strike since the administration could not free the office till date," he said.

Federation's Chittagong regional general secretary Oli Ahmed and joint secretary Mohammad Musa attended the conference, among others.

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