



PHOTO: STAR/ FOCUS BANGLA

Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity brings out a huge procession in Rangamati hill town yesterday following a rally on the premises of Rajbari Gymnasium demanding constitutional recognition of the indigenous people and repeal of the recently passed 15th amendment, right, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum brings out a procession followed by a rally in Bandarban hill town demanding the same.

# Implement CHT deal fully, repeal 15th amendment

## *Demands PCJSS, declares 3 lawmakers 'unwanted'*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Leaders of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) in a large public meeting yesterday reiterated their demands for full implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) peace accord.

At the rally held on the premises of Rajbari Gymnasium in the town, the PCJSS leaders denounced the passing of the 15th amendment bill in parliament 'without giving due constitutional recognition' to the jummo people.

The PCJSS leaders also declared 'unwanted' the three MPs from CHT - Dipanker Talukder, Bir Bahadur

and Jatindra Lal Tripura, saying that the three lawmakers did not play any role for ensuring constitutional rights to the indigenous people in hills during the parliament session.

Jummo people will never forgive them, they said.

"The 15th amendment aims at making us Bangali and destroying all of our rights but jummo people will resist the conspiracy through united movement," PCJSS chief Santu Larma said in his address as chief guest at the rally.

Rangamti district unit of PCJSS organised the rally protesting the recently passed 15th amendment bill.

Urging the government to take immediate steps for proper implementation of CHT peace deal, Larma said, "We do not want to see any delay. Implement the accord fully as early as possible. Otherwise tougher agitation will be launched against the government."

A deep conspiracy against the jummo people has continued since 1972 to evict the indigenous people from ancestral lands and not to give them constitutional recognition but jummo people through a united movement will resist such conspiracy, speakers said at the rally.

The PCJSS leaders demanded

repeal of the 15th amendment, which 'ignored Buddhist, Hindu and Christian and other communities' in Bangladesh.

Presided over by Gunendu Bikash Chakma, president of PCJSS district committee, the rally was addressed, among others, by Prakriti Ranjan Chakma, president of CHT chapter of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, vice-president of central PCJSS Ushatan Talukder, convenor of MN Larma Memorial Foundation Bijoyketon Chakma, former president of Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) Udayan Tripura and running president of PCP Nitul Chakma.

# 60 BGB men relieved of sedition charges

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Sixty jawans of BGB (Border Guard Bangladesh) have been relieved of sedition charges in Chapainawabganj and Dinajpur.

Our Chapainawabganj correspondent quoted public prosecutor office sources as saying that sedition cases against 30 jawans of BGB 39 Battalion were withdrawn on July 7 as per decision of the home ministry.

Judge Mostaque Ahmed of Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court relieved the jawans of sedition charges following an appeal made by Public Prosecutor (PP) advocate Jobdul Haque.

Following a mutiny at 39 BGB Battalion on February 26 in 2009, the then officer-in-charge of Chapainawabganj Sadar Police Station Ahsanul Haque filed the sedition cases against 30 jawans of the battalion with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court on May 18 the same year.

Immediately after filing of the case, the accused were arrested and produced in the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court that sent them to jail hayat.

In the case statement, the OC alleged that the jawans revolted against their officers at the battalion on February 26, expressing solidarity with the mutineers of the BGB headquarters at Pilkhana in the capital

capital. They looted firearms from armoury, fired blank shots and took control of the battalion headquarters.

Later, 20 out of the 30 BGB men were tried in the special court-12 led by Rajshahi Sector Commander Col Ehia Azam Khan in a case for mutiny at the battalion. The court sentenced them to different jail terms on April 12 this year.

In Dinajpur, Special Judge Md Rafiqul Alam relieved 30 BGB members of Dinajpur sector and Dinajpur 2 Battalion on June 4 following an appeal made by Special Public Prosecutor (PP) advocate Kazem Uddin Ahmed, reports our correspondent.

Of the BGB men, 17 were from Dinajpur 2 Battalion while the rest from sector headquarters. The PP appealed to the court as per directive of the home ministry, court sources said.

On May 11 in 2009, the then officer-in-charge of Dinajpur Police Station Hasan Shamim Iqbal filed sedition cases against the jawans with Special Judge's Court as they (jawans) revolted against their officers at the sector headquarters and the battalion on February 26 the same year.

Later, the jawans faced mutiny charges and were sentenced to different jail terms by the BGB special court-13 led by Col Saleh Ahmad on March 1 this year.



PHOTO: STAR

A group of people with shields and spears take position on Gopalgang-Tungipara road during yesterday's fierce clash between the residents of Sreeramkandi and Gimadanga villages in Tungipara, right, one of the 30 shops, vandalised on both sides of the road, during the clash.

## POWER PLANTS NEAR SUNDARBANS Police foil protest programmes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Police yesterday foiled protest programmes by locals and environment activists against the government decision to set up coal based thermal power plants in Rampal upazila.

Terming it a threat to the Sundarbans and its biodiversity, hundreds of people tried to form a human chain and hold a rally at Foyla on Mongla-Khulna highway in Rampal in the morning. They also tried to stage a similar programme at Bhottey Bridge in Sadar upazila.

Police foiled both the attempts and arrested two activists- Paavez Hossain and Hemayetul Islam.

Save the Sundarbans, Centre for Human Rights Movement (CHRM) and Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) jointly organised the programme.

Sources said, two coal based thermal power plants, each 1300 MW under Bangladesh-India joint

venture are being built in Rampal upazila. It is jointly financed by Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) and National Thermal Power Company of India.

The land ministry has already approved the acquisition of 1,834 acres of land in Sapmaree, Katakhal and Koygardaskati Beel of the upazila.

The place is very close to the Sundarbans threatening bio-diversity of the mangrove forest, said Bapa joint secretary Shajahan Mridha.

About police action he said that the government took away people's democratic right to stage protest.

Sheikh Faridul Islam, chief co-ordinator of Save the Sundarbans, Abdul Malek Gazi, secretary general of CHRB and Shahjahan Mridha later returned to the capital as police foiled the programme.

Shahidul Islam Shahin, officer-in-charge (OC) of Rampal police station said two people were arrested as they locked in altercation with police.

# Fierce battle over a trifling matter

## *50 of two villages hurt in Gopalganj*

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

At least 50 people were injured in a fierce clash between the people of two villages at Tungipara following a scuffle between two college students at classroom yesterday.

Police and local sources said Shamsul Haque of Sreeramkandi village and Mohammadullah of Gimadanga village, first year students of Tungipara Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Degree College, had a fist fight after altercation over taking seat in their classroom in the morning.

When the news spread, people of the two villages equipped with lethal weapons, including shields and spears, locked in a clash in Patgati Bus stand area at around 9:00am, leaving at least 50 people from both sides injured, seven

of them seriously.

The clashing groups ransacked at least 30 shops and business firms and allegedly looted 10 of them on both sides of the road from Patgati Bus stand to GT School during the clash that continued until 2:00pm.

They also vandalised a vehicle of Tungipara Police Station and the office of Dainik Samakal Tungipara correspondent Panna Biswas and took away computes and furniture from the office. People from Gimadanga village attacked the house of upazila Awami League leader Saiful Islam at Sreeramkandi village.

As local police failed to contain the violence, a contingent of police led by Gopalganj Additional Police Superintendent Sarder Rokonuzzaman went to the spot and brought the situation

under control.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Tungipara Police Station Md Mazharul Haque said additional police have been deployed in the area to avert any further incident.

The seriously injured-- Shamsul Haque, 18, Abdur Rahman, 18, Zulfikar Ali, 35, Baka Sheikh, 30, Rifat, 25, Siddique, 46, and Aziz, 25--are undergoing treatment at Tungipara Upazila Health Complex and Gopalganj General Hospital while the rest received first aid at different clinics.

Deputy Commissioner Sheikh Yusuf Harun and Police Superintendent Md Abdul Quddus Amin reached the spot in the afternoon. They were holding meetings with the feuding groups to reach a settlement as of filing of this report at 6:00pm yesterday.

## Wife torture for dowry protested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Locals formed a human chain at Baniajuri bus stand on Dhaka-Aricha highway yesterday demanding punishment to a person for allegedly torturing wife for dowry.

The protesters said that accused H M Hasibul Hasan also tortured his first wife Taslima Akter to death.

Victim Kamrunnahr, 28, daughter of Anwar Hossain of Noya-Char village of Ghior was married to HM Hasibul Hasan, 32, son of Hafez Uddin of Baniajuri-Kundarabari village of the upazila in 2009, family sources said.

After a few days of their marriage, Hasibul and his family members started torturing Kamrunnahr demanding dowry.

Kamrunnahr's family gave a motor cycle, 3 tolas of gold ornaments and furniture worth about Tk50, 000 to Hasibul at that time.

But they again demanded Tk one lakh from Kamrunnahr's family for purchasing computer for Hasibul's shop on June 19 this year.

As she refused to comply, Hasibul, his brother Abu Bakkar and mother Hazera Begum beat up Kamrunnahr mercilessly forcing her to take shelter at the house of neighbour Ishak Mia.

Later, some locals and Ishak Mia sat to resolve the matter. But Hasibul said he will divorce Kamrunnahr if her family failed to meet their demand.

Kamrunnahr lodged a case with Ghior police station on June 24 under Women Repression Prevention Act 2000 against dowry greedy Hasibul, his brother Abu Bakkar and mother Hazera Begum.

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

### Jamaat leader arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police arrested Fakhruddin Khan Razi, Jamaat district unit Ameer, from his house at Kalikapur in the district town Friday night. Tapan Chandra Shaha, officer-in-charge of Sadar police station said, acting on a tip-off that Razi and some other activists of the party were holding a secret meeting ahead of 30-hour countrywide hartal called by 12 Islamic parties, they conducted a drive and arrested him at around midnight. Other activists, however, managed to flee the spot, he said.

### Injured ex-UP member dies

UNB, Jhenidah

A former UP member, who was injured in post UP poll violence in Shailakupa upazila on June 30, died at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) on Friday. The deceased was identified Islam Uddin, 52, ex-member of Kacher Kole union parishad and resident of Kachua village. Local sources said Islam, supporter of defeated chairman candidate Babul Joarder, was injured in an attack by the supporters of winning chairman candidate Alauddin Joarder at the village on June 30. Election to the union was held on June 28.

### Pirate held in Noakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Police arrested a member of a notorious pirate gang from Banglabazar in Naler Char under Hatiya upazila on Friday night. The pirate was identified as Khokon, 40, of Ramgati upazila in Lxmipur district. Subhash Chandra Pal, acting officer-in-charge (OC) of Hatiya police station, said Khokon faces 15 cases on murder, rape, looting and robbery charges.



PHOTO: STAR

Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) observed its 11th founding anniversary on Friday with colourful programmes including rally and football completion.