

House body on CHT probes recent violence in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs yesterday started interacting with Rangamati town residents on the September 22 clash between Bangalee settlers and indigenous people.

Arriving in the town on Monday, the parliament members split up into three teams and talked to people on what had happened that day, the reason behind it and who instigated the clash.

During the talks, they visited various areas including Banarupa, College Gate, Tabalchhari, Reserve Bazar, Asambasti, Bhedvedi and Rangapani.

They also interviewed political party leaders, journalists, NGO representatives and government officials at Rangamati Circuit House. However, they did not disclose about their progress and findings.

On September 22, at least 20 people including a union parishad chairman and a sub-inspector were injured in the clash that erupted around 10:00am from Rangamati Government College.

The college Principal Banchita Chakma said the clash ensued after some outsiders with sticks, iron rods and sharp weapons swooped on the indigenous students in the classrooms.



Eminent citizens and fans of late litterateur Humayun Ahmed release balloons to inaugurate "Humayun Mela 2012", organised by Channel i on its premises in the capital yesterday in observance of the writer's 64th birth anniversary.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

5 killed, 7 injured in road accidents

METRO DESK

Five people were killed and seven others injured in road accidents in Magura, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Gazipur and Rajshahi on Monday and yesterday.

Our Magura correspondent reports, a journalist was killed and four others were injured as a truck hit a human hauler on Magura-Jhenidah highway in Chhoto bridge area in sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased Rashedul Islam Sazzad, 36, was a staff reporter of The Daily Magura.

In Thakurgaon, Mawla, 25, of Panchagarh, died as a truck hit his motorbike on Thakurgaon-Panchagarh highway in Kochubari Board Office area of sadar upazila Monday night.

In Dinajpur, SSC examinee Fatema died as she fell down from a running motorbike in Khansama upazila yesterday afternoon.

UNB from Gazipur reports, Anil, 25, died as a truck hit his motorcycle at Aouchpara in Tongi town yesterday morning.

In Rajshahi, farmer Abdul Mannan, 50, was killed and three people were injured as a human hauler hit the man at Premtali Shekhor Para in Godagari yesterday morning.

Humayun Ahmed's birthday celebrated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Admirers and well-wishers of the late litterateur Humayun Ahmed celebrated his 64th birth anniversary with elaborate programmes and festivities at home and aboard yesterday.

On the occasion, the publishers of Humayun's books arranged a 12-day book fair on the Public Library premises in the capital.

Humayun's mother Ayesha Fayeze inaugurated the fair amid the presence of his widow Meher Afroz Shaon, family members, publishers, writers, and artists, among others.

An emotion-choked Ayesha Fayeze told the inaugural ceremony that she barely felt the absence of his son for the love his admirers gave to her son, who died on July 19 this year.

"The presence and love of Humayun's fans and well-wishers have made me feel that my son is still living in

the hearts of many people."

The inaugural ceremony also included memorial discussions, street plays, and recitations to recall contributions of the Bengali author, who was also an admired dramatist and filmmaker.

Meanwhile, private television Channel i arranged "Humayun Mela 2012" on its office premises to celebrate Humayun's birthday. The TV station also declared his birthday as "Himu Day".

In New York, a five-day memorial festival for Humayun Ahmed is under way. Muktaadhara Foundation, the organisation which hosts a Bangla book fair in New York every year, is holding the festival.

It started on November 9, featuring more than 100 of Humayun's books, screening of his films and TV plays and rendition of songs composed by him.

Humayun Ahmed was born on November 13, 1948 in Netrakona.

LOAN SCAM ACC to sue more Sonali officials

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will take legal action against more Sonali Bank officials reportedly involved in a Tk 3,600 crore loan scam.

"Apart from the accused officials of Sonali Bank, the bankers who showed negligence of duty in this regard will be sued," ACC Secretary M Faizur Rahman Chowdhury told a monthly press briefing of the commission at its headquarters in the capital yesterday. On October 4, the ACC filed 11 cases against Hall-Mark Managing Director Tanvir Mahmud and 26 others, including 20 Sonali Bank officials, with Ramna Police Station on charge of swindling Tk 1,568 crore out of the Ruposhi Bangla branch of the state-owned bank showing fake documents.

Faizur Rahman, however, reiterated that the commission will not file any case to recover the money swindled out of Sonali Bank. "The bank authorities must file cases to recover the money."

About the ACC activities, Faizur Rahman said the anti-graft body received 9,900 graft allegations during January-October this year and it decided to launch probe into 148 allegations after scrutiny, while 439 allegations have been put forward to the respective ministries or institutions to take departmental actions.

Govt to enact new child rights act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To protect children's rights, the government will enact the Children Act 2012 removing all loopholes in the existing laws, said Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday.

"After independence of Bangladesh, Children Act 1974 was enacted to ensure children's rights. Now, the incumbent government is working to formulate an appropriate and effective law for the protection of children from different types of harassment," the minister said at a programme in the capital.

The children, especially the poverty stricken, are victims of different types of harassments, including physical and sexual, due to socio-economic condition of the country, the law minister added.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a launching ceremony on "Improving Child Protection and Rehabilitation of Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in Bangladesh" organised by Save the Children and its partners in a city hotel.

The law minister urged authorities of educational institutions and civil society members to come forward and create awareness among mass people about children's rights and their protection from any kind of torture.

Children are becoming victims of sexual abuse and exploitation not only in Bangladesh but all over the world, said William Hanna, ambassador, head of delegation of the European Union and ambassador to Bangladesh.

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