



**Tajuddin Ahmad's birthday today**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 91st birth anniversary of Tajuddin Ahmad, the first prime minister of Bangladesh.

He was born in Dardaria village of Kapasia upazila in Gazipur, says a press release of Tajuddin Ahmad Smriti Sangsad.

One of the architects of the country's independence, Tajuddin was involved in politics from his student life. He played a key role in all the anti-communalism movements after 1947 and the Language Movement in 1952.

A key figure in formation of Awami League in 1949, Tajuddin played a significant role in forming the six-point demand in 1966. He became the general secretary of AL in the year.

He formed the government for Bangladesh in the most critical moment in 1971 in the absence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He was also the finance and planning minister in the independent Bangladesh.

On November 3, 1975, Tajuddin Ahmad was brutally killed in jail with three other national leaders of the country.

A month-long photo exhibition on his life will begin at Gallery Twenty One on Satmasjid Road in Dhanmondi today.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed and Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque will jointly inaugurate the programme at 5:00pm.

The exhibition will remain open from 11:00am to 4:00pm every day.



**A rally jointly organised by Garo Student Union and Madhupur Garo Society at Gaira of Tangail yesterday, protesting an alleged conspiracy to evict the ethnic minority people from Madhupur in the name of declaring a 9,145-acre land at Arankhola Mauja a reserve forest. Inset, Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity leader Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, popularly known as Santu Larma, addressing the rally.**



# Reserve forest instills fear in Madhupur ethnic minorities

*Santu Larma criticises govt at Tangail rally for declaring 9,145 acres of the 'communities' ancestral land' as reserve forest, fears eviction*

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail**  
Criticising the government for publishing the gazette notification that declared the 9,145 acres of land at Arankhola Mauja in Madhupur of Tangail as a reserve forest, Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity leader Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma yesterday said the present government is not friendly towards the ethnic minority people.

Larma said this at a rally jointly organised by Garo Student Union and Madhupur Garo Society at Gaira of Tangail, where he attended as the chief guest, protesting an alleged conspiracy of evicting the ethnic minority people from Madhupur in name of a reserve forest.

"Even the peace accord signed for protecting rights of the ethnic minority people of

Chittagong Hill Tracts has not been implemented. The accord is now overlooked and neglected by the ruling force," said the Bangladesh Adivasi Forum president, popularly known as Santu Larma.

The Adivasi leader said the 30 lakh people of the ethnic minority communities in the country are now deprived and tortured in various ways. In the last 45 years, none of the governments solved their problems, he added.

The ethnic minority people will have to remain united to protect their existence, he said.

"We will have to have own leadership, own party to realise our rights. We can not be depended on any other parties to do that for us," he added.

The ethnic minority people of Madhupur said the Ministry of Environment and Forests on

February 15 declared the land in Madhupur Garh as a reserve forest under Section 20 of the Forest Act of 1927.

Following the gazette notification, fear of eviction spread among the Garo, Koch, Bormon, other ethnic minorities and Bangalee people living in the area, they said. Around 15 villages are situated in the Arankhola Mauja area, and the villagers claim that the lands where the villages are located are their ancestral property.

They said even though the gazette did not mention their eviction, but they fear that they might be evicted eventually and expressed their determination to resist the alleged conspiracy of evicting the ethnic minority people from Madhupur in name of the reserve forest at any cost.

The rally was attended by several ethnic minority leaders and rights activists.

**Special prayers for Gulshan, Sholakia victims at Dhaka church**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Baptist Church Sangha yesterday held special prayers for the victims of Gulshan café and Sholakia attacks and also in the previous targeted attack on Christian and Hindu priests and Buddhist monks across the country.

Candle prayers were also dedicated to the departed souls at the central church in the capital.

Catholic priest Father Pulitsoni, Bishop Nibar Das and Reverend Ashim Baroi led the half an hour long prayer conducted by William Proloy Samadder, says a press release.

# Flood situation in Kurigram worsens

*Improves in Lalmonirhat; relief insufficient*

**STAR REPORT**  
Flood situation in Kurigram has worsened as the Brahmaputra and Dharla rivers continue to inundate fresh areas.

Around one lakh people of over 300 villages and shoal areas of 40 unions under seven upazilas have been marooned due to downpour and onrush of water from the upstream for the last six days, reports our Kurigram correspondent.

Meanwhile, the overall flood situation in Lalmonirhat, however, has improved, according to our district correspondent.

In Kurigram, the Brahmaputra and Dharla were flowing above the danger levels at 6:00pm yesterday, said Water Development Board officials.

According to the district flood control room, at least 44,311 families have been affected by the flood till now. Besides, use of about 108 kilometres of different roads and 65 educational and religious institutions have been hampered. Crop fields of around 14,000 farmers have been damaged.

Kurigram Deputy Commissioner Khan Mohammad Nurul Amin said, "Ninety-two tonnes of rice and Tk 10.94 lakh were distributed among the flood-hit. A letter seeking 500 more tonnes of rice and Tk 10 lakh was sent to the ministry concerned."

In Lalmonirhat, the day labourers are not getting jobs, prompting them to wait for relief. "I got only 5kg of rice, some dry food items on Wednesday, but it was very insufficient for my six-member family," said farm labourer Solesman Miah, 48, of Bagdora village in Sadar upazila.

Jelal Uddin, 48, of the village, said he has been without jobs since Saturday. "Flood water is going down but we are still facing crisis." "Now we have to take loan on condition of interest," said Delowar Hossain, 50.

Aditmari upazila's Mahishkhoa Union Parishad chairman Mosaddeque Hossain said only 200 families of 2,300 badly affected ones were given relief.

District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer Idris Ali said he has already asked for more relief materials.



**A wedding car zigzags on Shayesta Khan Road in Lalbagh of Old Dhaka yesterday with a garbage container on one side and piles of earth dug up from the road on the other. The digging has been going on for the last few days for underground power cable installation.**

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



**Law enforcers give a guard of honour while people from all walks of life pay their last respects to freedom fighter Shirin Banu Mitil at the capital's Central Shaheed Minar yesterday, after she died in Dhaka the day before.**

PHOTO: STAR

**Sylhet prison**

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journalist of the Bangla daily Prothom Alo said, "Getting information, we rushed to the spot and saw the BCL activists running away... When we tried to take snapshots, they [police] barred us from doing so."  
"After a while they started vandalising the motorbikes left by the BCL activists. When we were taking photos from distance, a group of jail police suddenly attacked us. Beating us with batons and bamboo sticks, they also snatched our cameras," alleged Anis. The other injured journalists -- HM Shahidul Islam of Focus Bangla and Mamun Hossain of Jugabheri -- were hospitalised.

After the clash, Tauhidul Islam, deputy inspector general (prisons), said they were not aware of any attack on the journalists. "If any of our jail police attacked the journalists, we will punish them under the Jail Police act."

**Hindu leaders threatened**

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and Santosh, they added.  
The four others are Nitai Chandra Barmon, vice-president of Falda Kali Mandir Parichalana Parishad, Sadhan Mazumdar, president of Falda Prokoushol Shramik Union, Konok Chandra Ghosh, ward member of Falda Union Parishad, and a local Hindu community leader Bhajan Chandra Ghosh.  
Santosh Datta lodged a general diary with Bhuapur Police Station, said Fazlul Kabir, officer-in-charge of the police station.  
In Pirojpur, under the name of Islamic State (IS) of Barisal Range's Kawkhali upazila unit, the letter containing death threat was given to Omor Faruk, imam of Kawkhali Dakkhin Bandar Jame Mosque, reports our Pirojpur correspondent.  
Faruk said that before the Juma prayer, the muazzin of the mosque gave him the

letter, which was inside an envelope after he found it inside his room.

A part of the letter said that he [imam] is against the establishment of the Islamic state and refrains from teaching and discussing jihad.

"We will slaughter you inside the mosque," the letter reads.

Omor said that he had given a speech against IS in a meeting on law and order situation and also gave sermons against IS and terrorism in the mosque.

No complaint was filed till yesterday evening.

"Though we are not sure who had sent the letter, we have taken security measures for the imam, said Md Walid Hossain, superintendent of police.

On Monday, such letters were also sent to two priests in Pirojpur town.

**Top BCL leaders tame CU**

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train politics", which often leads to clashes between the BCL factions at CU.  
They also warned them of taking stern actions if any of them get involved in such compartment-based politics.

ities shut down its shuttle services on the CU route after an attack on a train allegedly by BCL men, which left two people, including a police official, injured.

Academic activities at the university remained adjourned from Wednesday, as the Bangladesh Railway (BR) author-

With the railway authorities deciding to resume its services on the route tomorrow, the regular academic activities will follow suit.