

CHT PEACE ACCORD IMPLEMENTATION Santu sees govt's 'lack of interest'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government's inaction has left the implementation of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord uncertain, according to leaders of the indigenous community.

"We have been seeing the reflection of government's lack of interest in implementing the peace accord for the last 19 years," said Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, president of Parbatta Chattogram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS).

The government is taking initiatives one after another, which go against the peace accord and interest of indigenous people, said Larma, popularly known as Santu Larma, also president of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum.

He was addressing a press conference organised by the forum at a hotel in the capital ahead of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples to be observed on Tuesday.

This year, the day will be observed globally with the theme "Indigenous peoples' right to education".

However, indigenous people in Bangladesh will observe the day with the theme "Indigenous peoples' rights to education, land and life".

The PCJSS, an organisation of indigenous people of the Hill Tracts, signed

the accord in 1997 with the then Awami League-led government.

The government has not performed the way it should have been to implement the peace accord, said Santu Larma while reading out a written statement.

The unresolved issues include land dispute in the CHT, cancellation of all leases granted to outsiders, rehabilitation of Bangladeshi settlers outside the region and amending laws that contradict the peace accord, he said.

The government's move to set up a medical college as well as a science and technology university in Rangamati will create political problems there. Because of language barrier, indigenous children are lagging behind in education and so, indigenous teachers should be appointed at schools in specific regions where indigenous people live, Larma said.

Influential people have been grabbing land of indigenous people. The government, in many cases, directly or indirectly helps them instead of protecting rights of indigenous people, the PCJSS leader said.

Pointing to continued repression of hill people, he said 15 indigenous people were killed, 84 houses vandalised and 45 evicted from their pieces

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A police team in front of a house in the capital's West Tejuri Bazar. Law enforcers continue to conduct block raids particularly at bachelors' messes in different areas of the city to search for suspected militant hideouts. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Two shot dead at Olympic sites

AFP, Rio De Janeiro

Police shot a mugger near the stadium where the Rio Olympics opening ceremony took place and a woman was killed close to another Olympic site, police said yesterday.

The violence on Friday highlighted the task facing an unprecedent force of 85,000 soldiers and police deployed to secure the Olympics.

Rio police said in a statement that a man was mugging people near the Maracana stadium when he was intercepted by one of the police officers sent from another area of Brazil to Rio as part of the huge reinforcements.

"The man was carrying out assaults when a military police officer... shot

him," the statement said.

Hours earlier, an architect was killed while driving by one of the main entrances to the Olympic Boulevard, a redeveloped port area that now hosts the Olympic flame and has become a major tourist attraction.

The woman, 51, was attacked by three armed muggers, police said. She tried to flee and was shot in the head.

The main focus of security is Rio, a city where drug traffickers control large parts of poor neighborhoods.

However, the deployment of troops and police -- double the number used at the 2012 London Games -- also includes the cities of Brasilia, Belo Horizonte, Manaus, Salvador and Sao Paulo, where football matches are being played.

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were there before and after the Gulshan café attack, the raids became regular. Police intensified the raids particularly after a militant den was busted in Kalyanpur, he said, adding that the raids would go on.

The police official, however, did not say how long the raids would continue.

Shamim Hossain, a university admission seeker who lives at a hostel in Farmgate, said their hostel supervisor asked them to carry ID cards with them all the time to avoid police harassment.

"Two days ago, our hostel supervisor asked us not to keep any book which is about jihad or radicalism," he added. Shamim also said he was feeling insecure due to all this and could not concentrate on his studies.

Soham Obayed, a final-year law student at ASA University, said he shares a flat with a senior at Shyamoli. Police raided the house a couple of days ago and asked them to provide information.

He said he provided all information accordingly and law enforcers asked him to be cautious and inform them if anything suspicious happened.

"It is already difficult for bachelors to find a place to live in and it's nothing new. But if you follow the rules, I think there shouldn't be any problem to live as a bachelor," Soham noted.

A Jagannath University student who stays at a mess at the city's Loharpool said, "We are not allowed to bring in any guest or relative, let alone give

them shelter at night."

He said their landlord had strengthened security following the recent militant attacks.

Seeking anonymity, another student who studies computer science at the same university said they are living in fear as one of their roommates is a student of Islamic Studies and he has to study several books written in Arabic.

"This is a great worry for us. What if police take it as an offense for keeping books written in Arabic," he added.

About 7,000 to 8,000 students of the university live in different messes in the old part of the capital, according to university sources.

Eleus Khan, a service holder who lives with bachelors at a flat in

Farmgate's East Tejurbazar, said, "Given the current situation, we fear that the house owner may ask us to leave the flat anytime."

However, Abdul Matin Biswas, a landlord at Mansurabad Housing in the city's Adabor area, said he has no reservation about renting out flats to bachelors if they abide by the rules and regulations.

"It is not the question whether tenants are bachelors or family members. The question is whether they are following the rules accordingly," he added.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Mess Organisation on Friday formed a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club, protesting harassment of mess dwellers during anti-militant drives by law enforcers.

Little progress in one month's investigation



Jahirul

Jharna

said.

Moshed also said a petition has recently been filed with a Kishoreganj court to show Anowar Hossain, who allegedly rented out his house in Gaibandha to Shaiful, arrested in the Sholakia case.

Anowar, 48, headmaster of the Ebidia section of Khalshi Dakkhil Madrasa in Gobindagnaj upazila of Gaibandha, was arrested on July 22.

Shaiful told the Rab that he had been staying at Anowar's house since March with a monthly rent of Tk 1,000, said its officials.

Another accused in the case, Jahidul Haque Tanim, 24, of Pashim Tarapasha village in Kishoreganj Sadar upazila, is in jail.

Five more people, who were

arrested in connection with the attack, are also behind bars. They, however, were not made accused in the case.

On July 1, a group of terrorists stormed into an upscale eatery, Holey Artisan Bakery, in Gulshan diplomatic zone in the capital, killing 20 hostages, most of whom were foreigners. Two police officials were also killed.

VICTIM FAMILIES REEL

FROM SHOCK

Jharna Rani Bhowmik is a local who died after a stray bullet from the gunfight between the law enforcers and the attackers came through her window and hit her on that fateful morning of July 7.

Her husband Gourango Nath Bhowmik, who works at a private firm, said, "Her death has devastated our entire family. She used to run the family singlehandedly."

Every night, their 12-year-old son Shuvodev Bhowmik sleeps keeping his mother's photographs next to his head.

Mohammad Shamim, brother-in-law of Jahidul Haque Tanim, one of the two police constables killed in the

attack, said Jahidul was the lone breadwinner in his family.

The entire family is in trouble now, he told this paper over the phone.

SHAFIUL'S BODY HANDED OVER TO FAMILY

Police handed over the body of Shaiful to his family members yesterday after they reached Mymensingh from their home in Devipur Uttarpara area of Ghoraghat upazila of Dinajpur, said Ataur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Nandail Police Station.

Receiving the body at Mymensingh Medical College morgue, Shaiful's mother demanded that those who misguide youths and turn them into militants be arrested and punished.

"Being a mother, I do not want any other mother to lose her child this way," said Nargis Sultana Sheuly.

"No mother wants her child to turn into a militant."

Meanwhile, the Rab filed three cases, including a murder case, with Nandail Police Station on Friday over the "shootout" in which Shaiful was killed. All the accused in the cases are unidentified people, police said.

Rio sets its own standard

FROM PAGE 1 accompanied by a mesmerising Passinho dance as Samba and funk got the crowd on their feet before the vibrant and joyous mood of the ceremony gave way to a sober message about climate change and deforestation of the Amazon rainforest.

But it soon got back its party mood, with the country's favourite supermodel Gisele Bundchen walking across the Maracana to the sound of 'Girl from Ipanema' before the colourful athletes' parade. The loudest cheers of the parade were reserved for the refugees' team and the Brazil contingent.

There was an 'oops' moment though as Brazil's interim president Michel Temer's declaration of the opening of the games was met by jeers from some sections of the crowd.

The night of colour, rhythm and samba drew towards a close as Brazilian marathon runner Vanderlei Cordeiro de Lima, who had won the bronze medal at the Athens Olympic Games in 2004, lit

the Olympic cauldron.

The party was wrapped up with a boisterous parade of the city's samba schools, ushering in a carnival atmosphere, amid a show of dizzying pyrotechnics.

The 31st Summer Games and the first one to be held in South America had been mired in so many controversies and obstacles so long before it began that there was a big question mark on its success. The fallout from the political crisis and a weakening economy loomed like a dark cloud over these games for quite some time.

So there was good reason for apprehension as to whether it could match the standard set by Beijing or London. Managed at a budget less than half of what was spent at the London 2012 opening, Rio was indeed not meant to match the standards set by its predecessors. But what it lacked in lavishness it made up with invention and authenticity. Rio seems to have set its own standard for its successors to emulate.

Long list with many surprises

Now in jail, the lawyer is one of the seven accused in a case over leaking of the draft verdict of International Crimes Tribunal-1 in SQ Chowdhury's war crimes trial.

For committing crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War, SQ Chowdhury was hanged on November 21 last year. Abdul Alim, who was sentenced to imprisonment until death, died of cancer on August 30, 2014.

Mir Foysal, brother of Mir Fakhrul, and Maruf Hossain, Aninda Islam Amit and Naosad Jamir -- sons of BNP standing committee members Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Tariqul Islam and Jamiruddin Sircar -- are in the new executive committee.

Mir Helal, son of former Chittagong city mayor Mir Nasir; Tabith Awal, son of Khaleda Zia's adviser Abdul Awal Mintoo; Aparna Roy, daughter of BNP standing committee member Goyeshwar Chandra Roy; Afroz Abbas and Mirza Khokon, wife and brother of BNP standing committee

member Mirza Abbas, among others, have been given different posts in the committee.

Tahmina Rushdi Luna, wife of BNP leader M Ilias Ali, who has been missing since 2012, has become a member of the BNP chief's advisory council.

The new executive committee members also include controversial BNP leader like Lutfuzzaman Babar, convicted in the 10-truck arms haul case.

Another controversial BNP leader Abdus Salam Pintu, who is behind bars and an accused in August 21 grenade attack case, has been re-selected for the post of vice-chairman in the new committee.

Another accused in the grenade attack case, former BNP lawmaker Kazi Shah Mofazzal Hossain Kaikobad is among the 33 vice-chairmen in the new executive committee. He is a fugitive.

During the press briefing at the party's Naya Paltan headquarters, Mirza Fakhrul also announced the names of 17 members of the 19-strong BNP standing committee. Two posts -- 17th and 18th -- remain vacant in the

executive committee.

Khaleda has picked late BNP leader Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu's wife Nasima Akhtar Kalpana as an executive committee member and Afroza Khan Rita, daughter of the BNP chief's adviser Harun Ur Rashid Khan Munnu, as a member of her advisory council.

Former deputy speaker of parliament Akhtar Hamid Siddique has been made Khaleda's adviser.

He was allegedly involved in misappropriation of Tk 2.5 crore from the parliament secretariat between November 2001 and January 25, 2009.

A parliamentary probe body in the ninth Jatiya Sangsad found evidence of corruption and misuse of power by Akhtar and two others.

Those who were not even primary members of the party have been given positions. For example, Kader Gani Chowdhury, a journalist of pro-BNP daily Dinkal, has become assistant secretary for information and research affairs.

FALU, SHAMIM RESIGN

Hours after being made a vice-

chairman in the new committee, Mosaddek Hossain Falu resigned from the post citing "personal ground". He was previously an adviser.

Shamimur Rahman Shamim also resigned "out of displeasure" after he was given the post of assistant publicity secretary, party insiders said.

NEW FACES; FEMALE LEADERS

Khaleda picked over 130 new faces for different posts in the 502-member committee and they include a good number of female leaders. Many of the new faces are from former and current leaders of pro-BNP student body Jatiyatobadi Chhhatra Dal.

A total of 38 new faces, including 13 female leaders, are now members of the executive committee.

Besides, 28 more female leaders have got different posts including vice-chairman, adviser, organising secretary, and assistant secretary in the committee.

The party chose Sarwar Rahman as

the number one member of the 73-member advisory council of BNP chief. She was dropped from the BNP standing committee member.

His wife Hasina Ahmed has got a position in the executive committee.

There were 31 members in the previous advisory council.

Of the new faces, barrister Rumin Farhana has become assistant secretary for international affairs.

Sahrin Islam Tuhin, son of Khaleda's sister Selima Islam, and Vice-Chairman Nitai Roy's daughter Nipun Roy have also got positions in the committee.

At the briefing, Fakhrul said this is a dynamic committee which will be able to "get democracy restored in the country" by playing a constructive role in politics.

TWO NEW STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, a former adviser, has been promoted to member in the party's highest policy making body.

BNP joint secretary general Salahuddin Ahmed, who is facing trial at a Shillong court in India on charges of trespassing, is now a standing committee member.